

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

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Sunday February 25, 2018

Martyrs Alexanders and Hypatius, at Marcianopolis in Thracia (c. 305); Martyr Anthony, burned alive; Saint Theodore, Fool-for-Christ; Hieromartyr Reginos of Skopelos, Bishop of the isle of Skopelos (355); Saint Markellos, Bishop of Aipeia in Cyprus (389) (*see also August 14*); Venerables Erasmus and Paphnutius of Kephala, monks, contemporaries of St. Anthony the Great (4th century); Saint Tarasius of Constantinople, Patriarch of Constantinople (806); Saints Donatus, Justus, Herena and Companions, a group of fifty martyrs who suffered in North Africa under Decius (3rd century); Saint Ethelbert, King of Kent (616); Saint Aldetrudis (*Adeltrudis*) of Maubeuge Abbey (c. 696) Saint Walburga the Myrrh-Giver, Abbess of Heidenheim (779) (*see also May 1 - Translation*); Saint Victor of St. Gall, monk at St Gall in Switzerland, became a hermit in the Vosges in France (995); New Hieromartyr Alexander Vinogradov, Priest (1938); Virgin-Martyr Mstislava Fokinoi (1938); New Hieromartyr Leo Korobczuk, Priest, of Laskov (Chelm and Podlasie), Poland (1944); New Hieromartyr Nicholas Troitsky, Priest (1945); **Other Commemorations:** Repose of Blessed Pashenka of Nizhny Novgorod (1934).

Services for the week of February 25

Wednesday, February 28: 6:30 pm Panachida for the repose of +Menodora Frederick, on her anniversary of falling asleep. **7:00 pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Friday, March 2: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Panachida follows liturgy for the repose of +Archimandrite Benedict of Optina Monastery on his 40th day of repose.

Saturday, February 24: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Second Saturday of Souls

6:00 pm Great 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!

PLEASE REMEMBER RANDY BAILEY (Orthodox name: John) in your prayers. Randy was diagnosed with Stage 5 prostate cancer last week. He has requested our prayers as he enters into this difficult struggle. May God place His healing hand upon the servant of God John!

HOLY CONFESSION during the Great Fast is a REQUIREMENT in our diocese. If you wish to be considered an Orthodox Christian of our diocese, you MUST make arrangements to confess at least ONCE during this sacred season.

OFFERINGS: February 18: \$940.00

FASTING IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: The Holy Orthodox Church calls upon us to live a “vegan” lifestyle during the fast; avoiding animal products such as meat, dairy products, eggs and even fish (with the exception of the Feasts of the Annunciation-March 25 and Palm Sunday-April 1). We should struggle to attain to that measure...after all, how many embrace a vegan “lifestyle” because it is trendy? However, fasting is both corporate and *personal*. If we cannot entirely embrace the rule of the Church, we should at least aim to do *more than we did last year*. Let us also embrace the fast beyond food, by fasting with our eyes, ears, lips, feet and hands from ALL EVIL. May God assist us...

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith as well as Marin Sandu (Dr. Alina's stepfather) who are suffering from serious illness. Fr. John Zboyovski who serves in North Carolina and is known by many in our parish is still recovering from a stroke. Please remember him as well. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING will be held TODAY.

PLEASE NOTE: The rectory phone has been disconnected. It was so rarely used and cost us about \$60 a month. Fr. Mark can still be contacted on his cell phone (see bulletin masthead) and on his home phone in Virginia.

REFLECTION

A Christian is similar to betrothed maiden. As a betrothed maiden continually thinks about her betrothed, so does the Christian continually think about Christ. Even if the betrothed is far away beyond ten hills, it is all the same, the maiden behaves as though he is constantly there; by her and with her. She thinks about him, sings to him, talks about him, dreams about him and prepares gifts for him. In the same way a Christian behaves toward Christ. As the betrothed maiden knows that she first must leave and distance herself from the home where she was born in order to meet and totally unite with her betrothed, so the Christian knows that even he cannot totally unite with Christ until death separates him from the body, i.e., from the material home in which his soul, resided and grew from birth.

