

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For Health of:**

Richard Dantine Jr. on his birthday, offered by his family, with love.

Readings:

- Colossians 3:12-16
- Luke 18:35-43

BRETHREN, put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

At that time, as he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Saturday service: Vespers – Currently not being served.

Sunday service:

Hours – 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM
Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month
Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room

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

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

Announcements:

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council** will be Sunday, January 26th after coffee hour.
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2014. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- **Home Blessings** – There is a sign-up sheet at the candle stand to inform Father that you wish to have your home blessed. Home blessings will be done in February. Father will contact you to arrange a date and time.
- The next **meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be on Sunday, February 2nd, after coffee hour.
- Our **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioners** will be held on Sunday February 9, 2014 right after coffee hour. 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 contact Holly Dawson, 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.

Special Announcements:

- 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

Disturber of the Peace:

Today, January 19, the Church honors two saints named Macarius.

The first is **Macarius the Great**, to whom a demon once said, "There is only one thing in which I cannot excel you. It isn't in fasting, because I never eat, and it isn't in keeping vigil, because I never sleep." When Macarius asked what it was, the demon replied, "Your humility."

The second saint remembered on this day is **Macarius of Alexandria**. Born there in 295, he was a merchant until he was forty, when he was baptized and went into the desert to begin a life of prayer.

Even though he began his monastic effort later in life, Macarius was so conscientious in prayer that he came to have great spiritual power, and one story about him gives a good example. As he was crossing the Nile on a ferry boat, another passenger, a military officer, noticed him. The officer was wearing his gold-braided uniform, encircled by a gold belt, and carrying his handsome sword at his side. He said to Macarius, whose monastic clothes were simple and almost ragged, "You are blessed in being scorned by the world."

Macarius told the official, "Your words are prophetic, for my name is Macarius, which means 'blessed.' But if, as you say, I am happy and blessed in being scorned by the world, are you not miserable in being so obviously enslaved by the world?" These words had such a profound effect on the officer that he left the military, gave his possessions to the poor, and became a solitary monk.

But the devil, always trying to disturb our peace, sometimes tries especially hard with people like Macarius. For a long time, the saint was tempted by lustful dreams and desires, and had a hard struggle to overcome them. He also was struck by a longing to leave his cell and travel to faraway places, which is dangerous for any monk trying to keep his life focused on God and prayer.

Macarius had to work so hard against these temptations that his efforts became legendary. He sat in a swamp and let himself be almost devoured by mosquitoes. He ate practically nothing, and tried, until it became impossible, to go without sleep. Once he spent many months walking in the desert with a heavy basket of sand on his shoulders. When another monk asked him what he was doing he replied, "I am wearing out him who wears me out."

Because his efforts to overcome temptations were sincere, Macarius reached a point where the devil could no longer disturb his peace so easily. He even became able to recognize and heal others possessed by demons or afflicted by serious temptations of the devil.

In a verse from one of this day's readings, Saint Paul tells us to "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). The disturber of the peace will keep trying, but saints like Macarius are with us in the fight to snatch victory out of his evil hands.

Department of Christian Education - OCA



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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,
Temporary Rector**

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915



**Glory to
Jesus Christ!**

**Glory
Forever!**

Macarius the Great of Egypt

*The Lord truly placed you in the house of abstinence,
as a star enlightening the ends of the earth,
Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.*

Kontakion -

Today the Church remembers:

Ven. Macarius the Great of Egypt (390-391) • Ven. Macarius of Alexandria (394-395). St. Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus (15th c.) • Ven. Makáry the Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.) • Ven. Makáry the Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.) • Righteous Theodore of Novgorod, Fool-for-Christ (1392) • Opening of the Relics of Ven. Savva (Sabbas) of Storozhévsk and Zvenígorod (1652) • Ven. Macarius the Roman (Novgorod—15th-16th c.) • Virgin Martyr Euphrasia of Nicomedia (303) • St. Arsenius, Archbishop of Kerkyra (Corfu—8th c.) • St. Makáry the Stylite, of Martkopsk (Georgia—6th c.)

January 19, 2014

30th Sunday After Pentecost

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