

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For health of:**

**Denny** Golden on his birthday, offered by his family and in-laws Holly and Ed.

**Anthony** DaGrosa on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered family Mark and Tatsiana DaGrosa.

**Adam** Jankowski on his birthday, son of Linda and Paul.

**Karen** Seaman, sister of Linda Jankowski.

**Readings:**

- **Ephesians 2:14-22**
- **Luke 17:12-19**

**BRETHREN**, for he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**At that time**, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****Sunday service:**

**Hours – 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Private Confession –** Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

**General Confession –** 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

**Pannikhidas –** after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

**Coffee hour –** after Liturgy

**Church School -** Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)  
Church School will not be held today, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Announcements:**

- The **baptism of Gabrielle Guedes** will be celebrated today, December 8<sup>th</sup> during Liturgy.
- **Our annual St. Nicholas Day celebration** will be held today, December 8<sup>th</sup>. All children are welcome to join us after Divine Liturgy to help decorate our tree. We are hoping for a visit from St. Nicholas himself. If you would like your child to participate in the festivities, please see Maribeth Romanofsky or Linda Dantinne for details.
- **Open House –** Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, our church will participate in the neighborhood's open house. Visitors may stop by that evening from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Books make great gifts.** Please check our online bookstore at: [astore.amazon.com/orchofthmoofg-20](http://astore.amazon.com/orchofthmoofg-20) or use the "Church Bookstore" link on our website: [churchmotherofgod.org](http://churchmotherofgod.org) (4% of all sales go to our parish)
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **As the year comes to a close**, the parish council wishes to remind parishioners to be generous in their donations, so that our yearly income will cover our yearly expenses.

**Unexpected Joy:**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates an icon of the Mother of God called "Unexpected Joy." It shows the Theotokos holding the child Jesus Christ, and one other figure.

The third figure is a young man kneeling in prayer and turned pleadingly toward the Theotokos. His story is told in the writings of Saint Dimitri of Rostov, and in some versions of the icon part of that story appears in words below the figures of the Theotokos and Christ.



This man prayed every day to the icon of the Virgin, and often repeated the memorable words of Gabriel at the time of the Annunciation: "Rejoice, O Virgin Full of Grace!" But despite having the habit of praying regularly, the young man didn't keep himself from sin. It might often happen that after offering his prayer, he would go out and do something that wasn't at all in keeping with the life of a faithful Christian.

One day the young man had a startling experience. As he was planning to go out, he glanced toward the icon and was stunned to see the Theotokos standing in person before him. She was holding her Son, whose body showed the same wounds He had suffered on the cross: His hands and feet were pierced, and blood was flowing from a wound in His side.

The young man fell to his knees, at first so horrified that he was unable to speak. Finally he managed to ask the Theotokos, "O Lady, who has done this terrible thing?"

Her answer came in a soft but firm voice: "You have done it—you and all the others who sin, over and over again. Each time you sin, you crucify Him again."

Realizing the truth of her words, the young man begged forgiveness. But she answered that though he showed her the respect of daily prayer before her icon, he continued to hurt her by continuing to sin.

He cried out, "O holy Lady, may my wrong deeds never outweigh your merciful kindness! Please pray to your Son on my behalf."

The Mother of God, seeing his real repentance, did intercede for the young man, and for the sake of His Mother, Christ forgave him. Having received the unexpected joy of divine forgiveness, he was able to live a God-pleasing life for the rest of his days.

On this same day, the Church remembers two mothers: Hannah, the mother of Samuel the Prophet, and Anna the mother of the Theotokos. Both of them wanted children; both suffered through long years of childlessness before conceiving and giving birth.

These two women experienced a different kind of "unexpected joy" when they finally became mothers after waiting so long. But, like the young man in the icon, the thing they wanted most came to them as God's mercy and love.

Whether we hope to be forgiven, hope to have children, or hope for something else that will change our lives, we can be sure that God knows about it, and will respond to our hope in some way—perhaps with unexpected joy.

- Department of Christian Education. Orthodox Church in America



See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
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Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

*Founded 1966*

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Patapius of Thebes

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

*Your temple is found to be a source of healing,  
and the people flock to it eagerly, O saint.*

*They seek the healing of their diseases / and the forgiveness of their sins,  
for you are a protector for all those in need, venerable Patapius.*

Kontakion -

**Today the Church remembers:**

- Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8th c.) • Ven. Kirill, Abbot of Chelmogorsk (1378) • Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Cæsar, and Onesiphorus (1st c.) • Holy 362 Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians (477) • Martyr Anthusa, at Rome (5th c.)

**December 8, 2013**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**Tone 7 of the Octoechos  
(Nativity Fast)**