

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the health and prosperity of:**

**Elizabeth** Zimmerman on her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by her family.

**Readings:**

- Romans 6:18-23
- Matthew 8:5-13

**BRETHREN**, having been set free from sin, we have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**At that time**, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**

**Coffee hour – after Liturgy**

**(Church School has ended for the school year.)**

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

**Announcements:**

- There will be a meeting of the **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** today after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council** will be next Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.
- Thanks to Sub-deacon Edward and Reader Charles for the work they are doing on the basement storage closet.
- **The Feast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary** is next month on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Vesperal Liturgy for the Dormition **Wednesday evening, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

**Special Announcements:**

- Dues and assessments are still being collected for the year 2013. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please note on your check if you want it go towards Membership Fee.
- 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)

**Prophet Ezekiel :**

Ezekiel was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. While in the Babylonian captivity, even before the final destruction of the Judean kingdom, he was called by God to be a prophet.

The Prophet Ezekiel was made famous by his prophecies about the resurrection of the dead, which simultaneously symbolically represented the restoration to freedom of the Jewish people.

The Prophet had a vision from the Lord. He saw a field strewn with men’s bones.

God asked him, "Son of man, will these bones live?"

Ezekiel replied, "O Lord God, Thou knowest this."

The Lord said, "Prophecy upon these bones, and thou shalt say to them, ‘Ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’"

The Word of the Lord was as follows: *"Thus saith the Lord to these bones; Behold I will bring upon you the breath of life and I will lay sinews upon you, and bring up flesh upon you, and will spread skin upon you, and will put My Spirit into you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord"* (Ezek. 37:3-6).

When Ezekiel prophesied, at God’s command there was a noise and movement and the bones began to come together, each bone to its appointed bone. Ezekiel saw there were sinews on them, and flesh appeared, and skin covered them on top, but there was no spirit in them.

And the Lord said: *"Prophecy to the wind; prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘Thus saith the Lord: Come from the four winds, and breathe upon these dead men, and let them live'"* (Ezek. 37:9).

The words, "from the four winds," mean that from four ends of the world (north, south, east and west) dead souls, wherever they might be, must gather in the field covered with spiritless bodies and come to life.

Ezekiel uttered the prophecy as the Lord commanded him, and the Spirit entered them and they came to life and stood on their feet.

The Lord said, *"These bones are the whole house of Israel....Therefore prophecy and say, ‘Thus saith the Lord: Behold I will open your tombs, and will bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, that I may bring up My people from their graves. And I will put My Spirit within you, and ye shall live, and I will place you upon your own land; and ye shall know that I am the Lord'"* (Ezek. 37:11-14).

This **great prophecy**, besides pointing to the restoration of the Israelite people, was given to us by God as a **graphic portrayal of the general resurrection of the dead** at the second coming of the Saviour, when, according to the all-powerful Word of God, all the bodies of dead people will unite with their spirits and come to life.

Note: See II Kings, chap. 25:27-30; II Chron., chap. 36:10-23; Ezekiel, chap. 37:1-14  
(from: *The Law of God* by Fr. Seraphim Slobodskoy)



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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

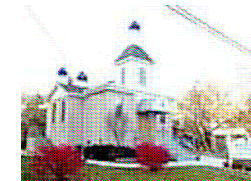
**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,**

**Temporary Rector**

Email: [docandrnl@verizon.net](mailto:docandrnl@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**



**Glory  
Forever**

*The memory of Your prophet Ezekiel,  
We celebrate today, O Lord.  
By his prayers, we beseech You,  
O Christ God, save our souls!*

**Troparion - Prophet Ezekiel**

**Today the Church remembers:**

Prophet Ezekiel (6th c. B.C.) • Ven. Simeon of Emessa, Fool-for-Christ, and his fellow ascetic, Ven. John (ca. 590) • Ven. Onuphry (Onuphrius) the Silent, and Ven. Onísim, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—12th-13th c.) • The “ARMATIA” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos

**July 21, 2013**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Tone 3 of the Octoechos**