

(There are no Bulletin sponsors for this week.)

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**Readings:** **Galatians 1:11-19** (*Sunday after Nativity*)  
**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.

**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:**

<b>Hours - 9:40 AM</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b>
<b>General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month</b>	
<b>Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew</b>	
<b>Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b>	

### **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 on the parish council** today after coffee hour.
- The **Sisterhood's food drive** is ongoing. Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous.
- 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.)
- 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>
- 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.

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)

**Leavetaking of the Nativity of our Lord:**

*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 young Child.*

Tone 3 – Kontakion

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

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

*Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
you have seen a Virgin great with child;  
and you gave glory with the shepherds;  
you worshipped with the Magi,  
and received the news from the Angel.  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!*

Tone 2 – Troparion (Righteous Ones)

*Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.*

*The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.*

*They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,*

*and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"*

Tone 3 – Kontakion (Righteous Ones)

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/12/31>

**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



**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
forever**

Leavetaking of the Nativity of our Lord

*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!*

Troparion – Tone 4

**December 31, 2023**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord • Leavetaking of the Nativity • Sunday after Nativity •**

**“Unfading Flower” Icon of the Mother of God at Ardatov • Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome (439) • Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Bisericani (Romanian—160) • Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Tazlau (Romanian—1660)**

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday after the Nativity

Tone 5 of the Octoechos.