

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the eternal memory of:****Leonid Stefy, husband of Lore Stefy****Readings:**

- **1 Corinthians 9:2-12**
- **Matthew 18:23-35**

**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."

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

**General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month****Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****(Church School has ended for the school year.)**

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

**Announcements:**

- **There will be a meeting of the Parish Council next Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**, after coffee hour.
- **Sisterhood notes:** There has been a change to the **coffee hour** routine. Beginning August 31<sup>st</sup> there will be **monthly potluck luncheons** on the last Sunday of the month, where anyone can sign-up to bring in a luncheon item. A sign-up sheet for this day is presently posted downstairs. Coffee hour on other Sundays of the month will continue to be covered by individuals who have signed up for that week. Regular Sunday coffee hour meals need not be elaborate.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on **September 7<sup>th</sup>** after coffee hour.
- The Parish is planning a **barbecue picnic on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>** after the Liturgy. More details will be forthcoming.

**Special Announcements:**

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

**St. Maximus says:** "The one who loves God cannot help but love also every man as himself, even though he is displeased by the passions of those who are not yet purified. Thus when he sees their conversion and amendment, he rejoices with an unbounded and unspeakable joy."

**Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John:**  
**Commemorated this Friday, 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 Caligua (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.

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"*

*Founded 1966*

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: [docandrnl@verizon.net](mailto:docandrnl@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915



Hieromartyr Eutychius

Glory to  
Jesus Christ

Glory  
Forever

*A successor of the Apostles and an excellent example to bishops,  
 Eutychius, you were glorified as a martyr.  
 You shone forth like the sun enlightening all,  
 dispelling the dark night of godlessness.*

*Therefore, we honor you as truly a godly celebrant of the Mysteries of Christ.*

*Kontakion — Tone 3*

**Today the Church remembers:**

Hieromartyr Eutychius, disciple of St. John the Theologian (1st c.) • Translation of the Relics of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1479) • Ven. Arsenius, Abbot of Komel (Vologda—1550) • Martyr Tation (Tatio) of Claudiopolis (305) • Virgin Martyr Cyra of Persia (558) • St. George Limniotes the Confessor of Mt. Olympus (8th c.) • St. Kozma of Berat, Evangelizer of Southern Albania (18th-19th c.) • Repose of New Hieromartyr Cosmas of Aetolia, Equal-to-the-Apostles (1779) • The "PETROVSKAYA" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (ca. 1306)

**August 24, 2014**

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

**Tone 2 of the Octoechos**