

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

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Sunday July 29, 2018

Martyr Callinicus of Asia Minor; Martyr Theodote and her Children; Saint Constantine, Patriarch of Constantinople; Saint Theodosius the New, emperor; Saint Roman, abbot of Kirzhach, disciple of Saint Sergius of Radonezh; Saints Constantine and Cosmas, abbots of Kosinsk, Pskov; Martyr Eustace of Mtskheta in Georgia; Martyr Michael; Saint Lupus the Confessor, Bishop of Troyes; Martyrs Mamas and Vasilicos the Elder in Darri; Saint Bogolep, Schemamonk-child of Black Ravine near Astrakhan; Saint Olaf, Enlightener of Norway; Martyr Basiliscus the Elder; Martyrs Benjamin and Berius of Constantinople; Martyr Bessarion, Bishop of Smolyan; Saint Sulian, Abbot of Luxulyan, Cornwall; Anatolius the Younger of Optina (see also November 12, July 30); Martyr John the soldier at Constantinople (see also July 30); Martyrs Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice, of Rome; Virgin-martyr Seraphima of Antioch

Services for the week of July 29

Wednesday, August 1: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord.

Friday, August 3: Paraclesis to the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday, August 4: 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: July 22: \$856.00

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, Wanda (Martha) Smith, John (Randy) Bailey, Janet Mikel, 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.

DORMITION FAST begins this Wednesday. Please prepare for our Patronal Feast by keeping the traditional fast of no meat and dairy (strictly speaking, fish is ONLY allowed on August 6th-Feast of the Transfiguration), attending the extra services and preparing for Holy Confession. This is the more "intense" summer fast of the Church. Please be aware!

HOMILY

About the delaying of the Dreadful Day according to the mercy of God

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness: but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Brethren, the mercy of God delays "that day which burns like a furnace, according to the words of the Prophet Malachi" ([Malachi 4:1](#)). Therefore, let the scoffers be ashamed, who scoff at the promise of God and say: "Where is the promise of His coming?" ([2 Peter 3:4](#)). God has not forgotten His promise but the sinners themselves have forgotten it. God, according to His immeasurable mercy, waits for the sinners to come to their senses, repent and to prepare themselves for that day which is not repeated. Behold that day is not like the many days which are given to men for the sake of repentance and to prepare for the encounter with God. That day is the only day and it differs from all other days, for it does not come for the sake of repentance but rather for judgment. Just as the Dreadful Judgment is only one and unrepeatable, thus is that day only one and unrepeatable.

God does not desire that any man be lost. He did not create man for death but for salvation. Is there a gardener who sows vegetables and desire that his vegetables dry out and perish? God is wiser and more compassionate than all men. God has only one desire, i.e., that all men repent and turn away from evil. How does the husbandman rejoice when his withered vineyard comes to life and again becomes green and brings forth fruit! How much more then is the joy of God and the angels of God when the souls of men, withered from sin, return and become young again from the tears of repentance and bring forth fruit of repentance.

O Lord, Merciful and Lover of Mankind, help sinners to sense Your mercy and Your pity toward them to sense and to repent to repent and to turn away from their wicked ways.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

