

(No Bulletin Sponsors this week)

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

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in person services in our parish have been cut back for now. Fr Matthew has sent out reader’s services via email each week to follow at home. In addition, the diocesan web page nynjoca.org has online services for viewing.

Sunday services are celebrated with only the allowed number of people in attendance. Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend as part of the restricted number. (No one else should attend in person.)

Church School

Church School is temporarily not meeting.

We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let’s keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

Announcement:

- **The Sisterhood will be holding their annual Paschal basket raffle with a few changes due to the pandemic.** The basket will still include a variety of traditional foods and treats for your Pascha celebration. Raffle entries will be made without paper tickets. Each parishioner is asked to sell or purchase 10 entries at \$1.00 each. To purchase your entries, please mail a check, made out to the Sisterhood, for the desired number of entries. Enclose a list of entry names for individual entries. Checks can be mailed to Maribeth Romanofsky, 8 Willowbrook Lane, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Cash payments can be left at the candle stand in church, in an envelope marked “Sisterhood raffle” with your name on the outside of the envelope. Also enclose a list of entry names if desired. Purchases received without a list of names will be assumed to all be made in the name of the seller. **The raffle will be held on Palm Sunday Weekend, April 24-25. Thank you for support!**
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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**

The parish still needs to pay its bills. **(Our monthly revenue has recently dropped below our monthly expenditures.)**

Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.

Reminders:

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via e-mail to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer.
- 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, the third Sunday before Lent. 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 the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/28>

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

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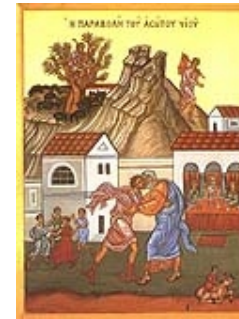
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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon

**Glory to Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

*I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.*

*And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent,
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”*

Troparion – Tone 3

Please check the website of our Diocese:

<https://nynjoca.org/>

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:

<https://www.oca.org/>

and our website:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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

Email us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Today the Church remembers:

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON ● Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius at Decapolis (750) ● Bl. Nikolai, Fool-for-Christ at Pskov (1576) ● Hieromartyr Proterius, Patriarch of Alexandria (457) ● Hieromartyr Nestor, Bishop of Magydos in Pamphylia (250) ● Ven. Marina (Marana), Cyra (Kyra) and Domnica (Domnina), of Syria (ca. 450) ● Venerable Domnica (ca. 450). John Cassian the Roman (435) ● Devpeteruv Icon of the Mother of God (14th c.)

February 28, 2021

38th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Triodion week 2

Tone 5 [of the Octoechos](#)