

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church  
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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*Sunday November 12, 2017*

Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria; Saint Nilus the Faster of Sinai; Prophet Ahijah (Achias); Blessed John the Hairy, Fool-for-Christ at Rostov; Saint Leon, Patriarch of Constantinople; New-Martyr Sabbas Nigdelinus of Constantinople; New-Martyr Nicholas of Constantinople; Saint Nilus the Myrrh-gusher of the Great Lavra on Mount Athos; Saint Martin, Bishop of Tours (also called Bishop of Tarakine, of the Franks; see also November 11); Martyrs Antoninos, Nikephoros, Zebinas, and Germanos of Caesarea in Palestine; Saint Machar, Bishop of Aberdeenshire; Saint Lebuin, monk of Deventer; Saint Emilian of Vergegio; Saint Cadwaladr the Battle-Shunner, King of Wales; synaxis of New-Martyrs of Optina: Anatole, Barnabas, Dositheus, Nektary, Nikon, Panteleimon, and Vincent; repose of Righteous Cosmas of Birsk and Fr. Hilarion of Valaam and Sarov; commemoration of the righteous monks and laymen buried at Optina Monastery

*Services for the week of November 12*

Monday, November 13: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. John Chrysostom.

Wednesday, November 15: NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

Saturday, November 18: 6:00 pm Great Vespers.

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## Parish News

**WELCOME:** to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

**OFFERINGS:** November 5: will be forthcoming in next week's bulletin.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who are suffering from serious illness. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

**PLEASE REMEMBER** that the Christmas Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15. There will be a potluck meat supper on Sunday, November 12. Please bring whatever dishes you would like to share. Many thanks!

**VETERANS DAY:** was yesterday. Please remember all of our parishioners, relatives and fellow countrymen who have bravely served our country. May God bless and keep all of them.

**ST. NICHOLAS DINNER** will be held on Sunday, December 3. There are two seatings; one at 4:00 pm and the other at 6:30 pm. Full details can be found on the flyers in the church hall or on the parish website. Please support this excellent fund raiser for our church!

### St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

John was born on the island of Cyprus. His father was Prince Epiphanius. John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. He said: "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility." All the saints have been distinguished by mercifulness, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ, *Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift* (Matthew 5:23-24), and he remembered that one of the clergy in that church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached that priest, fell before his feet and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the table of oblation. Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint, and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them: "And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?" He would not leave until he heard the widow's complaint to the end.

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620. After he entered the Immortal Kingdom of his Lord, his miracle-working relics were translated to Constantinople, then to Budapest, and finally to Presburg.

