

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



# Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Trudy Ellmore

Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



**Sunday, July 19, 2015**

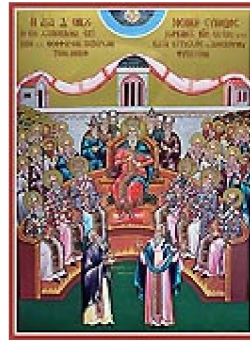
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

**Tone 6**

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Fathers of the First Six Councils,  
Uncovering of the relics of the Venerable Seraphim of Sarov*

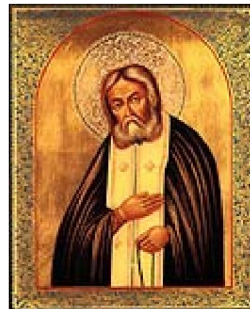
*Glory to  
Jesus Christ!*



*Fathers of the First Six  
Councils*

*Glory  
Forever!*

*You are most glorious, O Christ our God!  
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!  
Through them you have guided us to the true faith!  
O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!*



*Uncovering of the relics of the  
Venerable Seraphim of Sarov*

## *Today the Church Remembers*

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 6. Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils. Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Seraphim of Sarov (1903).** Ven. Macrina, sister of St. Basil the Great (380). Ven. Dius, Abbot, of Antioch (ca. 430). Rt. Blv. Román, Prince of Riazan' (1270). Ven. Paisii of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Bl. Stephen (1427), King of Serbia, and his mother, St. Militsa (1405).

***Liturgical Schedule:***

**Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

**Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

***Readings:***

**Epistle:** Romans 15:1-7

**Brethren**, we then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

**Gospel:** Matthew 9:27-35

**When Jesus departed from there**, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him,

“Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.” Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

***Thoughts for Each Day of the Year  
According to the Daily Church  
Readings from the Word of God  
By St. Theophan the Recluse***

*According to your faith be it unto you*, said the Lord to the two blind men, and immediately their eyes were opened. The greater the faith is, the greater is the influx of Divine power. Faith is the receiver, lips, and receptacle of grace. Just as one person’s lungs are large while another person’s are small, and the large take in more air, while the small take in less, so one person has a large degree of faith, and another a small degree, and one person’s faith receives more gifts from the Lord, and another person’s fewer. God is everywhere, encompasses everything and contains all, and loves to dwell in human souls. But He does not forcibly enter them, even though He is Almighty, but enters as if upon invitation; for He does not want to infringe upon the power which man has over himself, or infringe upon man’s right to rule his own house—a right which He has granted. Whosoever opens himself through faith, God fills, but whosoever closes himself through unbelief—God does not enter, though He is near. Lord! Add to our faith, for faith too is Thy gift. Each of us should confess: *Poor and needy am I* (Ps. 69:6).



**Bulletin Sponsor:** Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

**Memorial Candles:** Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one and \$2 for a small one.

**Private Confessions:** Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times and **General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

**Pannikhida Service:** The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

**Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

[Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.



### ***Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News*** **Coming Events for Your Calendar**

August 20, 2015  
Orthodox Youth Day  
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Jackson, NJ

Six Flags Great Adventure

August 23, 2015  
NJ Deanery Clergy Family Picnic

September 2-3, 2015  
Clergy Conference  
Assumption of the Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ

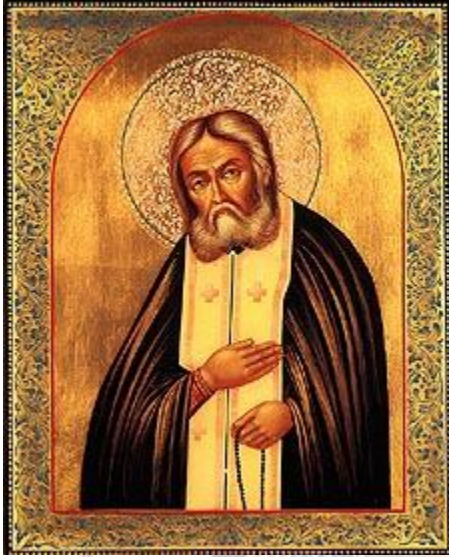
### **Stewardship Moment**

When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.

