

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

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*Sunday September 3, 2017*

Hieromartyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Theophilus the Deacon, Dorotheus, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno, Virgin Domna, and Euthymius; Venerable Theoctistus, fellow ascetic with Venerable Euthymius the Great; Saint Phoebe, Deaconess of Cenchreae near Corinth; Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia; Saint Ioannicius, Patriarch of Serbia, Wonder-worker; Blessed John "the Hairy", Fool-for-Christ of Rostov; Hieromartyr Bishop Aristion of Alexandria in Syria; Martyrs Zinon, Chariton, Achronionus, and Vitalian; Martyr Dasa; New-Martyr Polydorus of Cyprus; Martyr Edward of England; Saint Constantine the New, Emperor; Martyr Archontinus; celebration of the Icon of the Theotokos of Pisidian Sozopolis; repose of Priest Peter of Uglich, Fool-for-Christ of Uglich; translation of the relics of Nektarios of Pentapolis

*Services for the week of September 3*

Thursday, September 7: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Nativity of the Mother of God.

Friday, September 8: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Mother of God.

Saturday, September 9: 6:00 pm Great Vespers.

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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:** August 20: \$489.11

**PLEASE REMEMBER** Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who are suffering from serious illness. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

**CHURCH WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL** is coming up on September 23 from 11am-4pm. Please volunteer your help in any way you can. See Fr. Mark or any of the many people who are helping us (particularly Joyce Peters and Ranae Bailey) if you are able to lend a hand.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** will be held following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 10. Please make every effort to attend the Liturgy and gather as a family to hear about the state of our parish.

## HOMILY on the Word of God revealed in the flesh

*And the Word was made flesh* (John1:14).

Here, brethren, is a new, blessed and salvific beginning for us-the beginning of our salvation. Adam was in the flesh when he fell under the authority of sin and death. Now the Creator of Adam has appeared in the flesh, to deliver Adam and Adam's posterity from the power of sin and death. The Son of God-the Word, Wisdom, Light and Life-descended among men in human flesh and with a human soul. He was incarnate but not divided from His Divinity. He descended without being separated from His Father. He retained all that He had been and would be for all eternity, and yet He received something new: human nature. His eternal attributes were not diminished by the Incarnation, neither was His relationship to the Father and the Spirit changed. Lo, the Father testified to this, both on the Jordan and on Mount Tabor: *This is my beloved Son!* He did not say: ``This was my Son," but ``This is my Son." The Holy Spirit was with Him at His bodily conception and throughout His mission on earth. The divine and human nature were united in Him, but not intermingled. How? Do not ask, you who do not even know how to explain yourself to yourself, and cannot say how your soul and body are united in you. Only know this: God came to visit the earth, bringing unspeakably rich treasures for mankind-royal gifts, incorruptible, eternal, priceless and irreplaceable gifts. Know this and let your heart dance for joy. Strive to cleanse your hands, purify your senses, wash your soul, whiten your heart, and set your mind straight, that you may receive the royal gifts. For they are not given to the unclean. O Lord Jesus Christ, help us to cleanse and wash ourselves by Thy blood and Thy Spirit, that we may be made worthy of Thy royal gifts.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.