

There are no bulletin sponsors for this week.

Readings: **Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40** (*1st Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)
John 1:43-51 (*1st Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — 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 enemies 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.

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Sunday Service:

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
Pannikidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

With COVID cases falling , mask wearing will again be optional. Unvaccinated persons should continue to mask up, however. Thank you for caring about your fellow parishioners!

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.

Church School

Sunday School classes have resumed.

The remaining meeting for March will be on March 20th

Classes will meet at the same times as prior to the hiatus.

Announcement:

- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.** Donate until March 16th at <https://www.oca.org/relief> to help refugees. As of last Tuesday, the Orthodox Church in America has raised over \$433,000.
- **Presanctified Liturgy** services are at 6:30 PM every Wednesday during lent.
- **The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parishioner** will be held today, Sunday, March 13, 2022, after coffee hour. The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business.
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2022. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- 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** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- 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.

1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy:

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

To read more about Great Lent, see:

<https://churchmotherofgod.org/articleschurch/about-services-and-prayers/420-great-lent-its-meaning-for-orthodox-christians.html>

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/03/06>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: 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

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandr1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and
ever shall be!**

1st Sunday of Great Lent:
Sunday of Orthodoxy

*We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy.
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:
You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.*

Troparion — Tone 2

March 13, 2022

Today the Church remembers:

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT • Sunday of Orthodoxy • Translation of the relics of St. Nikēphóros, Patriarch of Constantinople (846) • Martyr Sabinus (Abibus) of Egypt (287) • Martyrs Africanus, Publius, and Terence, of Carthage (3rd c.) • Martyr Alexander of Macedonia (305-311) • Martyr Christina of Persia (4th c.) • Ven. Aninas of the Euphrates

1st Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of Orthodoxy

Tone 5 of the [Octoechos](#)
Triodion week 5