

## **РАСПОРЕД БОГОСЛУЖЕЊА**

**за март 2020.**

- 01.03. - (Sunday) - Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am
  - 08.03. - (Sunday) - Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am
  - 15.03. - (Sunday) - Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am
  - 22.03. - (Sunday) - Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am
  - 29.03. - (Sunday) - Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am
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**СВИМ ЧЛАНОВИМА И ПАРОХИЈАНИМА  
ЖЕЛИМО БЛАГОСЛОВЕНУ СВЕТУ  
ЧЕТРДЕСЕТНИЦУ - ВАСКРШЊИ ПОСТ!**



SERBIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CORPORATION

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## **ST. HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA**

This great, apostolic man was born a pagan. St John the Theologian brought him to the Christian faith and baptised him. Polycarp was left an orphan in early childhood and a noble widow, Callista, after a vision in a dream, took him in, rearing and educating him as her own son. Polycarp was God-fearing and compassionate from his early years. He made great efforts to emulate the life of St Bucolus, the then Bishop of Smyrna, and of the Holy Apostles John and Paul, whom he had met and heard. St Bucolus ordained him priest and, at the time of his death, proclaimed him his heir in Smyrna. The apostolic bishops, who had gathered for Bucolus's funeral, consecrated Polycarp bishop. From the very beginning he was endowed with the power of wonder-working. He cast out the evil spirit from a servant of some prince and put out a great conflagration in Smyrna by his prayers. Seeing these things, many pagans regarded him as one of the gods. He brought rain in a drought, healed sickness, had the gifts of insight and prophecy, and so forth. He suffered in the time of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Three days before his death, he prophesied: "In three days I shall be consumed by fire for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ!" When, on the third day, the soldiers arrested him and took him for trial, he cried out: "May this be the will of the Lord my God!" When the judge urged him to deny Christ and recognise the Roman gods, Polycarp said: "I cannot exchange the better for the worse." The Jews especially hated Polycarp and endeavoured to have him burned. When they placed him, bound, on the pyre, he prayed long to God. He was very old and grey, and he shone like an angel of God. All the people saw how the flames licked around him but did not touch him. Frightened by such a phenomenon, the pagan judge ordered the executioner to stab him with a lance through the flames. When this was done, a vast flow of blood gushed out and extinguished the whole fire, and his body remained whole and unburned. At the Jews' persuasion, the judge ordered that Polycarp's dead body be burned according to the Greek custom, and so they dishonourably burned dead him whom they had failed to burn alive. St Polycarp suffered in the year 167, on Holy Saturday.

## **OUR HOLY MOTHER, THE MARTYR EUDOCIA**

Living in Heliopolis, a city of Phoenicia, during the reign of Trajan, she was at first a great harlot, then a penitent, a nun and finally a martyr. She gained great wealth from her harlotry. The reversal of her life was brought about, through the providence of God, by an elderly monk, Germanus, and that unintentionally. Coming to Heliopolis in the course of his work, he stayed at the house of a Christian woman whose home abutted onto Eudocia's. When at night he began, as was his monastic custom, to read the Psalter and a book on the Dreadful Judgment, Eudocia heard him and stood listening attentively to his every word until the end. Fear and dread took such hold on her that she remained awake until daybreak. As soon as it was dawn, she sent a servant to beg that monk to come to her. Germanus came, and they began a long conversation on that which the old monk had been reading the previous night, and especially on faith and salvation. The result of these discussions was that Eudocia asked the local bishop to baptise her. After her baptism, she gave all her goods to the church, to be distributed to the poor, dismissed her servants and slaves and retired to a women's monastery. She so devoted herself to the monastic life - to obedience, patience, vigils, prayer and fasting - that after thirteen months she was chosen as abbess. She lived fifty-six years in the monastery and was worthy in the eyes of God to be given the gift of raising the dead. When a persecution of Christians arose under the governor, Vincent, holy Eudocia was beheaded. Here is a wonderful example of how a vessel of uncleanness can be purified, sanctified and filled with a precious, heavenly fragrance by the grace of the Holy Spirit.