

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the health and prosperity of:****Lore Stefy** on her birthday, offered by her children**Linda and Richard** on their Anniversary**Amy Schneider** on her birthday, daughter of Maribeth and Andrew Romanofsky**Readings:**

- Romans 10:1-10
- Matthew 8:28-9:1

**BRETHREN**, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

**At that time**, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

**Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**                      **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)  
 (General Confession – 9:50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)  
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)

**Church School** – (has ended for the school year)**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:**

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council** will be on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on Sunday, August 5th, after coffee hour.
- **Thank you** to everyone who has contributed food to our coffee hour refreshments, especially to the Sisterhood members who have done so for an entire month.  
Please remember to put your contribution for coffee hour refreshments in the donation box.

**Reminder:**

- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- 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](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**The SITKA Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos:**

Today the Church remembers one of the most revered Icons in North America: the **Sitka Mother of God**. The Sitka Icon of the Mother of God is located at the Cathedral of St Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska

This Icon has been attributed to a famous Iconographer, Vladimir Lukich Borovikovsky (1758-1826), a protégé of the Empress Catherine II who was instructed at the Academy of Arts in St Petersburg, Russia. In addition to being a great portrait painter, Borovikovsky also painted many of the Icons for the Cathedral of the Kazan Icon in St Petersburg.

Painted in the style of the Kazan Mother of God Icon, on canvas, the Sitka Mother of God Icon is 36 x 17½ inches in size. An exceptionally beautiful and detailed riza of silver covers the Icon of the Theotokos and Christ child, and the Image of God the Father blessing from above.

The Cathedral received the Icon as a gift from the laborers of the Russian American Company in 1850, two years after the Cathedral was completed. Even with their meager wages, these men generously made their contribution to the Church.

Miracles have been attributed to the Sitka Mother of God Icon over the years. It is believed that the gaze of the eyes of the Theotokos have led to the restored health of those who prayed before the Icon.

Because of the peaceful gaze of the Theotokos, the Icon has been described as a *"pearl of Russian ecclesiastical art of ineffable gentleness, purity and harmony...."* And *"...the most beautiful face of the Mother of God with the Divine Child in her arms is so delicately and artistically done that the more one looks at it the more difficult it is to tear one's gaze away."*

Originally part of the main Iconostasis at the Cathedral of St Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska, the Icon is now permanently located on the far left side of the Iconostasis in a special place of honor.

*Today, like the morning sun rising over us,  
Your all-honored icon enlightens the world with rays of mercy  
And our land reverently receives it  
as a divine gift from on high,  
Glorifying you, O Birthgiver of God, Our Lady of Sitka,  
With joy magnifying Christ our God Who was born of you.  
Pray to Him O Lady Mary, Queen and Theotokos  
That all cities and lands be protected from our enemies,  
And that they will be saved who in faith venerate your most pure icon  
That has come to dwell with us, O Virgin Mother,  
who shows us the way to Christ.*

Troparion - Sitka Icon

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Sitka Icon  
of the Mother of God

*O Mother of God,*

*chosen from all generations to be the protectress of the Christian people;  
We offer you songs of thanksgiving for your wonderworking Icon that has come to  
Alaska.*

*You are a fountain of mercy and help all who seek refuge in you.  
Defend us in all afflictions, necessities and tribulations that we may cry to you:  
Rejoice, zealous defender of the Orthodox faithful in America.*

Kontakion - Sitka Icon

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**The SITKA Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos** • Holy Greatmartyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine (303) • Righteous Prokópy, Fool-for-Christ, Wonderworker of Ustiug (Vologdá—1303) • Appearance of the “KAZAN” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (1579) • The Weeping Novgorod Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “Of Tender Feeling” (14th c.)

**July 8, 2012**

**Tone 4** of the Octoechos

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost