

There are no bulletin sponsors this week.

Readings: **Galatians 1:11-19** (*Sunday after Nativity*)
Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after Nativity*)

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.

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 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 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:

- The next **meeting** of the **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will be **next Sunday, January 5th**.
- Also on **Sunday, January 5th**, we will celebrate **Theophany with the Blessing of Water**. Bring a container to take holy water home with you.
- The next **meeting** of the **parish council** will be on **Sunday, January 19th**, after coffee hour.
- **Sunday February 2nd**, we will celebrate the **Holy Day of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple**.
- **On Sunday February 9th**, we will have our **annual parish meeting after Divine Liturgy**. The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business.
- Our **Orthodox Church Calendar for 2025 is available at the candle stand**. It contains the readings for the year along with feast and fast days.

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.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- 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>)
- **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.

Afterfeast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

*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 Pre-Eternal God was born as a little Child*

Kontakion – Tone 3

**Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed,
and James the Brother of the Lord:**

*O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God:
you have seen a Virgin great with child; you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received an answer from the Angel.
Beseech Christ God to save our souls.*

Troparion – Tone 2

*Today the godly David is filled with gladness
and Joseph offers praise with James.
Having received the crown of their kinship with Christ, they rejoice,
praising in song Him Who is inexpressibly born on earth,
crying out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"*

Kontakion – Tone 3

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/12/29>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/.
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org
See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog
Email us at: 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: searbsk1@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 knowledge;
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 Dayspring from on High.
O Lord, glory to You!*

Tone 4 – Troparion

December 29, 2024

Today the Church remembers:

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord • Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday after Nativity • The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem • Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones" (485) • Ven. Mark the Grave-digger, Theophilus, and John, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—11th-12th c.) • Venerable Theophilus and Jacob, wonderworkers of Omuch (15th c.) • Ven. Thaddeus the Confessor, of the Studion (818)

27th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday After the Nativity

Tone 2 of the [Octoechos](#)
Fast free week