

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

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Sunday May 27, 2018

Sunday of the Council Fathers

Hieromartyr Therapont of Sardis, Bishop, by beheading (259); Martyr Julius the Veteran, at Dorostolum in Moesia (297); Virgin-martyr Theodora, and Martyr Didymus the Soldier, at Alexandria (304); Martyr Eusebius, by fire; Martyr Alypius, by stoning; Martyr Juliana (see also March 4); Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop (6th-7th c.); Saint Michael of Parekhi, Georgia (8th-9th c.); Saint Basil of Khakhuli, son of King Bagrat III (11th c.); Saint Restituta and Companions (272) (see also May 17); Saint Eutropius of Orange, successor of St Justin as Bishop of Orange in France, when the diocese had been laid waste by the Visigoths (475); Venerable Melangell of Wales, Abbess (590); Martyr Ranulf (Ragnulf), in Thélus near Arras in France, (the father of St. Hadulph, Bishop of Arras-Cambrai) (700); Venerable Bede the Confessor, Hieromonk of Wearmouth-Jarrow (735); Saint Bruno of Würzburg, Bishop of Würzburg (1045); Venerable Therapont of White Lake, Abbot of Byelozersk (White Lake) and Mozhaisk (1426); Saint Philip I, Metropolitan of Moscow (1473); Venerable Therapont of Monza, Abbot of Monza (1597); Venerable Hiero-schema-monk Lazarus of Pskov-Caves Monastery (1824); Venerable Elias, of Russia (see also December 7); Saint John the Russian, whose relics are on the island of Euboea (1730); Saint Alexis (Mechev), Priest of Moscow (1922); **Other Commemorations:** Translation of the relics (1472) of Sts. Cyprian (1406), Photius (1431), and Jonah (1461), Metropolitans of Kiev; Translation of the relics (1667) of Venerable Nilus of Stolobny Island (stylite of Seliger Lake) (1554); Repose of Blessed Zina of Vetluga (1960);

Services for the week of May 27

Monday, May 28: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Day of the Holy Spirit.

THERE WILL BE NO VESPERS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2

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: May 20: \$696.00

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris (Michael) Parkison who was baptized before Liturgy today as Michael. May God grant him a lifetime of good strength, peace, health and repentance. This is a wish for all of us in the Church. St. Isaac the Syrian tells us: "This life has been given to us for repentance, we must not waste it in vain pursuits." Many years, Newly-Illumined Michael!

VESPERS this coming Saturday is canceled. Please make a note of this.

THE CHURCH BOARD has a new treasurer. Doris (Martha) Akers has accepted the job as our own dear Annie (Ksenia) Fancher has relocated to Charlottesville, Va. As per our parish by laws, Doris was received as Treasurer by unanimous Parish Council vote. There will be new Council elections at our Annual Meeting in September. We wish Annie all the best in her new endeavors and offer our warmest thanks to her for taking up this most important duty. We also welcome Doris as she receives this responsibility into her capable hands. Many years to you both!

THIS COMING WEEK IS FAST FREE-The week after Pentecost is a fast-free week. May our feasting be tempered by the consciousness of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts and lives.

HOMILY

About the Grace of God revealed throughout the ages

"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace" (Ephesians 2:7).

With the prophetic gift, the Apostle Paul prophesied about the riches of the Grace which, throughout the ages, will be poured out on the generations of mankind. We who live nearly twenty centuries separated from the apostle can attest to that which the apostle prophesied in ages past. Just as beehives are filled with valuable and honey-bearing bees, so all the centuries from Christ until today are filled with praiseworthy men, virgins and women.

O how abundantly the richness of the Grace of God manifested itself on countless souls who, at first, were sinful and later became holy!

O how abundantly the richness of the Grace of God manifested itself on men and women who were, at first, weak and fearful and after that heroically confessed Christ the Lord and joyfully suffered for Him!

O how abundantly the richness of the Grace of God manifested itself throughout the centuries on the simple and illiterate who, after that, became true wisemen and spiritual generals of the faithful armies of Christ!

Brethren, just think how much more hidden holiness, unrevealed sacrificing, unrecorded heroism, unsung virtues lay hidden in the depths of twenty centuries of Christianity! When all of that is made known, all that which was in the past centuries and in those centuries which will come until the end of time, then will the angels and men be astonished before the unspeakable riches of the Grace of God. Then the Apostle Paul himself will have to cry out: "Even though I was an apostle, nevertheless, my word was too weak to express all the immeasurable richness of the Grace of God which, out of love for man, was proclaimed in the world."

O Most Holy Trinity, our mankind-loving God, uplift our hearts that we continually glorify and praise the exceeding great richness of Your Grace.

