

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

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Sunday August 19, 2018

Afterfeast of the Dormition; Martyr Andrew Stratelates ("the General") and 2,593 soldiers with him in Cilicia; Martyrs Timothy, Agapius, and Thekla of Palestine; Saint Pitirim, Bishop of Perm; Saint Theophanes, Wonder-worker of Macedonia; Saint Theophanes, new Wonder-worker of Macedonia (Dochiarion Monastery (Athos)); Saint Credan, Abbot of Evesham; Saint Edbert, monk of Northumbria; Martyrs Eutychanos the soldier, and Strategios; opening of the relics of Saint Gennadius, Abbot of Kostroma; commemoration of the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "Of the Don," and the intercession against the Tatars' attack

Services for the week of August 19

Saturday, August 25: 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: August 12: \$652.85

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held on Sunday, September 9. Nominations will be taken throughout the entire month of August. Forms will be available to place in the provided box.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Very Rev. Michael Miklos, Very Rev. Jonathan Tobias, Wanda (Martha) Smith, John (Randy) Bailey, Janet Mikel, Martha Akers, Alexander Shostko, the grieving members of the Budarin family (who lost their relative, +Timur) and Kenny Bamber. May God grant them the grace to bear the crosses of illness and sorrow. May His will be done in their lives.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL: Anyone in good standing can be nominated to hold parish office including present parish council members.

REFLECTION

When an unexpected misfortune happens to us who are innocent, we should not immediately grieve but rather we should try to see in this the Providence of God, Who, through that misfortune, is preparing something new and beneficial for us. One day, unexpected news came to Blessed Theophanes, the abbot of Dochiarion, that the Turks had seized his sister's son, forced him to embrace Islam and took him to Constantinople. Theophanes immediately traveled to Constantinople and, with the help of God, succeeded to find his nephew and to secretly bring him out of Constantinople and brought him to his monastery on Mt. Athos. There, he again, received his nephew into the Christian Faith and, after that, also tonsured him a monk. However, the brethren began to complain against their abbot and his nephew for fear of the Turks, for they were afraid that the Turks would find out and come and destroy the monastery. Not knowing what to do, St. Theophanes took his nephew and, with him, secretly withdrew not only from Dochiarion but also from the Holy Mountain and came to Berea. The later activities of Theophanes in Berea and in Naousa proved how much that misfortune was beneficial to the Church. That which Theophanes could never succeed to achieve on the Holy Mountain, he achieved in these other places to which he had fled from that misfortune. Namely: he founded two new monasteries, where, in time, many monks were saved and where countless men found comfort for themselves. In addition to this, his holy relics among the Christian people became a source of healing for the strengthening of faith among many unbelievers and those of little faith. Thus, God wisely directs the destiny of men through unexpected misfortunes, which momentarily seem to men that they are going to their final destruction.

