

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For health of:**

Anna Sibbald, friend of Linda Jankowski

Readings:

- **Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4** (Sunday before lent)
- **Matthew 6:14-21** (Sunday before lent)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
 (General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month.)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

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:

- **This week services of Great Lent:**
 - March 18 (**Monday**) 6:30PM **The Canon of St. Andrew of Create**
 - March 20 (**Wednesday**) 6:30PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** with potluck to follow
 - March 23 (**Saturday**) 6:30PM **Vespers**
 - **March 24 Sunday of Orthodoxy – Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be sponsoring a **Cheesefare Luncheon today**. It is the last day Orthodox Christians can eat dairy products before the Lenten Fast. Non-meat delicacies featuring blini, pierogi, and other dairy delights will be served. The cost is \$5.00 payable at the door. Seats are still available; it's not too late to join us!
- **Choir practice for Pascha services** will be held every Sunday at 9:30 beginning **today**.
- The next Parish Council meeting will be March 24th, after coffee hour.
- The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be April 7th, after coffee hour.

Special Announcements:

- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2013**, Total **Parish Membership Fee is \$200**. Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Pre lent - Forgiveness Sunday:

On this eve of Great Lent, the day called **Cheesefare Sunday** and **Forgiveness Sunday**, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6:14-18).

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

Great Lent:

The beautiful Lenten services more than anything else help us to deepen our spiritual vision. Tomorrow, Monday at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the **Great Canon composed by St. Andrew of Crete** in the year 720. It is one of the richest and most beautiful of our Orthodox traditions.

Each Wednesday evening, our parish will celebrate a special Vespers called the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. It consists of solemn Great Vespers and communion with the Holy Gifts consecrated on the previous Sunday. This service can peak the week of fasting, with the partaking of the Bread of Life, the ultimate fulfillment of our efforts.

Each Sunday afternoon (4:00 PM), around the New Jersey Deanery, different parishes invite everyone to a Lenten Vespers Service. This year the schedule for NJ Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers 2012 includes:

- **March 24 - Sunday of Orthodoxy** (No Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers - feast of the Annunciation eve)
- **March 31 - Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas** Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ (His Grace, Bishop Michael - Main Celebrant and Homilist)
- **April 7 - Sunday of the Holy Cross** - Holy Cross Church, Medford, NJ
- **April 14 - Sunday of Saint John Climacus** - Saints Peter and Paul Church, Manville, NJ
- **April 21 - Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt** - Saints Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

Expulsion from Paradise

*Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
you teach the thoughtless and protect the poor:
Strengthen and enlighten my heart.
Word of the Father,
let me not restrain my mouth from crying to you:
Have mercy on me, a transgressor,
O merciful Lord!*

Kontakion

Today the Church remembers:

Forgiveness Sunday, Sunday of Cheesefare • The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise • Ven. Aleksey (Alexius) the Man of God (411) • Ven. Macarius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Kalyázinsk (Tver'—1483) • Martyr Marinus • St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461)

March 17, 2013

**Tone 8 of the Octoechos
Triodion week 4**

**Sunday before Lent
41st Sunday after Pentecost**