

Today's Bulletin Sponsor is:**For the health of:**

Maribeth Romanofsky on her birthday, offered by her family.
Aunt **Jean** and **Sandra** on their Birthdays, offered by Linda and Richard
Michael Guedes who is having surgery, offered by the Guedes family.

For the memory of:

Steve Czemeris, offered by the Kuzemchak family
Michael, Victor, and Antonina, offered by Luba Bodulow

Readings:

Colossians 3:4-11 (*2 Sundays before the Nativity*)

Luke 14:16-24 (*2 Sundays before the Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ*)

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. [For many are called, but few are chosen].'"

Saturday service:

Vespers – 6:30 PM

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

All classes will meet every Sunday.

Grades 5-8 – 9:30 am

Preschool and Grades K through 4 – immediately after communion.

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

Announcement:

- We will be celebrating **the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh on Christmas's Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 6:30 pm.**

Reminders:

- **We offer general confession the first Sunday of each month, and Private Confession after Vespers by appointment on Saturday evenings.** It is important that every Orthodox Christian go to confession.
- Upcoming **bulletins can also be sponsored** by using the signup sheet at the candle stand. If using the signup sheet, please give two weeks' notice.
- **Announcements or Prayer Requests** for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **Prophora** (bread) is available at the candle stand. Before the Divine Liturgy, while the Hours are being read, the faithful can have the bread sent into the altar with a list of names for prayers of *health and salvation* for the living and for the *repose* of the departed servants of God. (**Bread must be purchased a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.**)
- 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.

Sunday of the Forefathers:

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

*You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames, you called on God, crying:
Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,
for You are merciful and able to do as You will.*

Kontakion – Tone 6

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

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Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory
Forever

Sunday of the Forefathers

*Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.*

*These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
She who bore You without seed.*

So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Troparion – Tone 2

Today the Church remembers:

Sunday of the Forefathers • Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Evanthia (2nd c.) • Ven. Paul of Latros (955) • St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Sourozh, Crimea (8th c.) • Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583) • Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.) • Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6th c.)

December 15, 2019

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Nativity Fast

Tone 1 of the Octoechos
Sunday of the Forefathers

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