

Bulletin sponsors this week are:**For the memory of:**

Joseph, father of Maribeth, offered by the Romanofsky family

Hebrews 7:7-17 (*Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ*)

[1 Timothy 4:9-15](#) (*32nd Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday of*

Readings: *Zacchaeus, 5th Sunday before lent*)

Luke 2:22-40 (*Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ*)

[Luke 19:1-10](#) (*Zacchaios Sunday*)

BRETHREN, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Pannikidas – 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:**

- **Next Sunday, February 9th, we will have our annual parish meeting after Divine Liturgy.** The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by February 23rd, Meatfare Sunday the Rector and Council members, and for other business.
- **Upcoming events: Sunday, February 23rd, Meatfare Sunday** luncheon after Divine Liturgy. **Sunday, March 2nd, Cheesefare Sunday** luncheon after Divine Liturgy. Cost of both luncheons will be \$10 per adult over 12 years old. A sign-up sheet will be posted downstairs for anyone wishing to contribute food items for either luncheon.
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2025. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200 per person. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.

Reminders:

- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests 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.

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple:

Forty days after Christ was born, he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well, his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna ^(Lk 2:22-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" ^(Lk 2:26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vesper service:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel
(Lk 2:29-32)

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

*By Your birth, You sanctified a virginal womb,
and fittingly You blessed Simeon's hands, O Christ God;
even now You have saved us by anticipation.
Grant peace to Your faithful people whom You have loved,
O only Lover of mankind.*

Kontakion – Tone 1

Sunday of Zacchaeus:

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" ^(Lk 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

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

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

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Email us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

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

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon

*Glory to
Jesus Christ**Glory
forever*

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ in the Temple

*Hail, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace;
for from you has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
giving light those in darkness.
Be glad, O righteous Elder;
for you received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who bestows upon us resurrection.*

Tone 1 – Troparion

February 2, 2025**Today the Church remembers:**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus • The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in
the Temple .**

32nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus

Tone 7 of the [Octoechos](#)