

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

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Sunday September 16, 2018

Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised; Martyrs Victor and Sosthenes at Chalcedon; Saint Sebastiana, disciple of St. Paul the Apostle, martyred at Heraclea; Martyr Melitina of Marcianopolis; Saint Dorotheus, hermit of Egypt; Martyr Ludmilla, grandmother of St. Wenceslaus, prince of the Czechs (see March 4, September 28); Saint Procopius, Abbot of Sazava in Bohemia; New-Martyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia; New-hieromartyr Gregory (Raevskii) of Tver; Saint Martin the bishop; Saint Ninian, Apostle to the Picts, Abbot of Candida Casa Monastery in Scotland, and Bishop of Whithorn; Saint Edith, Nun of Wilton; repose of Saint Cyprian, Metropolitan of Kiev

Services for the week of September 16

Saturday, September 22: 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: September 9: \$1121.00

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.

FOOD FESTIVAL NEWS: Our warmest thanks go out to all of our parishioners and friends of our parish who have assisted in the Festival yesterday. So much work was done; and God gave us a cloudy but very nice day! No Hurricane Florence! The entire day was a great blessing, thanks be to God.

**HOMILY
on the Lord, the holder of power**

I have power to lay it [My life] down and I have power to take it again (John 10:18).

The divine power of our Lord Jesus Christ manifested itself in His complete power over Himself. If divine power could be separated from divine love, then it could be said of Christ that He would have been able to incarnate, or not incarnate; or again, that He would have been able die, or not die. But, He became incarnate according to His divine love for men and, according to this same inexpressible love, He gave Himself up to death as a *Good Shepherd* for His sheep (John 10:11). A man who kills himself does not truly have power over his life, for he does not kill himself by his own power, but rather by the power of sin, or by the power of the devil, or by the power of some other grave circumstance. So also, a man whom others kill has no power over his life, nor can he speak for his life before his murderers: he cannot say *I have power to lay it down*, for he must lay it down unwillingly. Only our Lord Jesus Christ could say in the presence of his murderers, the Jews: *I have power to lay it down*. Having that power, He could, by a miracle that would have been easy for Him, have made all the Jews perish before they crucified Him on the Cross. Yet He foresaw the saving fruits of His death, and that is why He willingly gave Himself up to be slain.

And I have power to take it again. With these words He foretold His Resurrection. Therefore, the Lord both died and resurrected by His divine power.

O Almighty and man-loving Lord, how beautifully Thou didst plan the salvation of men by Thy divine power and love. Help us, O help us, that we might embrace that salvation!

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.