

Bulletin sponsor this week is for:**The health of:****Bishop Seraphim** of Sendai, Japan in ICU**Andrea** Prendergast, sister of Julie & M. Barbara, on her birthday**Claudia** Searfoorce, granddaughter of Fr. Matthew & M. Barbara, on her 16th birthday.**For the memory of:****Walter**, father of Andrew, offered by the Romanofsky family.**Readings:****I Corinthians 6:12-20** (*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 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**Pannikhidas** – 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 classes meet every Sunday.

Please see your child’s teacher for meeting times.

Announcements:

- **Today, February 8th, 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 the Rector and Council members, and for other business.
- **Dues and assessments are now being collected for the year 2026.** 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.
- The **Sisterhood** will be having two **pre-Lenten luncheons**, on **Sunday February 15th (Meatfare)**, and on **Sunday February 22nd (Cheesefare)**. Tickets for each luncheon will **cost \$10** for those 13 years of age and up, payable at the door. Twelve and under are free. **Sign-up sheets for both luncheons** are posted downstairs, for anyone wishing to prepare a food item. You do not need to be a Sisterhood member to provide a food dish.

Reminders:

- The **Parish Council** has created a special fund for a **parish rectory**. Please **mark any donations** for this important fund with the designation “**Rectory**”.
- **The Sisterhood’s food drive is ongoing.** Please be generous with your donations. Collection bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Thank you!
- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.** And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin should be **submitted by email to:** bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org

- Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our parish. There is a donation basket at the candle stand. Also, a **Venmo account** can be used for donations. 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.

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).

It is not enough to acknowledge sins and to confess them. Repentance remains fruitless without the desire and decision to change life, **to go back to God, to begin the movement** of ascension and purification. We must realize that we have lost our spiritual beauty and purity and we must want to recover them: "... I shall return to the compassionate Father crying with tears: Receive me as one of Thy servants."

The Christian remembers and knows that he has lost communion with God, the peace and the joy of His Kingdom, the purity of the new life.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2026/02/08>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
See our Website at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org
See our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog
Email us at: 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 Searfoorce

Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon

Email: njdawsons@comcast.net

Phone: 609-335-6130



*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 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."*

Tone 4—Kontakion

February 8, 2026

Today the Church remembers:

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON • Afterfeast of the Meeting • Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates ("the General"—319) • Prophet Zachariah (ca. 520 B.C.) • St. Sava II, Archbishop of Serbia (1269)

Triodion week 2
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Tone 2 of the [Octoechos](#)