

Bulletin sponsors this week are for the:**Health of:**

Emily Turpin on her 9th birthday, requested with love by her grandparents Fr. Matthew and M. Barbara

David Searfoorce on his birthday, requested with love by his family.

Readings: **I Corinthians 8:8-13;9:1-2** (*Meatfare, 2nd Sunday before Lent*)
Matthew 25:31-46 (*Meatfare, 2nd Sunday before Lent*)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 Father Matthew

Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd 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:**

- Today **February 23rd**, a **Meatfare** luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 per adult over 12 years old.
- Next **Sunday, March 2nd**, a **Cheesefare** luncheon will be held. Cost of this luncheon is also \$10 per adult. Anyone interested in bringing in an item for the luncheon should see the sign up sheet downstairs.
- The **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will have a meeting today, after the luncheon.

Reminders:

- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- 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. A **Venmo account** can also be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>)
- **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 the Last Judgment:

MEATFARE SUNDAY – The Sunday of Meatfare is also called the Sunday of Last Judgment. It is the second Sunday before Lent.

The Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

It is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/02/23>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/.

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org

See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

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 Searforce,

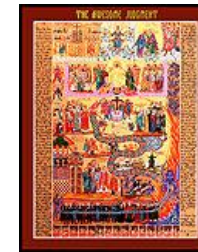
Temporary Rector

Email: searbk1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



*Glory to
Jesus Christ*

*Glory
forever*

Sunday of the Last Judgment

*When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed!
Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, Most Righteous Judge!*

Tone 1 – Troparion

February 23, 2025

Today the Church remembers:

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE • Sunday of the Last Judgment • Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (167) • Ven. Polycarp of Briansk (1620-1621) • Ven. John, Antiochus, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, Ascetics, of the Syrian deserts (5th c.) • Ven. Alexander, founder of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones" (ca. 430) • Ven. Damian of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos—1280) • Monastic Martyr Damian of Philotheou (1568) • St. Gorgonia, Sister of St. Gregory the Theologian (370)

Lenten Triodion Week 3
35th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 2 of the [Octoechos](#)
Sunday of the Last Judgment