

**Bulletin Sponsors this week for the:**

**Health of:**

**Robert, Natalie, Walter, Cheryl, Alexander, Gabrielle, James, Lisa, Robert Jr, Andrew, Lisa, Logan, Noah, and Lucy**, offered by Lore Stefy  
**Lucy, Alexander, and Natasha**, offered by Lore Stefy  
**Lucy and Gene**, offered by Lore Stefy  
**Luba, Dean, Irene, Douglas, Jennifer, Katelin, Julianna, and Douglas Jr.**, offered by Lore Stefy

**Memory of:**

**Olga Romanofsky**, offered by Andrew and Maribeth  
**Leonid, Theodore, Pauline, Valentina, Vladimir, and Michael**, offered by Lore Stefy

**Readings:**

**Ephesians 4.7-13** (*Sunday After the Theophany*)  
**Matthew 4:12-17** (*Sunday After the Theophany*)

**BRETHREN**, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**At that time**, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Sunday Service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted, but those that are not fully vaccinated are still requested to wear a mask.

**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.

**Church School**

**Sunday School parents please note:**

**Class Schedule for January: Sunday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Announcement:**

- 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](mailto: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.

**The Great Blessing Of Water** takes place in the Orthodox Church on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, the Theophany. The word “**epiphany**” means the shining forth or manifestation or appearance or revelation. The word “**Theophany**” means the shining forth or manifestation or appearance or revelation of God. The emphasis in the present day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

**Manifestation of the Messiah** In His baptism by John in the Jordan River, Jesus manifested Himself for the first time as the Messiah of Israel. At the baptism John refers to Christ by the messianic title of the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29) At this time as well the voice of the Father calls Jesus the “Beloved” which is also a messianic title from the Old Testament. (Isaiah 42:1, Luke 3:22, Mark 1:11) And it is written that the Spirit of God descended and rested upon Jesus, which also shows Him to be the long-awaited Messiah, the Redeemer of the world. (Isaiah 61:1-2, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:33)

**The Blessing of Water** Sometimes people think that the blessing of water and the practice of drinking it and sprinkling it on everyone and everything is a “paganism” which has falsely and sadly crept into the Christian Church. We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament (see John 5 and 7), and that it continues to exist in the New Testament Church of Christ with a new and very important meaning and significance.

The service of the Great Blessing of Water itself reveals the meaning of the event for the Christian People. The readings from the Holy Scriptures, particularly the messianic words from the Prophecy of Isaiah, and the litanies and prayers and hymns all serve to tell us what the great meaning of the Epiphany, and indeed of the entire Christian Faith, is for us men and our world. We only have to read the service carefully and celebrate it faithfully in the church for this meaning to become evident to our hearts and minds.

*Today You have shown forth to the world, O Lord,  
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.  
Knowing You, we sing Your praises.  
You have come and revealed Yourself,  
O unapproachable Light.*

Kontakion – Tone 4

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/01/09>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynjoca.org/](http://nynjoca.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/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
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 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 Theophany of  
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
*When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest  
for the voice of the Father bore witness to You  
and called You His beloved Son.  
And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself  
and have enlightened the world, glory to You!*

Troparion – Tone 1

**January 9, 2022**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Afterfeast of the Theophany • Sunday after Theophany •** Martyr Polyeyuktos of Melitēnē in Armenia (259) • Hieromartyr Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1570) • Prophet Shemaiah (Samaia, Semeias—<sup>3[4]</sup>Kings 12:22—10th c. B.C.) • St. Peter, Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia (4th c.) • St. Eustratius the Wonderworker (9th c.)  
29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Tone 4 of the [Octoechos](#)