

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:**

Maria Markevich, offered by her granddaughter, Tatsiana Markevich-DaGrosa

Readings:

- **Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4** (Sunday before lent)
- **Matthew 6:14-21** (Sunday before lent)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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 3rd Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)****Pre-school class meets immediately after the Liturgy every Sunday.**

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

Announcements:

- **Sisterhood Dues** for 2015 are now being collected. All women who are members of the Parish are invited to join. Dues are \$15.00 annually. The next meeting of the Sisterhood will be held March 1, 2015.
- Today, the Sisterhood is sponsoring a **pot luck luncheon for Cheesefare Sunday**. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00 per person.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be March 29th, after coffee hour.
- **This week's services of Great Lent:**
 - February 23 (**Monday**) 6:30PM **The Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**
 - February 25 (**Wednesday**) 6:30PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** with potluck to follow
 - February 28 (**Saturday**) 6:30PM **Vespers**
 - March 1 **Sunday of Orthodoxy – Divine Liturgy 10AM**

Special Announcements:

- **Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2015. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

Forgiveness Sunday - 4th SUNDAY OF PREPARATION: On this eve of Great Lent, the day called **Cheesefare Sunday** and **Forgiveness Sunday**, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6:14-18).

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

Great Lent:

The beautiful Lenten services more than anything else help us to deepen our spiritual vision. Tomorrow, Monday at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the **Great Canon composed by St. Andrew of Crete** in the year 720. It is one of the richest and most beautiful of our Orthodox traditions.

Each Wednesday evening, our parish will celebrate a special Vespers called the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. It consists of solemn Great Vespers and communion with the Holy Gifts consecrated on the previous Sunday. This service can peak the week of fasting, with the partaking of the Bread of Life, the ultimate fulfillment of our efforts.

- February 23 (Monday) 6:30PM **The Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**
- February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, and April 1 (Every Wednesday) 6:30PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. with potluck to follow
- February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28 (Every Saturday) **Vespers** 6:30PM
- March 1 Sunday of Orthodoxy – **Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- March 8 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, – **Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- March 15 Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross– **Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- March 22 Sunday of St. John Climacus – **Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- March 22 Sunday - **Deanery Mission Lenten Vespers 4:00 PM**
- March 29 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – **Divine Liturgy 10AM**

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandrn1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915



Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
Forever

**Expulsion of Adam and
Eve from Paradise**

*Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,*

*you teach the thoughtless and protect the poor:
Strengthen and enlighten my heart.*

Word of the Father,

let me not restrain my mouth from crying to you:

*Have mercy on me, a transgressor,
O merciful Lord!*

Kontakion — Tone 6

**Today the Church remembers:
SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE**

- **The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise** • Uncovering of the Relics of the Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Constantinople (395-423) • Martyrs Maurice and his son, Photinus, and Martyrs Theodore, Philip, and 70 soldiers, at Apamea in Syria (ca. 305) • Ven. Thalassius, Limnæus and Baradates, Hermits, of Syria (5th c.) • St. Athanasius the Confessor, of Constantinople (821)

February 22, 2015

37th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 4 of the Octoechos

Triodion week 4