

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for:****The health of:****Maribeth** Romanofsky on her birthday, offered by her family**MaryAnn** Kuzemchak on her birthday, offered by Bill Kuzemchak**Readings:**     **Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40** (*Sunday of the Holy Fathers*)  
                          **Matthew 1:1-25** (*Sunday of the Holy Fathers*)

**Brethren**, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of

Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

**Sunday Service:****Hours - 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Covid restrictions have been lifted, but those that are not fully vaccinated are still requested to wear a mask.

**Coffee hour - after Liturgy**

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

**Church School**

**Sunday School parents please note: Classes will meet today, Dec 19<sup>th</sup>  
Class Schedule for January: Sunday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Announcement:**

- On **Christmas Eve**, Friday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 PM, we will celebrate the Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh.
- On **Theophany Eve**, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022 6:30 PM, we will celebrate the Liturgy for Theophany and Great Blessing of Water.
- The Sisterhood is now accepting donations to help offset the cost of the luncheon for the Archbishop. If you wish to donate, please make checks out to the Sisterhood and leave them at the candlestand. Cash donations should be placed in an envelope marked ‘Sisterhood luncheon.’
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.

**Reminders:**

- 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.
- 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).
- 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 before the Nativity:**

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the **Sunday of the Holy Fathers**. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for Saint Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

*You would not worship an image made by hands, O thrice-blessed youths;  
but shielded by the ineffable Essence,  
you were glorified through your ordeal 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 if You will, You can do so."*

Kontakion – Tone 6

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/12/19>

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/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)

**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 &amp; the Diocese of NY/NJ

**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

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

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ****Glory  
Forever**

Sunday before the Nativity

*Great are the accomplishments of faith,  
for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the source of the flame, as if by restful waters,  
and the Prophet Daniel appeared  
as a shepherd of lions as of sheep.  
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.*

Troparion – Tone 2

**December 19, 2021****Today the Church remembers:**

**Sunday before the Nativity** ● Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aglæ (Agláida) of Rome (290) ● Ven. Ilya (Elias) of Murom, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1188) ● Martyrs Elias, Probus, and Ares in Cilicia (308)  
● St. Boniface the Merciful, Bishop of Ferentino (6th c.) ● St. Gregory, Archbishop of Omirits (ca. 552)

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Forefathers.

Tone 1 of the [Octoechos](#)**Nativity Fast**