

Bulletin Sponsors for this week are for:**The health of:**

Claudia Searforce on the occasion of her birthday, requested with love by her family

The memory of:

Andrew Koss, father of Julie Mongan and Mat. Barbara

Joseph Sheehan, father of Maribeth Romanofsky

Walter Romanofsky, father of Andrew Romanofsky

Readings:

I Timothy 4:9-15 (*Sunday of Zacchaeus, 5th Sunday before lent*)

Luke 19:1-10 (*15th Sunday of Luke, Zacchaeus Sunday*)

BRETHREN, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Sunday Service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

With the increase in COVID cases, it has been requested that we wear masks in Church, (and during Coffee Hour when held)

Coffee hour

While our diocese is experiencing an unprecedented COVID surge due to the omicron variant, coffee hour will temporarily not be held.

Church School

Sunday school will be temporarily suspended due to the current increase in virus cases. Check back here for announcements on when classes will resume.

Announcement:

- Our **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** was to be held in February. It was postponed. Watch this space. 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.

Sunday of Zacchaeus:

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 changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). **The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.**

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth. Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple:

*By Your nativity, You did sanctify the Virgin's womb,
and did bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God.
Now You have come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!*

Kontakion – Tone 2

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/02/06>

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/bulletin

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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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The Most Reverend Michael

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V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and
ever shall be!**

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our
Lord in the Temple

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.
Enlightening those who sat in darkness!
Rejoice, and be glad, O righteous elder;
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection.*

Troparion – Tone 1

February 6, 2022**Today the Church remembers:**

Afterfeast of the Meeting • Sunday of Zacchaeus • St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100) • St. Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople (891) • Ven. Barsanuphius the Great and John the Prophet (6th c.) • Virgin Martyr Dorothy, two sisters—Christina and Callista, and Theophilus, at Caesarea in Cappadocia (288-300) • Martyr Julian of Emesa (312) • Virgin Martyr Fausta, and with her, Evilasius and Maximus, at Cyzicus (305-311) • Virgin Martyrs Martha and Mary, and their brother Lycarion, in Egypt

33rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus

Tone 8 of the Octoechos
Sunday before the Triodion begins