

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

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Sunday June 18, 2017

Sunday of All Saints of Carpatho Russia

Martyr Leontius, and with him Martyrs Hypatius and Theodulus, at Tripoli in Syria; Saint Leontius the Hagiorite, clairvoyant of Dionysiou Monastery on Mount Athos; Martyr Aetherus of Nicomedia; Saint Leontius, canonarch of the Kiev Caves; Saint Erasmus, monk; Saint Leontius the Shepherd, monk

Services for the week of June 18

Saturday, June 24: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of St. John. Grave blessings follow.

6:00 pm Great Vespers

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: June 11: \$1410.00

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY: To all of our fathers, uncles, big brothers, mentors and the special men in our lives... May God, our heavenly Father, bless all of them and give them good strength and courage to BE MEN.

THE PETER AND PAUL FAST began last Monday. The Church calls upon us to avoid meat and dairy products until the Feast of the Apostles, 29 June. Let us keep this Fast together!

LADIES' ALTAR SOCIETY YARD SALE was held yesterday and was a great success. The Ladies collected almost \$800.00 and all their work in collecting, placing and selling the materials is most appreciated. Warmest thanks also go out to our donors who gave items from their homes to sell.

GRAVE BLESSINGS take place this coming Saturday, June 24, following the Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Please attend this Liturgy and come to the cemetery for the blessing.

DON'T FORGET those who are sick and suffering in our parish and among our families.

HOMILY

About God's indebtedness

"He who has compassion on the poor lends to God and He will repay Him for his good deed" (Proverbs 19:17).

The poor man who begs and the rich man who gives both are indebted to the Lord, but only under the condition that the poor man begs in the name of the Lord with humility and that the rich man gives in the name of the Lord with compassion. Everyone who receives should know that he receives that which belongs to God and everyone who gives should know that he gives that which belongs to God. Such giving has a price and such receiving has a price. All of us enter this world naked and naked shall we leave this world. All of us are beggars before the Lord for we possess nothing that we have not received from the Lord. Therefore, give to the poor man as God as given to you. You take what is another's and you give to your own when you perform charity. The poor man is closer to you than all of your goods even as God, the Creator of men, every man is incomparably more precious than all of his goods. If you have been given riches, it was given to you for temptation: that your heart be tempted! That God and all the heavenly hosts see whether you understood from whom are all your riches and why they were given to you. Blessed are you if you know that your goods are from God and belong to God! Blessed are you if you consider the poor as your companions, among your family members and share with them from that which God has entrusted to you!

O how immeasurable is God's love for mankind! Behold, all that you have belongs to God but, nevertheless, God considers Himself your debtor if you take from Him and give to the poor and He will repay you for your good. What kind of mercy can be compared to this!

O Man-loving Lord, open our minds to understand the mystery of Your mercy and soften our hearts as wax, that as wax they burn and shine with the reflection of Your inexpressible mercy!

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.