

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

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Sunday November 5, 2017

Apostles Patrobas, Hermas, Linus, Gaius, and Philologos of the Seventy; Martyrs Galacteon and his wife Episteme at Emesa; Saint Jonah, Archbishop of Novgorod; Saint Gregory, Archbishop of Alexandria; Martyrs Dominus, Timothy, Theophilus, Theotimus, Dorotheus, Eupychius, Carterius, Pamphilius, Agathangelus, and Castorus of Palestine; Hieromartyr Silvanus, Bishop of Gaza; Saint Kea, Bishop of Devon and Cornwall; Saint Odrada, nun; repose of Blessed Hilarion, recluse of Troekurovo

Services for the week of November 5

Wednesday, November 8: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels.

There will be no Vespers this Saturday.

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: October 29: \$1829.00

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

THERE IS NO VESPERS THIS COMING SATURDAY November 11. Divine Liturgy will be served at the regular time on Sunday, November 12 at 10:00 am.

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS are asked to meet during Coffee Hour today in order to discuss electing a new president and vice president. The meeting will be short and informative.

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!

REFLECTION

Physical love, in comparison to spiritual love, is less than a shadow is to solid substance. Brotherhood and sisterhood of the blood and body is nothing compared to the brotherhood and sisterhood of the spirit. Galaction's father betrothed him to the maiden Episteme. Galaction baptized Episteme and, after that, both received the monastic tonsure. Their physical love was replaced by spiritual love, a love as strong as death. So great was Galaction's spiritual love for Episteme that he never desired to see her with his physical eyes. Neither physical contact nor closeness are necessary for spiritual love. So great was Episteme's spiritual love for Galaction that when she heard that he had been taken for torture she ran after him, begging him not to reject her, but to receive her as a fellow sufferer, as he was her spiritual father and brother. When the merciless torturers flogged holy Galaction's naked body, holy Episteme wept. However, when the torturers cut off their hands and feet for Christ, both rejoiced and glorified God. So great was the power of their love for our Lord Jesus Christ, and so great was the spiritual love with which they loved each other. Truly, physical love is like a colorful butterfly that quickly passes, but spiritual love is enduring.