

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

MaryAnn Kuzemchak who was hospitalized this week.

Fr. Dn Edward and Mat. Holly on their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Amy Schneider on her birthday, offered by her parents, Maribeth and Andrew.

Elizabeth and Vincent Turpin on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, offered with love by their family.

Linda & Richard on their Anniversary.

**The Memory of:**

Lore Stefy, offered by the Sisterhood.

Our mother, Anne, offered by Linda and Richard.

**Readings:** **Romans 10:1-10** (*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*)  
**Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1** (*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*)

**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 Services:**

<b>Hours - 9:40 AM</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b>
<b>General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month</b>	
<b>Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew Pannikhidias – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b>	

**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 parish council will meet today, July 9, after coffee hour.
- 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!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.

**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.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- 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.
- Prospora (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. (Prospora should be purchased at least a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)

**Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily:**

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9

*Pancratius, you were revealed as a brilliant star for the people of Taormina;  
you were also shown to be a sufferer for Christ.*

*Since you now stand before Him, O blessed one, pray for those who honor you.*

Kontakion – Tone 4

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/07/09>

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)

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**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of  
Taormina in Sicily

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
forever**

*By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.*

*Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation,*

*O inspired one of God;*

*by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,  
even to the shedding of your blood.*

*Hieromartyr Pancratius entreat Christ God to save our souls.*

Troparion – Tone 4

**July 9, 2023**

**Today the Church remembers:**

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1<sup>st</sup> c.) ● Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c.) ● Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt (4<sup>th</sup> c.) ● St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa (9<sup>th</sup> c.) ● St Dionysios the Rhetorician and his disciple Saint Mētrophánēs (Mt. Athos—1606)

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

Tone 4 of the Octoechos.