

**Bulletin sponsors for this week are for:**

**The health of:**

**Audrey** Searfoorce on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by her family.

**Emily** Turpin on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by her family.

**David** Searfoorce on his birthday, offered with love by his family.

**Andrew** Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his family.

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**Readings:** **I Timothy 4:9-15** (32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday of Zacchaeus, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before lent)  
**Luke 19:1-10** (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke, Zacchaios Sunday)

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**BRETHREN**, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

**At that time**, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

- Our **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** will be held next **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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. Please email Andrew Romanofsky, the Council President, if you have an item that you want included on the agenda or if you plan to nominate someone for a Parish Council position.
- The **Sisterhood** is planning two **pre-Lenten luncheons** on Sunday **March 10<sup>th</sup>** (Meatfare), and Sunday **March 17<sup>th</sup>** (Cheesefare). The cost for these luncheons will be \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. (Children 12 and under are free.) If you would like to contribute a food item to either luncheon, there is a sign-up sheet posted downstairs.
- Dues and assessments are now being collected for the year 2024. Total Parish Membership is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.

**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.
- 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. Or a **Venmo account** 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.

**Sunday of Zacchaeus:**

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: “Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy.”

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

**To read about the saints remembered today, see:**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/02/18>

**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)**

**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



Sunday of Zacchaeus

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
forever**

**February 18, 2024**

*You were the Church's instrument  
in strengthening the teaching of true doctrine;  
you shone forth from the West like a sun dispelling the errors of the heretics.  
Righteous Leo, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.*

Saint Leo the Great Tone 3 – Troparion

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus** • St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (461) • Ven Cosmas of Yakhromsk (1492) • St. Agapitos the Confessor and Wonderworker, Bishop of Synnada in Phrygia (4<sup>th</sup> c.) • St. Flavian the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople (449-450)

37<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before lent

Tone 4 of the Octoechos.