

(No Bulletin sponsors this week.)

Readings: **Acts 1:1-8** (*Sunday of Holy Pascha*)
 John 1:1-17 (*Sunday of Holy Pascha*)

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?” He said to them, “it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Sunday Services (except Paschs):

Hours - 9:40 AM General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3 rd Sunday of each month	Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM
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Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.

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

Church School is now meeting every week after Communion.

Announcements:

- **Great and Holy Pascha** – Nocturns, Matins, Divine Liturgy starts at **11:30 pm on Saturday night**. Baskets will be blessed following services early Sunday morning.
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Please remember our Parish Family in your prayers, especially Lore Stefy, Bill and MaryAnn Kuzemchak, Alex Guedes, Susan, Mike, Jonathan and Gabrielle Guedes.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.
- The next meeting of the Parish council will be Sunday, April 30th, after coffee hour.

Reminders:

- Please consider mailing your weekly donation to our treasurer:
Church of the Mother of God, c/o Holly Dawson, treasurer,
111 Main Ave, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- Prospora (bread) is available at the candle stand for a donation of \$2. (Prospora should be purchased in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)

HOLY PASCHA: The Resurrection of Our Lord:

THE FEAST OF FEASTS - The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God’s free gift of joy given to spiritual people as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church’s liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon).

The sermon of Saint John Chrysostom - The sermon was originally composed as a baptismal instruction. It is retained, by the Church, in the paschal services because everything about the night of Pascha recalls the Sacrament of Baptism: the language and general terminology of the liturgical texts, the specific hymns, the vestment color, the use of candles and the great procession itself. Now the sermon invites us to a great reaffirmation of our baptism: to union with Christ in the receiving of Holy Communion.

If any man is devout and loves God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. . . the table is fully laden; feast you all sumptuously. . . the calf is fatted, let no one go hungry away.

*The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
 “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
 your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
 With Himself He has raised all the dead.”
 Rejoice, O ye people!
 Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
 The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
 Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
 in the Resurrection of your Son!*

Hymn to the Theotokos

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/04/16>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/
 and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
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 Email us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

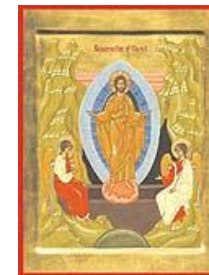
V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



HOLY PASCHA: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Christ is Risen!

Indeed he is risen!

*Christ is risen from the dead,
 trampling down death by death,
 and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!*

Pascha Troparion

April 16, 2023

Today the Church remembers:

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST •
 Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene and Chionia, in Illyria (304) • Martyrs Leonidas, Chariessa, Nice (Nika, Victoria), Galina, Kalista (Kalisa), Nunechia, Basilissa, Theodora, and Irene, of Corinth (258) • Monastic Martyr Christopher of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1818) • Hieromartyr Niké̅tas • The Weeping “IL’INSKO-CHERNIGOV” Icon (1658) • The TAMBOV Icons of the Mother of God (1658)

Palm Sunday

BrightweekWeek (fast free)
 Beginning of the Pentecostarion