

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:**

Nikolai Taran Sr.

For the health of:

Christopher Dawson, on his birthday, offered by his family.

Nicholas Zimmerman, on his 14th birthday, offered by his family with love.**Readings:**

- **Hebrews 9:11-14** (5th Sunday of Great Lent)
- **Mark 10:32-45** (5th Sunday of Great Lent)
 - Galatians 3:23-29 (St Mary of Egypt)
 - Luke 7:36-50 (St Mary of Egypt)

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Sunday service:**Hours - 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. Except during Lent)****(Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)****(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)****Church School - 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month when there is General Confession)****Choir practice - 9:30 AM****Coffee hour - after Liturgy**

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Services for Great Lent:**
Friday, April 6, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- **Holy Week Services**
Thursday, April 12, 6:00 PM - Thursday evening service (Friday Matins - 12 Passion Gospels)
Friday, April 13, 2:00 PM - Friday Vespers
Friday April 13, 6:00 PM - Good Friday Service (Saturday Matins)
- **Pascha Services**
Sunday, April 15, 2012 (Saturday April 14, 2012 11:30 PM) - PASCHA - Midnight Service and Divine Liturgy
After Liturgy - Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
- **St. Thomas Sunday Services**
Sunday, April 22, 2012 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (normal time)
After Liturgy - Blessing of graves

Special Announcements:

- There will be **Sunday School today, April 1st** because there will be no General Confession.
- **There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos today**, after coffee hour.
- **Choir practice** will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings, downstairs. All those who wish to sing in the choir are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Reminder:

- **Last chance!** • **Raffle tickets!** • **Today!**
Tickets are still available for our annual Easter basket raffle. Three baskets will be raffled off today, each containing traditional Slavic Paschal foods. The Sisterhood is asking that each parishioner sell 10 tickets for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each. See Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantinne.

Saint Mary of Egypt:

The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of **Saint Mary of Egypt**, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come *“to call sinners to repentance”* and to save them from their sins (Lk 5:32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life—or in Lent—to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

The week following the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt is called **Palm or Branch Week**. At the Tuesday services of this week the Church recalls that Jesus’ friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (Jn 11). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On Friday evening, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the *“great and saving forty days”* of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls, we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man, that we may see the holy week of Thy passion, that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of salvation for our sake. ... (Vesper Hymn)

Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as **“the Resurrection and the Life”** who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before his own suffering and death.

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! Like the children with the branches of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! (Troparion).

Christ—the Joy, the Truth and the Light of All, the Life of the world and its Resurrection—has appeared in his goodness to those on earth. He has become the Image of our Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all (Kontakion).

At the Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday the baptismal verse from Galatians: **As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ** (Gal 3:27) replaces the Thrice-holy Hymn thus indicating the resurrectional character of the celebration, and the fact that Lazarus Saturday was once among the few great baptismal days in the Orthodox Church Year. Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah-King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, he entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (Zech 9:9; Jn 12:12). The crowds greeted him with branches in their hands and called out to him with shouts of praise: **Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel!** Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven *“to destroy him, to put him to death”* (Lk 19:47; Jn 11:53, 12:10).

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God
“The Joy of All the Sorrowful”

115 Hudson St.
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

Rev. Boris Slootsky, Rector

2B Pembroke Lane
Manchester, New Jersey 08759
(732) 350-9588



Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

*The image of God was truly preserved in you, mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away,
but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, holy mother Mary, Rejoices with the angels!*
Troparion - St Mary of Egypt

On this day the Church remembers:

Fifth Sunday of Lent - St Mary of Egypt • Ven. Mary of Egypt (522) • Ven. Euthymius of Suzdal’ (1404) • Martyr Abraham of Bulgaria (1229) • Ven. Gerontius, Canonarch, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.) • Ven. Macarius, Abbot of Pelecete (ca. 830) • Martyrs Gerontius and Basilides (3rd c.) • Righteous Achaza.

April 1, 2012

5th Sunday of Great Lent
Triodion week 9

(Tone 1 of the Octoechos.)