



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610

(609) 393-1234

Website: saintvladimir.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666](https://www.facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666)

Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa November 15, 2020

Troparion – Tone 6

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

O Christ our God, Thou hast granted us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbus, as a stronghold and protection. Through their prayers, strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed, // for Thou alone art merciful and lovest mankind!

Kontakion – Tone 6

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

You received grace from on high, O all-praised martyrs, and you intercede for those in the midst of temptations. Therefore, O saints, you freed a young woman from bitter death, // and are indeed the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world.

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas and Habibus: during the persecution against Christians under the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). 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 You Who made room for David in his sorrow (Ps. 4:1), Who proved the Prophet David stronger than lions (Dan. ch. 6), and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames (Dan. ch. 3, ch. 14). You know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature, You see the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Your right hand, away from You and to deprive us of the glory which is in You. With Your compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Your

Commandments. Guide our steps by Your light, and make us worthy of Your Kingdom, for You are blessed unto ages of ages." By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them (+ 299-306). Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence.

After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Saints Gurias and Samonas. After the death of the saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them 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. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her.

At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for 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. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother. After a certain while the Goth was again sent to serve in Edessa. The whole city learned of his misdeeds after he was denounced by Sophia. The Goth was executed by order of the prefect of the city. In an Akathist, the Holy Church addresses the martyrs: "Rejoice, Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, Heavenly Patrons of honorable marriage." We pray to them for deliverance from family turmoil, and from marital difficulties, especially where one spouse hates the other without cause.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Service Schedule for the week of November 15 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Friday November 20 – ENTRY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO THE TEMPLE - MASKS REQUIRED 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Saturday November 21 – ENTRY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO THE TEMPLE - MASKS REQUIRED DUE TO HOLY DAY

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday November 22 – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

November 8 – 45 adults, 8 youth, \$2,331

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday November 14 – Masks required

Sunday November 15 – Masks not required

Saturday November 21 – Masks required

Sunday November 22 – Masks required

Saturday November 28 – Masks required

Sunday November 29 – Masks not required

Saturday December 5 – Masks not required

Sunday December 6 – Masks required

Saturday December 12 – Masks required

Sunday December 13 – Masks not required

Saturday December 19 – Masks not required

Sunday December 20 – Masks required

Thursday December 24 – Masks required

Friday December 25 – Masks required

Saturday December 26 – Masks required

Sunday December 27 – Masks not required

The Senior R Club would like to thank everyone for their support of the soup sale last week!

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling the chruschiki orders and pierogies today in Daria Hall after Divine Liturgy. Pierogies are \$8/dozen.

There will be a Senior R Club meeting next Sunday November 22 in Daria Hall after Divine Liturgy.

The Nativity Fast begins today. It is important to partake in the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion during this time. The Diocese has indicated that it is okay to partake of turkey on Thanksgiving even though it is a fast day.

The Senior R Club is once again participating in the St. Nicholas Project and sponsoring a Seminarian family for Christmas. We are asking our parishioners to participate along with us and donate gift cards so the family is able to provide gifts to their children. The following gift cards in any denomination are requested: Amazon, Target, Walmart, Kohls. Gift cards may be given to either Ludwig or Darice at the candle desk, or any other member of the Senior R Club. The last day for donations will be **Sunday November 29**. Thank you for your generosity!

In order to prevent the spread of germs, the Communion prosphora and prosphora after Divine Liturgy will be handed out by an Altar server. We ask that you receive the prosphora in your hand and not reach for the prosphora on the tray or bowl.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!