

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:****Helen**, mother of MaryAnn Kuzemchak**Theodor**, father of Lory Stefy and Nelly Freed**For health of:****Aris** (Artur), on his birthday, offered by his mother Svetlana**Alexander** Stefy on his 18th birthday, offered by his grandmother and parents.**Tamara** Zimmerman on her birthday, offered by Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mom, and Pop.**There will be a Pannikhida Service today for:****Ivan**, **Anateliy**, and **Luba** Zviagintseva, offered by her mother Svetlana, offered by her daughter Svetlanav

Readings:

- I Timothy 1:15-17
 - Luke 18:18-27
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BRETHREN, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

At that time a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM
 (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Our annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday February 12, 2012 right after coffee hour.** All members of the parish are invited to attend.
- **Please contact Father Boris about having your home blessed.** Father Boris can visit all the members of the parish in order to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the sanctified water. (See back page.)

Special Announcements:

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on January 29th,** after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on February 5th,** after coffee hour.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012,** Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted.

Reminder:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

The Blessing of Homes:

The central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River is the act of blessing the homes of the faithful Christians. On the feast of the Epiphany, the Orthodox priest visits all the members of the Church in order to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the sanctified water.

According to the Orthodox Faith, the family is considered to be a "*small church*," and the family table is the "*home altar*" where the people gather each day to receive their "*daily bread*" from God with thanksgiving in the Name of Christ. Thus, during the Epiphany season, the priest, who is the father of the greater "*family of God*," the Church community, comes to each of the "*small churches*" bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place not only by the words of prayer, but by the sprinkling with the blessed water which, as we have seen, stands for the new creation of the Kingdom of God in which God Himself "*fills all things with Himself*" including even the smallest particles of material existence.

When the priest comes for his annual visit of prayer and blessing, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. All pray together for the good of the living and the dead of the family, and of all who live and have lived in the house. All sing together the great hymn, of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, "*has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world.*" Thus the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is "*filled with all the fullness of God.*"

When the priest comes to bless the family and its house on Epiphany, although the details of the ceremony will differ according to local custom and tradition, the following general principles should be observed:

A lighted candle, an icon and a wide bowl for the blessed water should be placed on the table.

1. All radios, television sets, MP3 players, etc. should be turned off.
2. All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table until the very end of the service.
3. Those who are able should join in the singing of the hymns and responses of the service.
4. The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including of course all members of the family and those living in the house, should be clearly printed on a sheet of paper, with the clear distinction between the living and the dead.
5. If it is the practice to give a gift to the priest at this time, the people should prepare it beforehand, but should not place it on the table with the holy objects. It should be given to the priest, if such is the custom, at the conclusion of the service.

(By -By V. Rev. Thomas Hopko)

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

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Glory to
Jesus Christ



Glory Forever

The Lord shall give strength to his people.

The Lord shall bless His people in peace.

Bring to the Lord, you sons of God;

bring to the Lord the offspring of rams.

PROKEIMENON (6th tone) – from Psalm 27(28)

On this day the Church remembers:

- Ven. Paul of Thebes (341) • John Calabytes ("the Hut-dweller")—(5th c.)
- Ven. Pansophius of Alexandria, Martyr (ca. 249-251) • Ven. Prochorus, Abbot, in the Vranski desert on the River Pshina in Bulgaria (10th c.) • Ven. Gabriel, founder of Lesnovo Monastery in Bulgaria (11th c.)

January 15, 2012

Tone 6 of the Octoechos.

31st Sunday after Pentecost