

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for:****The health of :**

**Rich** and **Lisa** on their anniversary, offered by their family, with love.

**David** and **Kate** Searfoorce on their anniversary offered with love by their family

**Elizabeth** Ann Zimmerman on her 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by her family.

---

**Romans 6:18-23** (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

**Readings: Matthew 8:5-13** (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

---

**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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

- There will be a **meeting** of the **parish council** today, **July 21**, after coffee hour.
- **Archbishop Michael will be visiting our parish next Sunday, July 28.**  
Please invite your family and friends to welcome our Archbishop that day!  
The Sisterhood is sponsoring a luncheon to honor His Eminence. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 per adult (13 years and up). Please see Maribeth Romanofsky for tickets. A sign-up sheet for food donations for the luncheon is posted in the community room.

**Reminders:**

- The **Sisterhood's food drive** is ongoing. Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous. Thank you!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- 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. Or a **Venmo account** can be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson> )
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto: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.

**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.

*Enlightened by the Spirit, your pure heart became the dwelling place of most splendid prophecy;*

*for you saw things far off as if they were near.*

*Therefore, we honor you, blessed and glorious Prophet Ezekiel.*

Kontakion — Tone 4

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/07/21>

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 Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

Email: [searbsk1@verizon.net](mailto:searbsk1@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Prophet Ezekiel

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
forever**

*We celebrate the memory  
of Your prophet Ezekiel, O Lord;  
through him we entreat You,  
save our souls.*

Tone 2—Troparion

**July 21, 2024**

**Today the Church remembers:**

The Finding of the honored relics of the Venerable right-believing Great Princess and Nun Anna of Kashin, Wonderworker (1649) ● Prophet Ezekiel (6<sup>th</sup> 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. Onesimos, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c.) ● The "ARMATIA" Icon of the Mother of God

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 3 of the Octoechos