“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” — **Mother Teresa (1910-97), Catholic missionary to India**

“Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.” — **Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), Jesuit founder**

### *Uncovering of the relics of the Venerable Seraphim of Sarov*



Uncovering of the Relics of Saint Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov: The glorification of St Seraphim of Sarov (January 2), took place in 1903, seventy years after his repose. On July 3, 1903 Metropolitan Anthony of St Petersburg, assisted by Bishop Nazarius of Nizhni-Novgorod and Bishop Innocent of Tambov, transferred the saint's relics from their original burial place to the church of Sts Zosimus and Sabbatius. Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra provided a new cypress coffin to receive the relics. This cypress coffin was then placed inside an oak coffin and remained in the church until the day of the saint's glorification.

At noon on July 16, the first day of the festivities, Metropolitan Anthony offered a Memorial Service for the ever-memorable Hieromonk Seraphim in the Dormition Cathedral. Services also took place in the monastery's other churches.

The next day Metropolitan Anthony and Bishop Nazarius served a Memorial Liturgy in the Dormition Cathedral. At 5:00 that afternoon, the bells of Sarov began to ring, announcing the arrival of Tsar Nicholas and his family. Metropolitan Anthony greeted them and then led them to the Dormition Cathedral for a Service of Thanksgiving.

The royal family attended the early Liturgy on July 18th and received the Holy Mysteries. Later that morning, the final Memorial Service for the repose of Hieromonk Seraphim's soul was offered in the Cathedral. These would be the last prayers offered for him as a departed servant of God. From that time forward, prayers would be addressed to him as a saint. At 6 P.M. the bells rang for Vigil, the first service with hymns honoring St Seraphim, and during which his relics would be exposed for public veneration.

At the time of the Litia during Vespers, the saint's coffin was carried from the church of Sts Zosimus and Sabbatius and into the Dormition Cathedral. Several people were healed of various illnesses during this procession. During Matins, as "Praise ye the Name of the Lord" was sung, the coffin was opened. After the Gospel, Metropolitan Anthony and the other hierarchs kissed the holy relics. They were followed by the royal family, the officiating clergy, and all the people in the cathedral.

On July 19, the saint's birthday, the late Liturgy began at 8 o'clock. At the Little Entrance, twelve Archimandrites lifted the coffin from the middle of the church, carried it around the altar, then placed it into a special shrine. The long awaited event was accompanied by numerous miraculous healings of the sick, who had gathered at Sarov in large numbers. More than 200,000 people came to Sarov from all across Russia.

The festivities at Sarov came to an end with the dedication of the first two churches to St Seraphim. The first church to be consecrated was over his monastic cell in Sarov. The second church was consecrated on July 22 at the Diveyevo convent.

In 1991, St Seraphim's relics were rediscovered after being hidden in a Soviet anti-religious museum for seventy years. Widely esteemed in his lifetime, St Seraphim is one of the most beloved saints of the Orthodox Church.

***Prayers by the Lake, St. Nikolai  
Velimirovich, XIII:***

*What is clothing worth, if there is no body to clothe? What is the body worth, if the soul is not covered with it? What is the soul worth, if You do not keep vigil in it, like fire in ashes?*

My clothing is smoke and ashes, if my body does not give it value.

My beautiful lake is blind mud, if its wide-eyed water is drained from it.

My soul is smoke and ashes, if You, my morning Dew, are drained from her.

You write Your name over the ashes of all things, and the flame of Your radiance dazzles the smoke of all things.

Your flame is a dew for the thirsty, who find refuge in Your embrace. But Your flame is a consuming fire for those who flee from it.

Truly, You are paradise for the pure and hell for the impure.

When the last Day comes--when the First and last Day shall be revealed as the One Day--the pure shall rejoice, but the impure shall mourn. And the impure shall cry out: “Alas, we ate ashes on earth, and now we must eat fire in heaven!”

Your prophets, O heavenly Mother, were the discoverers of the fire beneath the ashes, who dove into the mouths of volcanoes. Through Your boundless mercy You allowed each prophet to discover the spark for which he dove, until all the sparks merged into the blazing conflagration of Your Son, O heavenly Mother.

O Lord, You raised up shepherds for every flock, and the shepherds kindled fires for their flocks, lest they freeze on the rugged road of history, leading to the time when the Ultimate Man, the Only-begotten Son, would burst into a great fire and summon all the flocks to warm themselves.

Indeed how deeply hidden are all the precious metals--the eyes of the depths of the earth! Just as You are concealed beneath the ashes of the world, O most precious Stone!

