

Today's Bulletin Sponsors is for:**The health of:**

Father Matthew, on his birthday, offered with love by his family.

Readings: **Hebrews 9:11-14** (*5th Sunday of Great Lent, St. Mary of Egypt*)
Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Saint John*)
Mark 10:32-45 (*5th Sunday of Great Lent, St. Mary of Egypt*)
Matthew 4:25-5:12 (*Saint John*)

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

Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy - 6:30 PM

Saturday: Personal Confessions - between 6:30-7:30 PM

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in person services in our parish have been cut back for now. Fr Matthew has sent out reader's services via email each week to follow at home. In addition, the diocesan web page nynjoca.org has online services for viewing.

Sunday services are celebrated with only the allowed number of people in attendance. Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend as part of the restricted number. (No one else should attend in person.)

Church School

Church School is temporarily not meeting.

We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let's keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

Announcement:

- **Father is available to hear personal confessions between 6:30-7:30 PM each Saturday evening.** (The mystery of penance is the remedy for spiritual sickness. It allows us to turn again to God, to be taken back, to be forgiven and to be received once more into the life of God from which our sins have separated us.)
- Father has requested those with **pussy willow** bushes to clip them at the proper time, and **save them for Palm Sunday**.
- **The Sisterhood will be purchasing flowers to decorate our church for Pascha.** Donations for flowers will be greatly appreciated. Please leave your donation in an envelope marked "Sisterhood Flowers" at the candle stand. **Checks should be made out to the Sisterhood.** Thank you.
- **The Sisterhood is continuing to accept purchases for raffle entries in their Pascha basket raffle.** Entries are \$1.00 each and each parishioner is asked to sell 10 chances. Checks should be made out to the Sisterhood and mailed to Maribeth Romanofsky, 8 Willowbrook Lane, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Anyone purchasing entries should check their email for a link to the live Zoom drawing to be held on April 24th. Please be aware that all entries must be received by April 24th.
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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.

Reminders:

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org. We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via e-mail to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St 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 or she 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.

*Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a Bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.
Therefore, most glorious Mary, you are a Bride of the Kingdom!*
Kontakion – Tone 3

Read about St Mary of Egypt on our website, written by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/articleschurch/about-saints-and-icons/6293-mary-of-egypt.html>

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/04/18>

Please check the website of our Diocese:

<https://nynjoca.org/>

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:

<https://www.oca.org/>

and our website:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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Attached Deacon



**Glory to Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt

*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 – Tone 8

Today the Church remembers:

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT • St Mary of Egypt • Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.) • Martyrs Victor, Zoticus, Zeno, Acindynus, and Severian, of Nicomedia (303) • St. Cosmas, Bishop of Chalcedon, and his fellow ascetic, St. Auxentius (815-820) • New Martyr John the New of Epirus (1526) • Ven. Evfimii (Euthymius), Enlightener of Karelia; and the Righteous Anthony and Felix

April 18, 2021

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
Triodion week 9**

**Tone 4 of the Octoechos
Sunday of St Mary of Egypt**