

**Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:****For the health of:**

**Savannah** for her birthday, offered by the Dawson family.

**Hayden** for her birthday, offered by the Dawson family.

**Readings:**

II Corinthians 4:6-15 (*Forerunner*)

Matthew 11:2-15 (*Forerunner*)

**I Corinthians 6:12-20** (*Prodigal Son, 3rd Sunday before lent*)

**Luke 15:11-32** (*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.'"

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

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

(**Private Confession** – After Vespers by appointment.)

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

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

**Church School**

2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

**Coffee hour - after Liturgy**

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

**Announcements:**

- The Sisterhood will be hosting two upcoming luncheons on Meatfare Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Cheesefare Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The luncheons will be held after Divine Liturgy, and the cost will be \$10 per adult (13 and up), payable at that time. Please support our Sisterhood and enjoy some delicious homemade foods.
- Donations are needed for the Sisterhood's Paschal basket to be raffled off on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet posted downstairs to volunteer to bring an item. Tickets for the basket raffle will cost \$1.00, and each parishioner is asked to sell 10 tickets. Tickets will go on sale March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please see Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine for tickets.

**Reminders:**

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org) Upcoming bulletins can also be sponsored by using the signup sheet at the candle stand. If using the signup sheet, please give two weeks' notice.
- 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.

The lives of the saints remembered today can be read at:  
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/02/24>

### 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).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the Lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

### First and second finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, John

*The head of the Forerunner rose from the earth as a star,  
 Brilliant with rays of healing and immortality.  
 It gathers the choirs of angels in heaven,  
 And assembles the human race on earth  
 To sing with one voice the glory of Christ our God.*

Troparion — Tone 4

*O Prophet of God and Forerunner of Grace,  
 Your head has blossomed from the earth as a sacred rose.  
 We are ever being healed,  
 For as of old, You preach repentance to the world.*

Kontakion — Tone 3

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See us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](http://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)

E-Mail 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

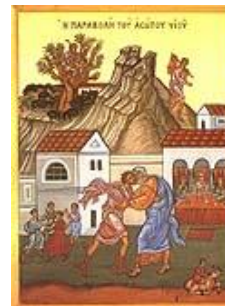
**The Most Reverend Michael**

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

856-227-6915



*Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

**Glory to  
 Jesus  
 Christ**

**Glory  
 Forever**

*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."*

Kontakion — Tone 3

**On this day the Church remembers:  
 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON • First (4th c.) and Second (452)  
 Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner  
 and Baptist of the Lord, John. • Ven. Erasmus of the Kiev Caves (Near  
 Caves—12th c.).**

**February 24, 2019**

**Tone 6** of the Octoechos

Week 2 of the Lenten Triodion