

## ST. MARY'S HELPERS

	Aug. 21	Aug. 28
Prosphora	Psa. L. & Galina	Maria & Draga
Reader	Eugenia & Andrei	Florin & Dan
Greeter	Alex & George D	Giani & George C
Coffee hour	Ana Maria	Draga & Hanne
Lawn	George C.	Corneliu

 Thank you to all the church helpers. Your service is appreciated. **Please make note of the schedule and of your commitment.** If you are not able to fulfill your commitment, please find a replacement and let the organizer know. 

## TO OUR VISITORS: WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

Welcome to all guests to St. Mary's on this holy day. If you are new to our church, please make yourself known to Father Michael. Please join us for coffee. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Please note that only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with prayer, fasting and Confession may approach to receive Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to receive the blessing and partake of the blessed bread (Antidor) at the dismissal.

*As a sign of respect please remain standing during Holy Communion, even if you are not partaking. Please turn off all cell phones during church services.*

**Weekly Donations** - Your church depends on your weekly donations to pay for all its expenses. Please consider leaving posted dated cheques with the treasurer when you go on vacation. Church expenses are incurred year - round.

**Memberships** - Have you paid your memberships?

Membership in the Church carries with it some very serious obligations. God offers us this great grace, and we need to respond. We do this in a variety of ways. We maintain our relationship with God through regular prayer. We feed our spirit with reading of Holy Scriptures and other spiritual writings. We build our character by loving those around us, including our enemies. We show ourselves as faithful children of our Heavenly Father by helping those in need, and sharing that which God has blessed us. In short, we should always keep in our hearts the words of the Lord when he told us, "You are the light of the world. ... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

The Church receives absolutely no financial assistance from the Canadian, American or Romanian governments. Our church depends on you, the faithful for its monthly expenses.

Please remember to bring sandwiches for the Mustard Seed. We deliver them every Sunday. Also needed are personal items- razors, deodorant, hair brush, tooth brush, tooth paste.

## St. Mary's Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (O.C.A.)

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Bulletin for August 21, 2016  
Holy Prophet Samuel (Aug. 20)  
Sf. Proroc Samuel

Vespers Saturday 6 pm

Divine Liturgy Sunday 9 am (July 17 - Aug.28)

Confessions by Appointment (e mail Father Michael)

Other services as announced

*Vespers still at 6:30 on Saturdays. Normal hours will resume Sunday Sept. 4.*

- *Ladies meeting today - after Divine Liturgy. All ladies are invited to come discuss the preparations for the church Feast Day (Hram)*
- *Sept. 3 -No Vespers*
- *Sept. 4- Divine Liturgy as usual. Father Michael will be away at the Vatra Church Congress. Fr. Ovidiu will be serving Divine Liturgy.*

*Hram, Church feast day Sept 11. Everyone is invited. Please come and join your church family. Please see Ana Maria or Annie if you are able to help. Blessing of the children going back to school will take place on this day.*

#### PRAYER

I ask you to pray for those who have offended you, saying: "O Lord, Who loves mankind, forgive those who hates us and offend us, Thy servants (their names), for they know not what they do, and warm their heart to love us unworthy ones."

## ORTHODOX TEACHING

**Reading:** This most holy man, a Prophet of God from childhood, was the last judge of the Israelite people, and anointed the first two Kings of Israel. He was born in the twelfth century before Christ, He was the fruit of prayer, for his mother, being barren, conceived him only after she had supplicated the Lord with many tears; wherefore she called him Samuel, that is, "heard by God." As soon as Hannah had weaned him, she brought him to the city of Silom (Shiloh), where the Ark was kept, and she consecrated him, though yet a babe, to the service of God, giving thanks to Him with the hymn found in the Third Ode of the Psalter: "My heart hath been established in the Lord . . ." Samuel remained in Silom under the protection of Eli the priest. He served in the Tabernacle of God, and through his most venerable way of life became well-pleasing to God and man (I Kings 2: 26). While yet a child, sleeping in the tabernacle near the Ark of God, he heard the voice of God calling his name, and foretelling the downfall of Eli; for although Eli's two sons, Ophni and Phineas, were most lawless, and despisers of God, Eli did not correct them. Even after Samuel had told Eli of the divine warning, Eli did not properly chastise his sons, and afterwards, through various misfortunes, his whole house was blotted out in one day. After these things came to pass, Samuel was chosen to be the protector of the people, and he judged them with holiness and righteousness. He became for them an example of all goodness, and their compassionate intercessor before God: "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; yea, I will serve the Lord, and show you the good and the right way" (ibid. 12:23). When he asked them -- having God as witness -- if he ever wronged anyone, or took anyone's possessions, or any gift, even so much as a sandal, they answered with one voice: "Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, nor afflicted us, neither hast thou taken anything from anyone's hand" (ibid. 12:4). When Samuel was old, the people asked him for a king, but he was displeased with this, knowing that God Himself was their King. But when they persisted, the Lord commanded him to anoint them a king, saying, "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me from reigning over them" (ibid. 8:7); so Samuel anointed Saul. But Saul transgressed the command of God repeatedly, so Samuel anointed David. Yet, since Samuel was a man of God, full of tender mercy, when the Lord told him that He had rejected Saul, Samuel wept for him the whole night long (ibid. 15:11); and later, since he continued to grieve, the Lord said to him, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul?" (ibid. 16:1). Having lived blamelessly some ninety-eight years, and become an example to all of a God-pleasing life, he reposed in the eleventh century before Christ. Many ascribe to him the authorship of the Books of judges, and of Ruth, and of the first twenty-four chapters of the First Book of Kings (I Samuel). Reading © Holy Transfiguration Monastery

## READINGS AND TROPAR

**9th Sunday after Pentecost (Walking on the water; calming of the wind). Epis. 1 Corinthians 3:9-17. Gos. Matthew 14:22-34. Tone 8.**

**Duminica a 9-a după Rusalii (Umblarea pe mare - potolirea furtunii). Ap. 1 Corinteni 3,9-17. Ev. Matei 14,22-34. Glas 8.**

#### Tone 8

*You descended from on high, O merciful one. You endured burial for 3 days to free us from passions. You are our life and resurrection, O Lord glory to you.*

#### Tropar for the church

*Your Nativity O Birthgiver of God has proclaimed joy to all the Universe. For the Son of Righteousness, Christ our God has risen from you, By abolishing the curse, He gave a blessing, By destroying death, He bestowed eternal life.*

#### Tropar for the Dormition

*In giving birth you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Birthgiver of God. You were translated to life O Mother of Life, and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.*