

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Michael	John
Priest Kyrill & family	Vivian
Priest James	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Cheyenne
Reader Sergei	Nancy
Monk Philaret	Randall
Matushka Mary	Rose
Matushka Mary Sara	Don
Marie • Barbara • Kyra	Norma
John • Euphrosynos	James
Virginia • Thomas	
John • Luke	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Protodeacon Keith (October 26)

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

This Saturday, November 11, 4:00 – Choir Practice

This Saturday, Nov. 11, 5:30 – Great Vespers & Confession

Next Sunday, November 12 – Parish Council

Nativity Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15

*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 5, 2017

Martyrs Galection and Episteme



"Bullfinches" by Stephan Nesterchuk (1978)

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck

Wednesdays 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day

Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Martyrs Galaction and Episteme

There was a rich and distinguished couple named Kletophon and Leukippe, who lived in the Syrian city of Emesa, and for a long time they were childless. They gave much gold to the pagan priests, but still they remained childless.

A certain old man by the name of Onuphrius, concealed his monastic and priestly dignity beneath his beggar's rags. He walked from house to house in Emesa, begging alms. At the same time, whenever he saw the possibility of turning people away from the pagan error, he preached about Christ. He came to the magnificent house of Leukippe.

Accepting alms from her, he sensed that the woman was in sorrow, and he asked what was the cause of this sadness. She told the Elder about her familial misfortune. In consoling her, Onuphrius began to tell her about the one true God, about His omnipotence and mercy, and how He always grants the prayer of those turning to Him with faith. Hope filled the soul of Leukippe. She believed and accepted Holy Baptism. Soon after this it was revealed to her in a dream that she would give birth to a son, who would be a true follower of Christ. At first, Leukippe concealed her delight from her husband, but after the infant was born, she revealed the secret to her husband and also persuaded him to be baptized.

They named the baby Galaction and his parents raised him in the Christian faith and provided him a fine education. He could make an illustrious career for himself, but Galaction sought rather an unsullied monastic life in solitude and prayer. When Galaction turned 24, his father resolved to marry him off and they found him a bride, a beautiful and illustrious girl by the name of Episteme. The son did not oppose the will of his father, but by the will of God, the wedding was postponed for a time. Visiting his betrothed, Galaction gradually revealed his faith to her. Eventually, he converted her to Christ and he secretly baptized her himself.

The newly-illuminated decided on the initiative of Galaction, to devote themselves to the monastic life. Leaving the city, they hid themselves away on Mount Publion, where there were two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. For several years the monastics struggled in work, fasting and prayer. Once, Episteme had a vision in her sleep: she and Galaction stood in a wondrous palace before a radiant King, and the King bestowed golden crowns on them. This was a prefiguring of their impending martyrdom.

The pagans became aware of the existence of the monasteries, and a military detachment was sent to apprehend them. But the monks and the nuns succeeded in hiding themselves in the hills. Galaction, however, had no desire to flee and so he remained in his cell, reading Holy Scripture. When Episteme saw that the soldiers were leading Galaction away in chains, she began to implore the Abbess to permit her to go also, since she wanted to accept torture for Christ together with her fiancé and teacher. The Abbess tearfully blessed Episteme to do so. The saints endured terrible torments, while supplicating and glorifying Christ. Their hands and legs were cut off, their tongues were cut out, and then they were beheaded.

Also this week: St Paul the Confessor, Abp of Constantinople (November 6); Holy 33 Martyrs of Melitene (November 7); SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel (November 8); St Nektarios Metropolitan of Pentapolis and Wonderworker of Aegina (November 9); Apostles of the Seventy Erastus, Olympas, Herodion, Sosipater, Quartus, and Tertius (November 10); St Martin the Merciful, Bp of Tours (November 11).

** Regular fasting this week; fish, wine, and oil allowed on Wednesday **

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday)

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, /
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, /
Born for our salvation from the Virgin; /
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, /
To endure death, / And to raise the dead /// By His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 4 (Martyrs)

Let us the faithful honor these two betrothed athletes: /
Galaction and modest Episteme. /
Their ascetic labors blossomed into martyrdom, /
Therefore we cry to them: /
“Glory to Him who has strengthened you! /
Glory to Him who has crowned you! ///
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!”

Kontakion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hades, O my Savior, / Shattering its gates as Almighty; /
Resurrecting the dead as Creator, / And destroying the sting of death. /
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, ///
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion – Tone 2 (Martyrs)

Thou art numbered among the hosts of martyrs /
For thou wast illustrious in mighty contests. /
Galaction, together with Episteme, /
Thy faithful wife and companion in struggle, ///
Unceasingly intercede to the *one God* for us all.