

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

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*Sunday October 15, 2017*

Saint Euthymius the New of Thessaloniki, monk of Mount Athos; Martyr Lucian, presbyter of Greater Antioch; Saint Sabinus, Bishop of Catania; Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa; Saint Dionysius, Archbishop of Suzdal; Saint John, Bishop of Suzdal; Hieromartyr Lucian, presbyter of the Kiev Caves; Venerable Varsos the Confessor, Bishop of Edessa; Saint Tecla, Abbess of Kitzingen; Saint Ethelric, Bishop of Durham.

*Services for the week of October 8*

Saturday, October 21: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy—St. Demetrius Soul Saturday  
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:** October 8: \$382.00

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

**THIS SATURDAY** is a soul Saturday Liturgy. It is an especial remembrance of Orthodox soldiers who have laid down their lives for their Faith and Homeland. Please consider attending as all family members in the diptychs will be remembered (especially the fallen soldiers of our parish).

## REFLECTION

The saints of God place great importance on receiving Holy Communion before their death. Even though they were sacrificing their lives for Christ the Lord and washing away all their sins by the blood of martyrdom, the martyrs longingly received the Holy Mysteries whenever it was possible. St. Lucian was in prison with several of his disciples and other Christians. On the eve of Theophany, Lucian longed, on such a great Christian feast, to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, for he knew that his death was imminent. Seeing the sincere desire of His sufferer, God Almighty arranged that some Christians pass bread and wine into the prison. When the Feast of Theophany dawned, Lucian called all the Christian prisoners to stand in a circle around him and said to them: "Surround me and be the Church." He had no table, chair, stone or wood in the prison upon which to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. "Holy Father, where shall we place the bread and wine?" they asked Lucian. He lay down in their midst and said: "Place them on my chest, let it be a living altar for the Living God!" And thus the Liturgy was celebrated correctly and prayerfully on the chest of the martyr, and all received Holy Communion. The next day, the emperor sent soldiers to bring Lucian out for torture. When the soldiers opened the door of the prison, St. Lucian cried out three times: "I am a Christian! I am a Christian! I am a Christian!" and with that, he gave up his soul to his God.

## HOMILY

**on how the Lord watches over the bones of the righteous**

*He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken (Psalm 34:20).*

Let not the righteous be afraid. The All-seeing God watches over them. Can the All-seeing lose or forget something? On the Day of Resurrection, He shall gather all their bodily parts and gloriously resurrect them. The persecutors hurled the bodies of the martyrs into the sea, buried them in deep pits, or left them in fields for the birds to devour. But the Lord, by His divine providence, so guided events that these holy relics came into the hands of the faithful. They were laid honorably in costly reliquaries, churches were built over them, and wonderworking power emanated from them. God wanted to show the faithful by this that He watches over the bones of the righteous, and that He has glorified them in the Heavenly Kingdom. And the Church on earth has affirmed this through the miraculous power of their glorified bodies. Wonderworking relics are like forerunners of the general and glorious resurrection of the righteous. But what if some of the bones of the righteous are burned or ground up—could that be an obstacle to the almighty power of God? Can He not, in the Day of Resurrection, reassemble and enliven them from the scattered ashes? *There shall not a hair of your head perish* (Luke 21:18), assures the Lord. Nevertheless, if you want to understand "bones" as "works," know then that the works of the unrighteous are as smoke, and the works of the righteous are powerful and as lasting as hard bones. Not even one righteous deed will fade away or disappear in the course of time. God knows them and God watches over them, so that He may reveal them like precious pearls before the assembly of angels and men on that Day. O All-seeing Lord, Master and Protector of the righteous, multiply our righteous deeds by Thy Holy Spirit, without whom nothing good can be done; and save us by Thy mercy, not according to our deeds. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

