

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:**The Memory of:**

Newly departed handmaiden of God **Jeanne** Leaning, sister of Fr. Matthew.

Readings: **Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40** (*Sunday Before Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Fathers*)
Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sunday Before Nativity, 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 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 Fr Matthew	
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd 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:**

- We will be celebrating the **Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh** with a Liturgy on Monday, December 25 at 10:00 am.
- The **Sisterhood’s food drive** is ongoing. Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous as this can be a difficult time of year for some families!
- Our treasurer, Hala Dawson, set up a **Venmo account** that can be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Please pray for peace in the Middle East.
- 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. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand.)
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: 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 before the Nativity:

*Be glad, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha;
for the Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Great Shepherd she carries in her womb.*

*The God-bearing Fathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will praise the Virgin who nurses Him.*

Tone 1 – Kontakion

*Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.*

Tone 4 – Troparion of the Forefeast

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/12/24>

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and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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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

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Sunday before the Nativity

**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
forever**

*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 24, 2023

Today the Church remembers:

Eve of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday before the Nativity • Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262) • Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.)

29th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday before the Nativity (Holy
Fathers)

Tone 4 of the Octoechos.
Nativity Fast ends today
Fast free week