

**The bulletin is sponsored this week for:****The health of:**

**Fr. Deacon Ed** and **Lore** Stefy for healing and quick recovery, from our parish family.

Godson, **Mark** Dantine, on his birthday, offered with love by Tammy, Nicholas, and Elizabeth.

**Memory of:**

Our sister-in-law, **Carol**, offered by Linda and Richard.

**Readings: I Corinthians 1:10-17** (8th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#) (Theotokos)

**Matthew 14:14-22** (8th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28](#) (Theotokos)

**Brethren**, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

**At that time**, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

**Sunday Service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**We will no longer be taking temperatures when you enter the Church and signing up for services is no longer necessary. Services are open to all. Those that are not fully vaccinated are still requested to wear a mask.**

**Church School**

Church school parents will be receiving a survey email shortly concerning Fall Sunday school.

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:**

- We will be blessing flowers and seeds after the Liturgy today..
- The Sisterhood has decided to continue to suspend coffee hour for the time being, due to the present surge of the delta variant of the virus.
- The council is asking for donations to our building fund to replenish the money used for the new heater/AC unit. Thank you to everyone that can help.
- Donations are also being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.
- If you are unable to attend church, 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](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org) (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via email to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer in time to get it into the bulletin.
- 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.

**Please check the website of our Diocese:**

<https://nynjoca.org/>

**and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:**

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

**See us on the web at:** [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

**See us on Facebook at:** [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](http://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)

**Email us at:** [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**To read more about the saints remembered today, see:**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/08/15>

**The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary:**

The feast of the **Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos** is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the **Mother of Life** and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "**hear the word of God and keep it**" (Luke 11:27-28)

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has "passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight" of the Kingdom of her Son. (Vesper verse) The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin's nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: "**My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**" (Luke 1:47) At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where St. Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "highly exalted" by God his Father. (Philippians 2:5-11) And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who "**hear the word of God and keep it.**" (Luke 11:27-28)

Thus, the feast of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** is the celebration of the fact that all men are "highly exalted" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "low estate" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "**blessed**" to be "**more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim**" if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is call in the Orthodox Tradition the **Image of the Church**. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.

*Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos,  
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.  
For being the Mother of Life,  
she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.*

Kontakion – Tone 2

**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 Searforce,**

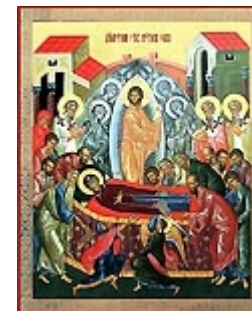
Temporary Rector

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Glory to Jesus  
Christ

Glory  
Forever

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the  
Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

*In giving birth you preserved your virginity,  
in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.  
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,  
and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.*

Troparion – Tone 1

**Today the Church remembers:**  
**The Dormition ("Falling Asleep") of our Most Holy Lady,  
Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

**August 15, 2021**

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Tone 7 of the Octoechos

Dormition