

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**

**For Eternal Memory of:**

**Nikolai Taran** – Father of Holly Dawson. Offered by his family

Our parish is also praying for: **MaryAnn, Kyra,** and the **Archpriest Vincent**

**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)

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**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.

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**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."

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<b>Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM</b>	
<b>Sunday service:</b>	
<b>Hours – 9:40 AM</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b>
<b>Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.</b>	
<b>General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month</b>	
<b>Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b>	
<b>Services of Great Lent:</b>	
<b>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Wednesdays 6:30 PM with potluck to follow.</b>	

**Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room**  
**Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**  
**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.**

**Announcements:**

- The **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be meeting **today** after coffee hour. **Sisterhood dues for 2014 are \$15.00** and are now being collected by treasurer Linda Dantine. If anyone would like to join the Sisterhood, please see Lore Stefy, Sisterhood president.
- **Next Saturday, April 12**, there will be a **parish clean-up day** starting at 9:00 am. Please come and help make our church building look great.
- **Also on Saturday, April 12**, there will be a **Pannikhida served after vespers for the departed**. Please have the names of departed loved ones listed in English for Father before Vespers the Saturday.
- **The Sisterhood's Paschal basket raffle** will be held next Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have agreed to donate items to the basket, please be sure to bring them in by next Sunday. **See Lore Stefy to purchase raffle tickets, priced at \$1.00 each.**
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.

**Special Announcements:**

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent:**

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.** 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)*

With these words we enter into the annual commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. **It begins on the Saturday of Lazarus.** The double feast of Lazarus' Resurrection and the Entrance of the Lord to Jerusalem is described in liturgical texts as the *'beginning of the Cross'* and is to be understood, therefore, within the context of the Holy Week. The common Troparion of these days explicitly affirms that *'by raising Lazarus from the dead Christ confirmed the truth of general resurrection.'* It is highly significant that we are led into the darkness of the Cross by one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. Light and joy shine not only at the end of Holy Week but also at its beginning; they illumine darkness itself, reveal its ultimate meaning.

**This week's services of Great Lent:**

- **April 9** (Wednesday) 6:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck supper to follow.
- **April 12** (Saturday) 6:30PM Vespers with **Pannikhida for the departed to follow**
- **April 13 Palm Sunday – Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM**

**New Jersey Deanery South - Lenten Vespers :**

- **Today** at 4:00 PM at **Holy Cross Church, 11 Wilkins Station Road, Medford NJ.** The Celebrant and Homilist will be our bishop, The Right Reverend MICHAEL

(Fellowship and refreshments are available after the service)

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God***"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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St Mary of Egypt

**Christ is in  
our midst!****He is and ever  
shall be!**

*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 1

**Today the Church remembers:**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT • St Mary of Egypt • St. Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople (582) • St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Moravia and Enlightener of the Slavs (885) • St. Platonida (Platonis) of Nisibis (Syria—308) • 120 Martyrs of Persia (344-347) • Martyrs Jeremiah and Archilias the Presbyter (3rd c.) • Ven. Gregory the Byzantine (1308) • Monk Martyr Gennadius of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1818)**

**April 6, 2014****Triodion week 9**Tone 8 of the Octoechos  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent