

Bulletin Sponsors for this week, and last two weeks, 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

Goddaughter **Nicole**, on her 17th birthday, offered with love by Aunt Tammy.

Alexander Stefy on his birthday, offered by his grandmother Lore Stefy.

The memory of:

Theodore Prinz, father of Nelly Freed and Lore Stefy

Readings: **I Corinthians 8:8-13;9:1-2** (*Meatfare, 2nd Sunday before lent*)

[Hebrews 13.17-21](#) (*St Raphael*)

Matthew 25:31-46 (*Meatfare, 2nd Sunday before lent*)

[John 10.9-16](#) (*Gospel*) (*St Raphael*)

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 Service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

With COVID cases falling , mask wearing will again be optional. Unvaccinated persons should continue to mask up, however. Thank you for caring about your fellow parishioners!

Coffee hour

Coffee hour and the Meatfare luncheon scheduled for today have been canceled.

Please check next week's bulletin for information regarding coffee hour and the Cheesefare luncheon.

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:

- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- **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.

Repose of Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn:

*Your proclamation has gone forth throughout North America,
calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the church.
hearing your voice, they responded to your teaching,
and through your writings you instructed them in piety,
now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,
we sing hymns of praise unto Christ our God.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all!*

Troparion – Tone 1

Meatfare Sunday, Sunday of the Last Judgment:

Today's Gospel reading is 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).

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.

Today 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.

*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!*

Kontakion – Tone 1

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/2022/02/27>

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

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Repose of Saint Raphael,
Bishop of Brooklyn

**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and
ever shall be!**

*You were a guardian and a defender of the Church's teaching;
you protected your flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith.
O holy father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America,
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved.*

Kontakion – Tone 8

February 27, 2022**Today the Church remembers:**

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE • Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915) • Sunday of the Last Judgment • Ven. Prokopios the Confessor of Decapolis (8th c.) • Ven. Titus, Presbyter, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1190) • Ven. Titus the Soldier, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.) • Ven. Thalelaeus, Hermit, of Syria (460)

36th Sunday after Pentecost
Meatfare Sunday – Sunday of the Last Judgment

Tone 3 of the [Octoechos](#)
Triodion week 3