

The bulletin is sponsored this week for:**The health of:**

Fr. Deacon Ed for healing and quick recovery, from our parish family.

The memory of:

Kathleen and **Joseph**, parents of Maribeth, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Readings: **Hebrews 11:33-12:2** (*1st Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints*)

Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30 (*1st Sunday after Pentecost*)

Brethren, who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Lord said to his disciples, “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

Sunday Service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

We will no longer be taking temperatures when you enter the Church and signing up for services is no longer necessary. Services are open to all. Those that are not fully vaccinated are still requested to wear a mask.

Church School

Church School will be returning in September.

We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let’s keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

Announcement:

- Last Sunday we had an emergency meeting of the parish council that was called because our church's air conditioner needs to be repaired or replaced. It is a 14 year old unit and the price of repair is about half the cost of replacement with a new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system. The council picked an \$8,243.00 system out of the systems presented at the meeting. The cost of the system is being covered by funds in our building fund. The council is asking for donations to our building fund to replenish the money, so that we can be prepared for upcoming emergencies. Thank you to everyone that can help.
- If you are unable to attend church, 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.

Reminders:

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via email to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer in time to get it into the bulletin.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

Synaxis of All Saints:

Both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God, are remembered today. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet the same Holy Spirit perfected all. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to **"be holy, for I am holy"** (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him. St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology. St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: **"Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."** Some of the saints are described as **Confessors**, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The **Apostles** are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The **Martyrs** come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, the **Prophets** are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. The **Monastic Saints** are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: **"Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men"** (LADDER, Step 26:31). The last category, the **Righteous**, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

*The universe offers You the God-bearing martyrs,
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.*

Through the Theotokos, and their prayers establish Your Church in peace!

Kontakion – Tone 8

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/06/27>

Please check the website of our Diocese:

<https://nynjoca.org/>

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:

<https://www.oca.org/>

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

See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

Email us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Synaxis of All Saints

Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory
Forever

*As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
Your church has been adorned with Your martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world.
She cries to You, O Christ God:
Send down Your bounties on Your people,
grant peace to Your habitation, and great mercy to our souls!*

Troparion – Tone 4

Today the Church remembers:

All Saints • St. Sampson the Hospitable of Constantinople (ca. 530) • St. Joanna the Myrrhbearer (1st c.) • Ven. Serapion of Kozhevezersk (1611) • St. Severus, Presbyter, of Interocrea, Italy (6th c.) • Ven. George of Mt. Athos (Georgian—1066)

June 27, 2021

1st Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints

Tone 8 of the Octoechos