

# Our Lady of the Swifts

The Bethlehem Gadfly Environment, Swifts February 22, 2021

🍷 Latest in a series of posts on the Swifts 🍷

*Tip o' the hat to Ilhan, who remembers the Swifts as his favorite birds from childhood in Turkey. He remembers a children's book based on this Byzantium story translated into Turkish.*

## “Our Lady of the Swifts”

“Our Lady of the Swifts”  
in “Oriental Tales” by Marguerite  
Yourcenar

A priest becomes convinced that nymphs are living in a cave and seducing his parishioners, so he blocks the cave's small mouth and tries to starve them. While waiting for them to starve, a woman — Mary — arrives and transforms the nymphs into birds.

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The Swifts are the official City Bird of  
Bethlehem  
They need your help



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