

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:

The Health of:

David and Kate Searfoorce on their 8th anniversary, offered with love by their family.

The Memory of:

Andrew and Olga Koss, parents of Mat. Barbara

Romans 12:6-14 (6th Sunday after Pentecost)

[Hebrews 13:7-16](#) (Fathers)

Readings:

Matthew 9:1-8 (6th Sunday after Pentecost)

[John 17:1-13](#) (Fathers)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

At that time, he crossed over in a boat, and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" --he then said to the Paralytic--"rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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 Fr Matthew Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd 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 has ended for the summer.

Announcements:

- The Sisterhood will be holding a food drive to benefit a local food pantry. Please see the listing downstairs of needed items. All donations will be welcomed!
- We like to thank a Grey Book Step Meeting Group for their donation to help with the basement cleanup costs.
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps. (It is now in the progress of becoming a reality.)

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. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand.)
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- 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.
- Proshpora (bread) is again available at the candle stand for a donation of \$2. The faithful can have the bread sent into the altar with a list of names for prayers of health and salvation for the living and for the repose of the departed servants of God. (Proshpora should be purchased at least a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils:

The Sunday of the Fathers of the First Six Councils is a feast held on the Sunday falling from July 13th to 19th. The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils. The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration.

At times in church history, councils of all of the bishops in the church were called. All the bishops were not able to attend these councils, of course, and not all such councils were automatically approved and accepted by the Church in its Holy Tradition. In the Orthodox Church only seven such councils, some of which were actually quite small in terms of the number of bishops attending, have received the universal approval of the entire Church in all times and places. These councils have been termed the Seven Ecumenical Councils.

The dogmatic definitions (dogma means official teaching) and the canon laws of the ecumenical councils are understood to be inspired by God and to be expressive of His will for men. Thus, they are essential sources of Orthodox Christian doctrine.

1. Nicea 1, year 325:
Formulated the First Part of the Creed, defining the divinity of the Son of God.
2. Constantinople I, year 381:
Formulated the Second Part of the Creed, defining the divinity of the Holy Spirit.
3. Ephesus, year 431:
Defined Christ as the Incarnate Word of God and Mary as Theotokos.
4. Chalcedon, year 451:
Defined Christ as Perfect God and Perfect Man in One Person.
5. Constantinople II, year 553:
Reconfirmed the Doctrines of the Trinity and of Christ.
6. Constantinople III, year 680:
Affirmed the True Humanity of Jesus by insisting upon the reality of His human will and action.
7. Nicea II, year 787: (not commemorated today)
Affirmed the propriety of icons as genuine expressions of the Christian Faith.

*The preaching of the Apostles and the dog-mas of the Fathers
sealed the one Faith of the Church;
and clad in the garment of truth woven of theology from on high,
it teaches aright and glorifies the great mystery of piety.*

Kontakion — Tone 8

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/07/16>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/.

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

Email us at: 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: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Fathers of the First Six Councils

**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
forever**

*You are most glorious, O Christ our God,
You have established the Fathers as lights upon the earth,
and through them, You have guided all of us to the true Faith!
O greatly compassionate one, glory to You.*

Troparion — Tone 8

July 16, 2023**Today the Church remembers:**

Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils • Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples (ca. 311) • Martyrs Paul and two sisters, Chionia (Thea) and Alevtina (Valentina), at Caesarea in Palestine (308) • Martyr Antiochus, Physician, of Sebaste (4th c.) • Virgin Martyr Julia of Carthage (ca. 440 or 613)

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 5 of the Octoechos.