

**Today's Bulletin Sponsor is for:****The health of:**

Newborn infant **Zachary** and his parents **Marika** and **Roberto**.

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**Readings:** Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-60 (*St. Stephen*)  
**Galatians 1:11-19** (*Sunday after Nativity*)  
 Matthew 21:33-42 (*St. Stephen*)  
**Matthew 2:13-23** (*Sunday after Nativity*)

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**BRETHREN**, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

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**When the wise men departed**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

**Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in person services in our parish have been cut back for now. Fr Matthew has sent out reader's services via email each week to follow at home. In addition, the diocesan web page [nynjoca.org](http://nynjoca.org) has online services for viewing.**

**Sunday services are celebrated with only the allowed number of people in attendance. Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend as part of the restricted number. (No one else should attend in person.)**

**Church School**

Church School is temporarily not meeting.

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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.

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**Announcement:**

- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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**  
 The parish still needs to pay its bills. **(Our monthly revenue has recently dropped below our monthly expenditures.)**  
 Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.

**Reminders:**

- Because of the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) pandemic, SERVICE and EVENT info, here and on our web site's calendar, may change.
- 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).
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via e-mail to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer in time to get it into the bulletin.
- 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 after the Nativity:**

*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!*

*The wise men journey with a star!*

*Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!*

Kontakion – Tone3

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/12/27>

**ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY**

**2020 Link:**

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/ap-letters/Archpastoral-Letter-for-the-Nativity-2020-12-19.pdf>

Please check the website of our Diocese:

<https://nynjoca.org/>

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:

<https://www.oca.org/>

and our website:

<https://churchmotherofgod.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 & 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



**CHRIST IS  
BORN!**

**GLORIFY  
HIM!**

Sunday after the Nativity

*Your Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the Light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a Star to adore You,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know You, the Orient from on High.  
O Lord, glory to You*

Troparion – Tone 4

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity** • Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34) • Sunday after Nativity • Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord • Ven. Theodore Graptus (“the Branded”), Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the Hymnographer (ca. 840) • St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople (ca. 686)

**December 27, 2020 - Bulletin**

**Sunday after the Nativity**

**Tone 4 of the Octoechos**

**Nativity Fast**