The poor man plows his field and shakes his head when I say to him: "Rich man, deep beneath your barren field lies a lake of molten gold."

Do not shake your heads, impoverished sons of the King, when I tell you that the body is more precious than clothing, the soul is more precious than the body, and the Blazing King is more precious than the soul.

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***Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox  
Church***

**God and Us – How do we relate God?**

You must love every man with your whole soul, but put your hope in the one God, and serve Him alone. For as long as He is protecting us and our friends (the angels) are helping us, our enemies (the demons) cannot inflict evil upon us. But when He forsakes us, then also our friends turn away from us, and our enemies receive power over us.

St. Maximus Confessor, Chapters on Love, 4.95

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***The Prologue of Ohrid  
St. Nikolai Velimirovic***

**Reflection**

The most beautiful adornment of a woman is her modesty, while immodesty in a woman is the most unnatural, repulsive sight in the world. A wonderful example of feminine modesty was shown in the life of St. Macrina. In her youth, a severe wound appeared on her breast. Even though her mother counselled her to show the wound to a doctor and seek a remedy, Macrina did not agree to it. She had completely dedicated herself to God, and would not even think of exposing her body before men, or even before

her own mother. One evening, Macrina earnestly prayed to God. Tears poured from her eyes and fell to the dust before her. With unwavering confidence in her Lord, she mixed the dust and tears with her fingers and anointed her wound with it. The next day, she awakened healed. When her mother, with great concern, entered to see her daughter, Macrina did not want to reveal that the Lord healed her (out of humility, concealing the miracle which she herself had performed through prayer), but begged her mother saying: "I will be healed, my mother, if you place your right hand on my bosom and make the sign of the Cross over the wound." Her mother reached out her hand and made the sign of the Cross over that spot, but did not feel the wound anymore--only the scar of the healed wound. Thus did St. Macrina conceal her body out of modesty, and her miracle-working out of humility?

### **Contemplation**

To contemplate the wondrous prophesying of Balaam (Numbers 23, 24):

1. How Balaam came to curse the people of Israel at the invitation of Prince Balak;
2. How instead of cursing, Balaam blessed the people, being directed to do so by the Spirit of God;
3. How Balaam prophesied about Christ saying: *A star shall rise out of Jacob and a rod will rise up out of Israel* (Numbers 24:17).

### **Homily:**

#### **About apostolic love and discernment**

*"Moreover I will endeavour that you may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance" (2 Peter 1:15).*

Brethren, let your hearts be opened to receive and understand this great mystery. At first the apostle says that he will not be slothful in reminding the faithful of the salvific truths of the Faith; of the divine power which was given to mankind through Christ the Lord and of the preparing of men to receive this divine power *having escaped the corruption that is in the*

*world through lust* (2 Peter 1:4). Now he goes even further and promises that he will continue this remembrance even after his parting, i.e., after his going out (the word which is used in the Greek text) from this life, when he will "put off this tabernacle, this body" (cf. 2 Peter 1:14). O faith divine, O comfort, O sweetness! The apostle promises to continue, even from the other world, his concern for the Church of God on earth, to continue the work he had begun--to remind the faithful, and to continue his love toward those on earth who believe in Christ. O apostolic love, so near to the love of Christ! O apostolic discernment, whose love the Spirit of God does not diminish as long as man is still wrapped in the dark curtain of the flesh!

The Apostle Peter gave this promise to the faithful nearly two thousand years ago. Did he fulfil it? He fulfilled it to the letter--not only as some would like to interpret it, in reminding the faithful through his written epistles and through his successors the bishops--but primarily through his constant action within the Church from the other world. The Apostle Peter appeared many times, as did the other apostles, whenever there was need, according to the providence of God. He reminded the shepherds and the faithful of the Church that they must adhere firmly to the truth, and that they should correct the paths of their lives. Even when Peter did not appear in dreams or openly, he acted, and still acts, for our salvation, in a mysterious manner known only to heaven.

To the Holy Apostles, life after death was as apparent as the sun is to those who have eyes. Through their prayers, may God also open our spiritual eyes, that we might see where we are going and what awaits us after death.

O Lord Jesus, All-merciful, deliver us from the darkness into the light according to Your mercy, and through the prayers of Your Holy Apostles.

**To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.**