

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

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Sunday May 20, 2018

Sunday of the Council Fathers

Saint Lydia of Thyatira (Lydia of Philippi), Equal-to-the-Apostles (mentioned in Acts 16:14-15), (1st c.); Martyrs Thalelaeus the Unmercenary (Thallelaios), at Anazarbus in Cilicia, and his companions martyrs Alexander and Asterius (284); Martyr Asclas of the Thebaid, Egypt (287); Sts. Zabulon and Susanna, of Cappadocia and Jerusalem (parents of St. Nina (Nino), enlightener of Georgia), (4th c.); Saint Mark the Hermit (Marcus Eremita) (5th c.); Saint Dodo, disciple of Saint David of Georgia (David Gareja monastery complex) (609) (see also May 17); Holy Martyrs of Mamilla, Jerusalem (614); Saint Thalassius the Myrrh-gusher, of Libya (648); Saints John, Joseph and Nicetas, monks of Nea Moni on Chios (ca.1050); Saint Plautilla the Roman, martyr, (67); Hieromartyr Baudelius, missionary in France and northern Spain, martyred in Nîmes (2nd or 3rd c.); Virgin-martyr Basilla (304); Saint Hilary (Hilarius, Hilaire), Bishop of Toulouse in France (360); Saint Anastasius, Bishop of Brescia in Lombardy, in Italy (610); Saint Austregisilus (Aoustrille, Oustrille), Bishop of Bourges and Confessor (624); Saint Theodore of Pavia, Bishop of Pavia (778); Saint Ethelbert (Albert, Albright), King of East Anglia in England, martyr (794) (see also May 29); Saint Daumantas of Pskov (Timothy, Dovmont-Timothy), prince of Pskov (1299); Saint Stephen, Abbot of Piperi in Serbia (1697); New Martyrs of Moscow (1922): Hieromartyr Macarius - priest-monk, Hieromartyrs Alexander (Zaozersky) and Basil (Sokolov) - Protospesbyters, Hieromartyr Christopher (Nadezhdin) - priest, Martyr Sergius (Tikhomirov); Venerable New Martyr Olympiada (Verbetska), Igumenia of Kozelschansk women's monastery of the Nativity of the Mother of God (1938); **Other Commemorations:** Translation of the holy relics (1087) of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker (343); Uncovering of the relics (1431) of Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia (1378); Repose of Schema-monk Cyriacus of Valaam (1798).

Services for the week of May 20

Monday, May 21: 6:00 pm Food Festival Meeting and Supper.

Saturday, May 26: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the 5th Soul Saturday—Special commemoration for the First Anniversary of Repose of +Mark Ellison.

6:00 pm Vigil for the Feast of Pentecost

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: May 13: \$608.33

FOOD FESTIVAL MEETING: Please know that tomorrow at 6:00 pm there is a Food Festival meeting. We are gathering to organize and plan this coming September's festival. We are going to be serving hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill. Please come out, enjoy and help to plan our most important fund raiser and visibility lifter!

THANK YOU to all the members of the St. Stephen the First Martyr Men's Group who worked hard to make last week's Mothers' Day brunch a success. It was a pleasure to honor all the ladies in the parish, and the raffle to pick "dishwashers" was delightful.

HOMILY

About the spirit of the world and the Spirit from God

"We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God" (1Corinthians 2:12).

Brethren, the spirit of this world is the spirit of pride and cruelty and the Spirit of God is the Spirit of meekness and gentleness. The apostle of God asserts that the followers of Christ did not receive the spirit of this world rather the Spirit "which is of God" i.e., who proceeds from God the Father as a sweet-smelling fragrance as from flowers and as a good fragrance pours out on the soul of man making it mighty, bright, peaceful, thankful and pleasant.

Men by nature are meek and gentle. St. Tertulain writes: "the soul of man by nature is Christian." But, by the spirit of this world, it is irritable and enraged. The spirit of this world made wolves out of lambs, while the Spirit Who is from God makes lambs out of wolves.

The apostle still adds that we received the Spirit of God "that we may know the things that are freely given to us of God" (1 Corinthians 2:12). Therefore, that we may know what is from God in us and what is not from God and that we may sense the sweetness of that which is from God and the bitterness from that which is not from God, rather from the spirit of this world. As long as man is outside of his nature, beneath his nature, he considers bitterness as sweetness and sweetness as bitterness. But, when by the Spirit of God he returns to his true nature, then he considers sweet as sweetness and bitter as bitterness.

Who can return man to God? Who can heal man of poisonous sinful bitterness? Who can teach him by experience to distinguish true sweetness from bitterness? No one except the Spirit Who is from God.

Therefore brethren, let us pray that God grants us His Holy Spirit as He granted the Holy Spirit to His apostles and saints. And when that Holy Spirit of God enters into us, the kingdom of God has arrived in which is all sweetness itself, only good, only light, only meekness and only gentleness.

O Holy Spirit, the Spirit of meekness and gentleness, come and abide in us.

