

**Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John:  
Commemorated tomorrow, August 29<sup>th</sup>.**

The Evangelists Matthew and Mark provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, **St John the Baptist** was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12). The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.

See us on the web at:

[ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin.html](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin.html)

E-Mail us at:

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Sunday Bulletin

**August 28 Sunday Divine Liturgy is CANCELLED due to  
hurricane Irene.**

**Church of the Mother of God**

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**Christ is in our  
midst!**

**He is and always  
will be!**

**Beheading of the Holy  
Glorious Prophet,  
Forerunner, and Baptist  
John**

(tomorrow August 29<sup>th</sup>)

*The glorious beheading of the Forerunner,  
became an act of divine dispensation,  
for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior.  
Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder,  
loving not the law of God, nor eternal life,  
but that which is false and temporal.*

Kontakion - Baptist John

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Job, Abbot and Wonderworker of  
Pochaev (1659) • Ven. Moses the Black of Scete (4<sup>th</sup> c.) • Righteous Anna the  
Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, who met the Lord at the Temple in  
Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> c.) • Martyr Susanna, Princess of Georgia (5<sup>th</sup> c.) • Synaxis of the  
Saints of the Kiev Caves whose relics repose in the Far Caves of Ven.  
Theodosius.**

August 28, 2011

**Tone 2** of the Octoechos.

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

**Summer Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:10 AM**

**Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

**(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)**

**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.**

**Readings:**

- I Corinthians 9:2-12
- Matthew 18:23-35

**Announcements:**

- Summer Schedule: Hours 9:10 am  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  
Regular service schedule returns September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Announcements:**

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**BRETHREN**, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

**The Lord said this parable:** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**Venerable Theodore the Silent of the Kiev Caves**

In our church, rest relics of the holy Venerable **Theodore the Silent** of the Caves. He is remembered by the church today, **August 28**.

Saint Theodore chose the exploit of silence, in order to dwell constantly in remembrance of God, and to safeguard him from temptation even by a word. He was glorified by the Lord with the gift of wonderworking.