

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

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Sunday November 19, 2017

Prophet Obadiah (Abdias); Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Saint Barlaam and Saint Ioasaph, prince of India, and Saint Abenner the king, father of St. Ioasaph; Martyr Azes of Isauria and with him 150 soldiers; Martyr Heliodorus in Pamphylia; Saint Barlaam, Abbot of the Kiev Caves; Saint Hilarion, monk, Wonder-worker of Thessaloniki; Martyr Agapius; Martyrs Anthimus, Thalalaeus, Christopher, Euphemia and her children; Martyr Pancharius; Martyr Barlaam of Antioch; Saint Egbert, Archbishop of York; Saint Ermenburga, Abbess of Minster; Hieromartyr Hippolytos, Pope of Rome; finding of the relics of monk-martyr Adrian of Poshekhonsk, Yaroslavl. **Other events:** repose of Saint Philaret (Drozdov) Metropolitan of Moscow

Services for the week of November 19

Monday, November 20: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Tuesday, November 21: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entry

Thursday, November 23: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy—Feast of the Great-Martyr Catherine

Saturday, November 25: NO VESPERS

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 12: \$682.42

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

TAKE A LOOK at the new library entrance in our church hall. It is now a beautiful arched doorway which will be finished as soon as possible. We plan to have a very inviting area with books and icons for our parishioners and guests to browse. There's more on the parish website!

PRAYERS FOR PEACE are on our diocesan ACROD website. Please take up the Nativity Fast Prayer challenge with your family and ask the Lord to send his grace to our world for an end to conflict in our personal lives and also between nations.

The Entry into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos

When the Most-holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. It was a three-day journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem but, traveling to do a God-pleasing work, this journey was not difficult for them. Many kinsmen of Joachim and Anna gathered in Jerusalem to take part in this event, at which the invisible angels of God were also present. Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the ``King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers. Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the ``Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. St. Theophylact of Ohrid says that Zacharias ``was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain-otherwise, his action could not be explained. Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve. Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

Dear Parishioners: This Monday evening and Tuesday morning we will be gathering in our church to celebrate this Great Feast. Please make an effort to come to one or both of these services. We need to honor the Mother of God as our parish patroness, and what better way than to offer ourselves on a "non-Sunday" service as witnesses to her glory?

