

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

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*Sunday July 30, 2017*

Apostles Silas and Silvanus (Silvan) of the Seventy and those with them: Crescens, Epenetus, and Andronicus; Hieromartyr Valentine, Bishop of Interamna (Terni) in Italy, and Martyrs Proculus, Ephebus, Apollonius, and Abundius, youths; Martyr John the soldier at Constantinople; Hieromartyr Polychronius, Bishop of Babylon, and Martyrs Permenius, Helimenas (Elimas) and Chrysotelus (presbyters), Luke and Mocius (deacons), and Abdon, Sennen, Maximus and Olympius; Saint Angelina, princess of Serbia; birthday of New-Martyr Crown Prince Alexis; New-Martyr Anatole of Optina; Saint Julitta of Caesaria; Saint Tatwine, Archbishop of Canterbury; opening of the relics of Saint Herman (Germanus) of Solovki

*Services for the week of July 30*

Tuesday, August 1: 7:00 pm Akathist to the Dormition of the Mother of God.

Saturday, August 5: 6:00 pm Vigil for the Great Feast of the Holy Transfiguration.

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## 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!

**OFFERINGS:** July 23: \$832.17

**PLEASE REMEMBER** Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who have been receiving difficult treatments lately. Pray for their well-being and that of their families. May God bless them all!

**DORMITION FAST BEGINS** this Tuesday. The Holy Church calls on us to refrain from meat and dairy products for the duration of the fast. Our patronal feast will be celebrated on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Please take the time during the next two weeks to prepare for the Great Feast with confession, fasting and prayer.

## HOMILY

### About the coming of the Dreadful Day of the Lord

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).*

Dreadful is the day of the Lord, O how inexpressibly dreadful! Dreadful because of its inexorable justice and also because of its unexpectedness. The Lord Himself commanded: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour" (St. Matthew 25:13), and the apostle who, with his own ears, heard these words only repeats them. He who is afraid of thieves watches every night, so that the thief would not surprise him. He, who is afraid of the Day of the Lord, watches every day and every hour in order that that day and that hour would not unexpectedly catch him in sin. We are so accustomed to the correct rotation of the course of time, and on the correct passage of day and night, that we do not suspect the approaching noise of that day which will overshadow all days and hold back the wheel of time and smash its tiny spokes. So also will it be when the sun places its fiery face over millions of wax candles and blots out their glow and melts their wax. Dreadful, dreadful, dreadful is the Day of the Lord! When that day places its fiery face over the candles of today's day, these will be snuffed out and darkened, "the heavens shall pass away with great noise," the heavens, by which the present average days are counted, "and the elements shall melt with fervent heat" the material elements, the earth, water, air and fire will disintegrate. They will cease to be. Everything will be new. Our earthly homeland and all works on it will be burned up. They will cease to be. Everything will be new. All our works will burn up; when God does not have pity on His works, would He then pity our works? God will not seek works but workers. All workers will appear before Him for judgment and their works He will burn up. And all will be new. Who will be judged, will be judged; who will be rewarded, will be rewarded, for all eternity. Brethren, dreadful, truly dreadful is the Day of the Lord! Dreadful because of its unexpectedness and dreadful because of the inexorable justice of God.

O Just Lord, make us sober and vigilant! Command Your holy angels to keep us in sobriety and vigilance, so that sin does not inebriate us and cause us to sleep.

**To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.**