

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

Goddaughter, **Nicole** Zimmerman, on her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by Aunt Tammy, Nick, and Elizabeth.

Our sister, **Andrea**, on her birthday requested with love by Julie and M. Barbara

**Claudia** Searfoorce on her 15th birthday, requested with love by her family.

**For the memory of:**

**Walter**, father of Andrew, offered by the Romanofsky family.

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**II Timothy 3:10-15** (*Publican and Pharisee, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before lent*)

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

**Luke 18:10-14** (*Publican and Pharisee, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before lent*)

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

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**Readings:**

**TIMOTHY, my son**, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**The Lord said this parable**, “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

- **We will have our annual parish meeting today, 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.
- The **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will have a **meeting** next **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** after the Divine Liturgy. Dues for 2025 will be collected at that time.
- Upcoming events: **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Meatfare Sunday** luncheon after Divine Liturgy. **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cheesefare Sunday** luncheon after Divine Liturgy. Cost of both luncheons will be \$10 per adult over 12 years old. A sign-up sheet is 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](mailto: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.

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee:**

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican - Warning all of us not to become proud, boastful and not to consider ourselves righteous and better than others but rather to be humble and alert for our sins to grieve over them and to judge no one because only a humble man is raised in spirit to God, Jesus Christ has told the following parable.

Two men went up into the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other, a publican (tax collector).

The Pharisee stood up front and prayed, "God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I give one tenth of all that I receive to the priests."

But the publican standing far off would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven and beat his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

Jesus Christ said, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. **We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.**

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/02/09>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynioca.org/](http://nynioca.org/).

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

See us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](http://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)

Email us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto: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 Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

Email: [searbsk1@verizon.net](mailto:searbsk1@verizon.net)

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**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



*Glory to  
Jesus Christ*

*Glory  
forever*

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

*Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!  
And learn humility from the Publican's tears!*

*Let us cry to our Savior,  
have mercy on us,  
only merciful One!*

Tone 4 – Troparion

**February 9, 2025**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE • Beginning of the Lenten Triodion • Leavetaking of the Meeting • Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria (ca. 257) • Uncovering of the Relics of St. Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk (1805) • Ven. Pankratii (Pancratius) of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13<sup>th</sup> c.) • Ven. Nikifor (Nicephorus—1557) and Gennádii (Gennadius—ca. 1516), of Vazheozérsrk • Hieromartyrs Marcellus, Bishop of Sicily, Philagrius, Bishop of Cyprus, and Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina (1<sup>st</sup> c.)**

Lenten Triodion Week 1  
33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8 of the [Octoechos](#)  
Fast free week