

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

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*Sunday October 8, 2017*

Saint Pelagia the Penitent; Virgin-Martyr Pelagia of Antioch; Saint Thais (Taisia) of Egypt; Saint Dositheus, Abbot of Verkneostrov (Pskov); Saint Tryphon, Abbot of Vyatka; Martyr Ignatius of Bulgaria; New-Martyr Ignatius the monk of Prodromou Skete on Mount Athos; Venerable Philotheus, Patriarch of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Artemon; Saint Keyne, Hermitess of Cornwall; Saint Iwi, Hierodeacon of Lindisfarne; Saint Triduana, Nun of Restalrig, Scotland; Saint Triduana, Hermitess of Restalrig, Scotland; translation of the relics of Saint Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne and Enlightener of Northumbria; translation of the relics of Saint Ceolfrith, Abbot of Wearmouth and Jarrow

*Services for the week of October 8*

Saturday, October 15: 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 1: \$678.00

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE The Venerable Pelagia

Pelagia the sinner repented,  
And with knowledge of the true Faith, illumined her soul.  
The world beckoned her, the world enticed her, but she hearkened not.  
Her conscience was awakened, her soul began to shine.  
How much effort she applied, how many struggles  
She endured, wrestling with her sinful body-  
Itself like a decaying apple.  
So much effort, so much suffering she invested,  
Until she deified her unhappy soul through faith.  
In the heavens, God's sun shone,  
But Pelagia's soul shone more.  
Repentance-God has left us repentance.  
By repentance, Pelagia was glorified.

## REFLECTION

Oh, if only we would invest as much effort in our souls as we invest in our bodies! Oh, if only we could become as desirous of adorning ourselves with virtue before God and His glorious angels, as we do with the vain, transitory, external displays of appearances! At first, both Pelagia and Thais were only aware of their bodies, while their souls were slaves bound in the prison of the body. Both were adorned with nothing but vanity: clothed in vanity, arrayed with vanity, surrounded by vanity, and flattered by vanity. But what a sudden change! What a divine turn of events in their lives! More wondrous than if a wild apple were to be grafted and begin to bring forth sweet fruits; or if a turgid, fetid swamp were suddenly to become clear, pure potable water. When Bishop Nonnus, in the company of other bishops, first saw the sinner Pelagia in her outward splendor-clothed in the most expensive garments, adorned and bedecked with rings, necklaces and baubles, perfumed, and surrounded by slaves-Bishop Nonnus began to weep, and said to his companions: "In truth, I have learned much from this woman. The Lord will set her before His Dread Judgment and will rebuke us through her. How many hours does this woman spend in her room bathing herself, clothing herself, adorning herself, and looking at herself in the mirror-and for what? Only to appear more beautiful to men. And we, who have the immortal Bridegroom in heaven, do not strive to adorn our souls with repentance; we do not hasten to bathe them with the tears of repentance and clothe them in the beauty of the virtues, that they might appear more beautiful before the eyes of God!"

