

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

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*Sunday March 11, 2018*

Hieromartyr Pionius of Smyrna and those with him (250): Asclepiades, Macedonia, Linus (Limnus), and Sabina; Hieromartyrs Trophimus and Thalus, Priests, of Laodicea (300) (*see also March 16*); The Holy Syrian Martyrs (4th century); Venerable John Moschos, the ascetic writer of *'The Spiritual Meadow'* (622); Saint Sophronius I of Jerusalem, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638); Venerable George, Abbot of Sinai (7th century), brother of St. John Climacus; Saint George the New, Wonderworker of Constantinople (c. 970); Martyrs Candidus, Piperion and Companions, 22 martyrs who suffered in North Africa under Valerian and Gallienus (c. 254-259); Martyrs Heraclius and Zosimus, who suffered in Carthage in North Africa under Valerian and Gallienus (263); Martyr Alberta, one of the first victims of the persecution under Diocletian, she suffered in Agen in France with St Faith and others (c. 286); Martyr Constantine, a confessor in Carthage in North Africa; Hieromartyr Constantine of Cornwall and Govan, King of Cornwall, monk, and Protomartyr of Scotland, in Kintyre (576) (*see also March 9*); Saint Constantine of Strathclyde, King, Monk, Confessor (640); Saint Vigilus, Successor of St Palladius (661) as Bishop of Auxerre, murdered in a forest near Compiègne by order of the mayor of the palace (685); Saint Vindician, a disciple of St Eligius, became Bishop of Arras-Cambrai and bravely protested against the excesses of the Merovingian Kings (712); Saint Benedict Crispus of Milan, Archbishop of Milan in Italy for forty-five years (725)...*this calendar has been abbreviated...*

*Services for the week of March 11*

Tuesday, March 13: 7:00 pm Panachida on the Seventh Anniversary of the Repose of Metropolitan Nicholas—following service, we will have some Lenten snacks and visit with the Crowder family.

Wednesday, March 14: NO SERVICE

Friday, March 16: 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 17: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Fourth Saturday of Souls

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!

**CROWDER VISIT:** Fr. Elias, Traci and Nez will be visiting us this week. They will be in church on Tuesday evening if you would like to come out and say hello to them. We are glad to host them for a

few days. Unfortunately, they will be unable to be here on a Sunday...their mission parish is doing well and they need to be back there for Liturgy.

**PASCHAL FLOWERS** if you would like to donate for them, please see Joyce Peters.

**ANN RANTIS** is recovering at her sister's house. She had a bad fall and a small fracture of the pelvis. Let's pray that she make a full recovery! God bless her!

**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:** March 4: \$1796.75

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER** Randy (John) Bailey, 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!

## REFLECTION

"No good works are accomplished by our efforts alone but by the power and will of God. Nevertheless, God demands effort on our part in conforming to His will." These are the words of Saints Barsanuphius and John. Few words but much said. We are obliged to labor, to cultivate and to prepare every good thing, and if some good will take root, grow and bring forth fruit, that is up to the power and will of God. We plow the furrows and God sows, if He wills it. We cleanse the vessels of the Spirit and God pours the Spirit into these vessels, if He wills it. He can do anything if He wills it. And He will do everything that responds to the highest wisdom and suitability, that is, to His plan of man's salvation. In interpreting the words of our Lord, "So be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves" (St. Matthew 10:16), St. John Chrysostom writes that our Lord gave this commandment to His disciples that "they themselves should cooperate in some way, so that it will not appear that all effort is of Grace alone and for them not to think that they received the wreaths of glory for nothing." And so, both of them are indispensable for our salvation: our effort and the power of God's Grace.