

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

Archbishop David	John
Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri	Vivian
Protopresbyter Leonid	Jung Sook
Mitered Archpriest Alexander	Thomas
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Randall
Archpriest Eugene	Don
Archpriest Michael	Norma
Priest John • Priest Benjamin	James
Subdeacon James	Matthew
Reader Aleksei	infant Maximiliano
Monk Philaret	Keith
Matushka Ioanna	Michael
Elizabeth • Virginia	Dan
Jonathan • Joshua	
Phoebe • Kyra • Kyra	
Ignatius • Anna • Anne	
Anna • David • Thomas	
John • Theodore • Roman	
Kira • John • Ephrosynos	
Bede • Dorothy • John	
Monika • Anastasia	
Catechumens Rebecca, Dea, and William	

*The repose and salvation of –*

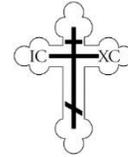
Met. Theodosius (October 19)  
Victor (October 13)

*Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.*

**Services are being streamed via Zoom & Facebook Live**

**This Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
for the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple**

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,  
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

**Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias,  
Samonas, and Abibas, of Edessa**



Sundays at 9:00 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy  
Saturdays at 6:30 PM – Great Vespers (virtual)  
Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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## Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibas, of Edessa

During the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian and Maximian, the two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa. The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods, and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures: they were beaten, hung up by their hands, heavy weights were tied to their feet, and they were cast into a stifling prison. The martyrs endured everything with firmness and Samonas uttered a prayer to the Lord, which one of the witnesses to their death wrote down:

“O Lord my God, against Whose will not a single sparrow falls into the snare. It was Thou Who made room for David in his sorrow, Who proved the Prophet David stronger than lions, and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames. Thou didst know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature, Thou seest the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Thy right hand, away from Thee and to deprive us of the glory which is in Thee. With Thy compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Thy Commandments. Guide our steps by Thy light, and make us worthy of Thy Kingdom, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages.”

By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them, and Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence. After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius, began persecuting Christians. Abibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom the emperor ordered arrested for his zealous spreading of the Faith, presented himself to the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. He confessed his faith and was sentenced to be burned alive. He went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, his mother and relatives found his body unharmed, and buried him next to Saints Gurias and Samonas.

Numerous miracles were wrought by the saints for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. The barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the martyrs that he would do his wife no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her. When he took Euphemia with him back to his native land, it turned out that he had deceived her: he already had a wife at home, and Euphemia became her slave. Her evil husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation, and turned with prayer to the holy martyrs, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath. The Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

*Also this week: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (November 16); St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Casarea; St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby (November 17); Elevation of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America to the Patriarchal Throne (November 18); St. Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow (November 19); Edmund Martyr, King of East Anglia (November 20); ENTRY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE (November 21).*

**\* NATIVITY FAST: fish, wine, and oil allowed today, Monday, and Saturday; wine and oil allowed Tuesday and Thursday \***

**Epistle:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37

### Troparion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; / The guards *became* as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / Seeking *Thy* most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell, / Not *being* tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. /// O Lord, Who didst *rise* from the dead: glory to Thee!

### Troparion – Tone 5 (Martyrs)

Having granted to us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs / Thou hast provided us with an invincible rampart, O Christ God. / By their prayers, confound the plots of the faithless / And strengthen the [Orthodox Faith] /// Since Thou art good and lovest mankind.

### Kontakion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / Raised all of the *dead* from the valleys of misery with His mighty Hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. /// He is the *savior* of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### Kontakion – Tone 2 (Martyrs)

Having received a special grace from above, O wise ones, / You became the protectors of those in danger, / O Gurias, Samonas and Abibas, worthy of all praise. / You saved a young maiden from a bitter death. /// You are truly the glory of Edessa and the joy of all the world.