

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest James	Thomas
Priest John	Randall
Reader Aleksei	Don
Monk Philaret	Norma
Matushka Priscilla	James
Elizabeth • Marie	Eileen
Marie • Virginia • Thomas	
John • Katherine • Roman	
Ignatius, Macrina & family	
Clergy & Parishioners of Holy Myrrhbearing Women Church	
Catechumens: Andrew, David, Michael, Sergio, Rachel, Jennifer, and Rebecca	

*The repose and salvation of –*

Daniel (August 7)	Betty (August 15)
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*Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.*

**Orthodoxy 101 – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM through September**

**This Saturday, September 22 – NO Vespers: please attend the 5:00 PM service at Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in honor of its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Sunday, October 7 – Church School**

*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, September 16, 2018**  
Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-Praised



*The relics of St Euphemia in Constantinople*

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck  
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day  
Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*  
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## The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia the All-Praised

\* “regular” fasting this week \*

The daughter of Christians, the senator Philophronos and Theodosia, Euphemia suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the banks of the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople. The governor Priscus circulated an order to all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and its surroundings to appear at a pagan festival to worship and offer sacrifice to an idol of Ares, threatening grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they secretly attended services to the True God.

The young maiden Euphemia was also among those praying there. Soon the hiding place of the Christians was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer for themselves. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various tortures and torments, but none of them wavered. The governor, beside himself with rage, sent them for trial to the emperor Diocletian. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not remain strong if she were alone.

Saint Euphemia fervently prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ that He would strengthen her in her impending ordeal. Priscus at first urged her to recant, promising her earthly blessings, but then he gave the order to torture her. She was tied to a wheel with sharp knives, which cut her body. She prayed aloud – and the wheel stopped by itself and would not move even with all the efforts of the executioners. An angel of the Lord came down from Heaven, removed Euphemia from the wheel and healed her of her wounds. The saint gave thanks unto the Lord with gladness.

Not perceiving the miracle that had occurred, the torturer ordered two soldiers, Victor and Sosthenes, to take the saint to a red-hot oven. But seeing two fearsome angels in the midst of the flames, they refused to carry out the order and became believers in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they too were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes bravely went to be eaten by wild beasts. They cried out for mercy to God, asking that the Lord would receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A heavenly voice answered their cries, and they entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not even touch their bodies.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, remained unharmed. With the help of God she emerged unharmed after many other tortures and torments. Finally, the governor sentenced her to be devoured by wild beasts at the circus. Before execution the saint implored the Lord to deem her worthy to die a violent death. But none of the beasts set loose in the arena would attack her. Finally, one of the she-bears gave her a small wound on the leg, and immediately the holy great martyr died. Then there was an earthquake, and both the guards and the spectators ran in terror, so that the parents of the saint were able to take up her body and reverently bury it not far from Chalcedon.

A majestic church was afterwards built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia. At this temple the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place in the year 451. At that time, the holy Great Martyr Euphemia confirmed the Orthodox confession in a miraculous manner, and exposed the Monophysite heresy. But with the taking of Chalcedon by the Persians in 617, her relics were transferred to Constantinople. During the iconoclast heresy, the reliquary with the relics appears to have been thrown into the sea. But pious sailors recovered them, and they were taken to Lemnos, and in 796 they were returned to Constantinople.

**Also this week:** *Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love (September 17); Ven. Hilarion of Optina (September 18); St Theodore of Tarsus, Abp of Canterbury (September 19); Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his wife Martyr Theopistes, and their children Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (September 20); Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross; Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (September 21); Hieromartyr Phocas, Bp of Sinope; Prophet Jonah (September 22).*

**Epistles:** Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after Elevation) / II Corinthians 6:1-10 (Sunday)  
**Gospels:** Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after Elevation) / Matthew 25:14-30 (Sunday)

### Troparion – Tone 7 (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise /  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy /  
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, /  
To proclaim that Thou art risen, /// Granting the world great mercy.

### Troparion – Tone 1 (Feast)

O Lord, save thy people / And bless Thine inheritance. /  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / Over their adversaries; /  
And by virtue of Thy Cross /// Preserve Thy habitation.

### Troparion – Tone 4 (Martyr)

O Jesus, Thy lamb Euphemia / Cries out to Thee with great love: /  
“O my Bridegroom, I long for Thee in pain, /  
I am crucified with Thee, and in baptism buried with Thee; /  
I suffer for Thy sake in order to reign with Thee, /  
I die for Thee in order to live in Thee. / Accept me as a spotless victim /  
Since I am put to death because of my love for Thee.” ///  
Through her prayers, O Merciful One, save our souls.

### Kontakion – Tone 7 (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, /  
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! /  
Hades is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: /  
“The Savior has come to those in faith; /// Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

### Kontakion – Tone 4 (Martyr)

Thou didst complete well thy struggle, O all-celebrated Euphemia /  
Even after death, thou dost pour out healings on us to sanctify us. /  
We venerate thy venerable relics and honor thy holy dormition /  
So that we may be delivered from our spiritual afflictions, ///  
And profit by the grace of thy miracles.

### Kontakion – Tone 4 (Feast)

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, / Grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name. /  
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power / Granting them victories over their adversaries ///  
By bestowing upon them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.