

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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Sunday February 26, 2017

Sunday of Forgiveness

Great-martyr Photine of Samaria, the Samaritan Woman in the Gospel, and those with her, all martyred under Nero (66), including: her sisters: Phota, Photis, Parasceva, and Cyriaca (*Kyriake*), her sons: Victor Stratelates (*or Photinus*) and Joses (*Joseph*), and also Christodoulos, Sebastian the Duke, the officer Anatolius, and Theoclitus the former sorcerer (*see also March 20*); Saint Porphyrios of Gaza, Archbishop of Gaza (420); Saint Nicholas of "Katopinos"; Saint Dionysius of Augsburg, venerated as the first Bishop of Augsburg in Germany (c. 303); Saint Faustinian, second Bishop of Bologna in Italy (4th century); Saint Andrew of Florence, Bishop of Florence and Confessor (c. 407); Saint Agricola, Bishop of Nevers in France (c. 594); Saint Victor, a hermit in Arcis-sur-Aube in Champagne in France (7th century); Venerable Sebastian of Poshekhonye, founder of Sokhotsk Monastery, Yaroslavl (1500) (*see also December 18*); New Martyr John the Cabinetmaker (*John Calphas, "the Apprentice"*), by beheading, at Constantinople (1575); New Hieromartyr Sylvester (Olshevsky), Archbishop of Omsk, Bishop of Prilutsk and Vicar of Poltava (1920); New Hieromartyr Peter Varlamov, Priest of Ufim (1930); New Hieromartyr Sergius Voskresensky, Priest (1933); Virgin-martyr Anna Blagoveshchensky (1937); New Hieromartyr John (Pashin), Bishop of Rylsk (Rila) (1938); New Hieromartyr John Dunaev, Priest (1938); **Other Commemorations:** Synaxis of the Mezhetks Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos at Kiev (1492).

Services for the week of February 26

Monday, February 27: 7:00 PM Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

Tuesday, February 28: 6:30 PM Panachida for the repose of the soul of +Menodora Frederick

7:00 PM Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, March 1: **9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts**

7:00 PM Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

Thursday, March 2: 7:00 PM Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 3: **6:30 PM Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts**

Saturday, March 4: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for St. Theodore Saturday.

6:00 PM Great Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy

Parish News

WELCOME: to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

OFFERING: February 19: \$1523.29

PLEASE KEEP Ernie Chizmar in your prayers as he is undergoing physical therapy at HealthSouth in Princeton. May God grant him strength and good health! Welcome also to Patty as she stays with her mother Dorothy. God remember all of them!

PURE WEEK SERVICES: Please check the schedule on the bulletin or on the website for the divine services. Start the Fast off right...come to as many services this week as possible. This schedule is given to us by the God-illuminated Church to HELP US GET STARTED.

HOLY CONFESSION: Please be aware that to be considered an Orthodox Christian *in good standing* in our diocese...that Holy Confession once a year as the *minimum* requirement and it must take place during the Great Fast. Please plan on having confession at least once during this sacred season.

HOMILY

About internal charity (By St. Nikolai Velimirovich)

"But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you" (St. Luke 11:41).

External cleanliness becomes a man. But that is a lesser cleanliness. Internal cleanliness is incomparably more important than external cleanliness. That is greater cleanliness. A dish can serve more usefully only if it is washed and clean on the inside even though the outside is dark and ashy. If a glass is dirty on the inside, its external cleanliness will never attract anyone to drink from it. If a bowl is dark and ashy on the outside who will dare to eat from it? There are many more teachers in the world and many examples of external rather than internal cleanliness. For it is easier to teach and show by example external cleanliness rather than internal cleanliness.

Behold brethren, how the Teacher and Model of great cleanliness, places this great cleanliness on the dependence of internal alms-giving. Alms-giving, which is performed from the heart, purifies the soul of man. Alms-giving, which is performed from the heart, cleanses the heart of man. Alms-giving, which is performed from the soul, cleanses a man's soul. Alms-giving, which is performed from his entire mind, cleanses the mind of a man. In a word, internal alms-giving cleanses the entire man. If alms-giving is only from a hand, it does not cleanse the hand much less the heart, soul and mind. Alms-giving from the hand is indispensable but it cleanses the giver only then, when the heart moves the hand to alms-giving. Besides alms-giving from the hand, there exist other types of alms-giving. Prayer for people is internal alms-giving and, likewise, sorrow for human pains, and joy in the joy of others. That is alms-giving, which proceeds from the heart and creates cleanliness in the heart, the soul and the mind.

O, All-Pure Lord, help us that, with true alms-giving we acquire great cleanliness.

