

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

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*Sunday September 9, 2018*

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos; Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; Martyr Severian of Sebaste; Saint Joseph, Abbot of Volokolamsk, Volotsk; Martyr Chariton; Martyr Straton; Saint Theophanes the confessor and faster of Mount Diabonos; Blessed Niketas the Hidden of Constantinople; Saint Joachim, Abbot of Opochka Monastery (Pskov); commemoration of the Third Ecumenical Council; Saint Kieran, founder of Clonmacnois Monastery in Ireland; Saint Wulfhilda, Abbess of Barking; Saint Bettelin, Hermit of Crowland; Martyrs Gorgonios and Dorotheos, of Rome; Saint Omer, Bishop of Therouanne; Saint Wilfrida, Abbess of Wilton; opening of the relics of Saint Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernigov; repose of Elder Joachim of St. Anne's Skete, Mount Athos

*Services for the week of September 9*

Thursday, September 13: 6:30 pm Vigil for the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross.

Friday, September 14: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross

Saturday, September 15: 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 2: \$556.00

**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.

**PARISH MEETING TODAY:** Today is our Annual Meeting. May we come together as a community of Orthodox Faith and love for each other as we discuss our common life today and in the future. God's blessing be upon us, our new Metropolitan Gregory and all who love and support us.

**HOMILY**

**About the sufferings [passions] of Christ, how Isaiah foresaw them**

*"I gave my back to the smiters and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting" (Isaiah 50:6).*

Brethren, this is the prophecy and now hear the exact fulfillment of that prophecy: "And when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified" (St. Matthew 27:26). Is not this what the prophet foretold: "I gave My back to the smiters"? Listen further: "One of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand" (St. John 18:22). And again: "They struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, 'Prophesy, who is it that smote You?' " (St. Luke 22:64). Is not this what the prophet foretold? "I gave My cheeks to them that smite " ? Listen even further: "...And they mocked Him" (St. Matthew 27-29), "And they smote Him on the head with a reed and did spit upon Him" (St. Mark 15:19); is not this what the prophet foretold: "I hid not My face from shame and spitting." Observe, brethren, how clear is the prophecy, clear from word to word. Observe with horror, how the discerning man of God sees more clearly through the walls of several hundred years than the ordinary eye, which sees the bottom of clear and shallow water! That God, by His irresistible power, opens the spirit of mortal man to see, by the spirit, the events in the distance as clearly as the physical eyes see the events close by. How then does the All-seeing God Himself, see through the marrow of our bones, through the fog of our thoughts, and through all the secrets of our hearts? Because He is present at our thoughts even before they are born and present at our desires before they are conceived. He is the one undeceived and undeceivable witness of all events, external and internal, in the heights and in the depths, in the width and in the length. And He witnesses to our spirit truthfully, that which our soul desires to know for the sake of our good benefit and for the salvation of our soul.

O, All-seeing and All-wonderful Witness to all the secrets in heaven and on earth, the Creator and our Good Provider, You alone see the weakness of all of us. Help us, O help us, to learn that which is necessary for the sake of our eternal salvation.

**To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.**

