

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

Alex, on his birthday, son of Fr Boris and Matushka Galina.

Peter Taran, brother of Holly Dawson, on his birthday, offered by Holly and family.

Readings:

- Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle, Forerunner)
- Luke 1:24-25, 57-68, 76, 80 (Gospel, Forerunner)
 - **Romans 5:1-10**
 - **Matthew 6:22-33**

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School – (has ended for the school year)

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

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 Parish Council today**, after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Theotokos will be on Sunday, August 5th, after coffee hour.
- **Thank you** to everyone who has contributed food to our coffee hour refreshments, especially to the Sisterhood members who have done so for an entire month.
Please remember to put your contribution for coffee hour refreshments in the donation box.

Reminder:

- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:
Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- We are now in **the Apostles Fast**; it lasts until the feast day of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leader of the Apostles, Peter & Paul on June 29th.

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John:

Today the Church remembers the birth of John the Baptist. The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "**filled with the Holy Spirit,**" was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "**His name is John.**" Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

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

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

Nativity Of The Holy
Glorious Prophet, Forerunner
And Baptist, John

*Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner,
who is the fulfillment of every prophecy;
for in the Jordan,
when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the prophets,
he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.*

Kontakion - Baptist, John

On this day the Church remembers:

**3rd Sunday After Pentecost • Nativity Of The Holy Glorious Prophet,
Forerunner And Baptist, John • All Saints of Britain and Ireland**

- Ven. Anthony, Abbot of Dymsk (Novgorod—1224) • Righteous Youths John and Jacob (James) of Meniugi (Novgorod—1566-69) • Seven Martyred Brothers: Orentius, Pharnacius, Eros, Firmus, Firminus, Cyriacus, and Longinus, in Georgia (4th c.)

June 24, 2012

**3rd Sunday After Pentecost
Tone 2 of the Octoechos**

Apostles fast