

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for the:**

**Health of:**

**Maribeth** Romanofsky on her birthday, offered by her family.

**Sandra** on her birthday, offered by Linda and Richard.

**Memory of:**

Aunt **Jean**, offered by Linda and Richard.

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**Readings:** *Colossians 3:4-11 (2 Sundays before the Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ)*  
**Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14 (2 Sundays before the Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ)**

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**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.”

**Sunday Services:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**General Confession – 9:45 AM** on the first Sunday of each month

**Private Confession -** by appointment, contact Father Matthew

**Pannikhidas –** after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

**Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.**

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

**Sunday school meets every Sunday after Communion.**

**Announcements:**

- There will be a meeting of the parish council today, December 15<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.
- We have been asked to support the **Clergy Fund** of our mother **Diocese of Sitka and Alaska**. For three weeks, our parish will be taking collections to help the priests who are making only \$7,200 a year. Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Please use the collection basket on the candle stand. Thank you.
- We will be celebrating the **Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ** in the Flesh with a Liturgy on **Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**Reminders:**

- **The Sisterhood’s food drive is ongoing.** Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous. Thank you!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- 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. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand. A **Venmo account** can also be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson> )
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)**
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- **The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 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 youths,  
but shielded by the ineffable Essence,  
you were glorified in your trial by fire.  
In the midst of the unbearable fire you called upon God, crying:  
"Hasten, O compassionate One,  
and in Your mercy, come to our aid,  
for You can do so if You will."*

Kontakion – Tone 6

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/12/15>

**Resolution establishing an annual collection:**

"Whereas Alaska is the cradle of Orthodoxy in America: Be it resolved that the 20<sup>th</sup> AAC asks the Holy Synod of Bishops to designate annually the Sunday closest to the December feast of Saint Herman, for a free-will collection from each parish in the Orthodox Church in America to support the Diocese of Alaska Clergy Endowment."

[www.oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-to-take-third-annual-collection-for-the-diocese-of-alaska](http://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-to-take-third-annual-collection-for-the-diocese-of-alaska)

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynjoca.org/](http://nynjoca.org/).

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)

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

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

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

**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: [searbks1@verizon.net](mailto:searbks1@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Sunday of the Forefathers

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
forever**

*By faith You justified the Forefathers,  
when through them You betrothed Yourself beforehand to the Church of the Gentiles.  
The saints boast in glory,  
that from their seed there is a glorious fruit:  
she who bore You without seed.  
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.*

Tone 2 – Troparion

**December 15, 2024**

**Today the Church remembers:**

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

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Forefathers

Tone 8 of the [Octoechos](#)  
**Nativity Fast**