

Bulletin Sponsors for this week are for:**The health of:**

Fr. Matthew, offered by the members of our parish.

Andrew Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his family.

Audrey Searfoorce on the occasion of her Birthday, requested with love by her family

Emily Turpin on the occasion of her 6th birthday, requested with love by her family

David Searfoorce on the occasion of his birthday, requested with love by his family

Readings: **I Corinthians 6:12-20** (*Prodigal Son, 3rd Sunday before lent*)
 Luke 15:11-32 (*Prodigal Son, 3rd Sunday before lent*)

Brethren, “all things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Lord said this parable, “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring

quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Sunday Service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

We will have a Typika Services today instead of Divine Liturgy

With the increase in COVID cases, it has been requested that we wear masks in Church, (and during Coffee Hour unless eating or drinking)

Coffee hour

Coffee hour will resume on Meatfare Sunday, February 27th. In observation of this day, there will be a potluck luncheon. If you wish to bring something to the luncheon, please let the Sisterhood know by signing up on the sheet in the vestibule.

Church School

Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday March 6.

The schedule for March: March 6th and March 20th.

Classes will meet at the same times as prior to the hiatus.

Announcement:

- **The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioner** will be held on March 13, 2022, after coffee hour. 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.
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2022. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- 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.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- 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 of the Prodigal Son:

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to **"come to ourselves"** as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God.

We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. **We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong** (Luke 15:11-24).

To read more about Pre-Lent, see:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/articleschurch/about-services-and-prayers/3070-pre-lent.html>

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/02/20>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
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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 Searfoorce,

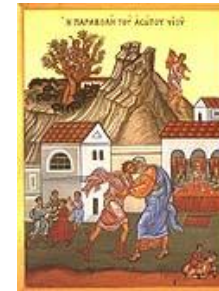
Temporary Rector

Email: docandr1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Christ is in our midst!**He is and ever shall be!**

*I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me.
Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal:
"I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father;
receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants."*

Troparion — Tone 3

February 20, 2022**Today the Church remembers:**

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON ● St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780) ● Ven. Agafón (Agathon), Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th -14th c.) ● Beheading of Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves (1570) ● Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342-344). St. Agathon, Pope of Rome (682)

35th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Prodigal SonTone 2 of the [Octoechos](#)
Triodion week 2