

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.

Dan Dangle on his birthday, offered with love by his family.

Memory of:

Paul Wasenda, offered by his sister, Elizabeth Wasenda.

Readings: I Corinthians 4:9-16 (10th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Acts 13:25-32](#) (Forerunner)

Matthew 17:14-23 (10th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Mark 6:14-30](#) (Forerunner)

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

At that time, when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

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 should check their email for a questionnaire about Fall Sunday school classes. Please respond as soon as possible.

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:

- 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 has helped.
- Donations are also being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.
- Donations can be left in the collection basket at the candle stand, as we no longer pass the basket around during the service.
- 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 Please send in time to get it into the bulletin. (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.
- 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

See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

Email us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

To read more about the saints remembered today, see: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/08/22>

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

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint 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.

*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 – Tone 5

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

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The Most Reverend Michael

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory
Forever

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

*The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.*

*You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets,
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him whom they
foretold.*

*Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh,
who takes away the sin of the world,
and grants us great mercy.*

Troparion – Tone 2

Today the Church remembers:

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John ●
Venerable Theodora and her daughter Theopiste (9th c.) ● Deposition of the Holy
Relics of St. Joseph Samakos the Sanctified (1669) ● St. Arkadios the Wonderworker,
Bishop of Arsinoe, Cyprus (4th c.)

August 29, 202110th Sunday after PentecostTone 1 of the Octoechos
Fast Day