

(No Bulletin Sponsors This Sunday)

Readings:

- Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40
- John 1:43-51

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."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month**Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)****Pre-school class meets immediately after the Liturgy every Sunday.****We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.****Announcements:**

- **Sisterhood Dues** for 2015 are now being collected. All women who are members of the Parish are invited to join. Dues are \$15.00 annually.
- The **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be meeting today after coffee hour.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be March 29th, after coffee hour.
- **This week's services of Great Lent:**
 - March 4 (Wednesday) 6:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow
 - March 7 (Saturday) 6:30PM Vespers
 - March 8 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, – Divine Liturgy 10AM
- **On Sunday March 22, at 4:00PM, we will be hosting the New Jersey Deanery South for Lenten Vespers.** The Sisterhood will be hosting a light meal after the Lenten vespers service. If you would like to contribute an item for the meal, please see the sign-up sheet downstairs.

Special Announcements:

- **Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2015. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored;** this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.

Sunday of Orthodoxy:

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. Today we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress.

Today, the Orthodox Church commemorates Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. He was born in about 487, on the southwestern coast of the country.

His birth is traditionally believed to be the result of rape. His mother Nonita, who is also honored by the Church, was the daughter of a local chieftain, and often in the company of nobles and princes. One prince found her irresistibly attractive, and forcibly seduced her. She is said to have given birth to David in a raging storm, perhaps reflecting the violent nature of his conception.

David was raised in the Welsh Church, and educated by clergy. His teachers were urgently aware of the need to take Christianity to the farther reaches of Wales and England. They recognized David's outstanding ability to speak with eloquence about the faith, and to engage the minds and hearts of people listening to him. This was why, in later years, he would be a convincing opponent of the Pelagian heresy. But as a student he was already seen as an excellent candidate to do missionary work, a ministry he undertook soon after his formal education was completed.

Saint David's missionary travels ranged over Wales, western England, and Brittany. He founded several monasteries in southern Wales. They were noted for the extreme austerity of their practices, modeled on David's understanding of the life of the early desert monastics.

A description of the monks' daily lives was recorded by an eleventh-century writer named Rhygyvarch (spelled in various ways), who based his life of David on "many old manuscripts" in the saint's monastery at Menevia. It is the only extensive record of David's life that we have. Rhygyvarch writes that after a full day of work plowing and planting, done without the aid of oxen or any animals, the monks stood in chapel for several hours of prayer, ending with chanted Psalms: "When the chanting of the Psalms is done...they worship on bended knees until the stars are seen in heaven bringing the day to a close. The father [David] alone, after having gone out, pours forth a prayer in secret to God for the state of the Church."

The monks' meals were simple, and accompanied only by water:

"Not dishes of various tastes lie before them or too dainty provisions, but having fed on bread and herbs seasoned with salt, they may assuage ardent thirst with a temperate sort of drink. On that occasion they provide for the sick and those advanced in age, and even those wearied with a long journey, some refreshments of a more appealing sort, for one must not weigh out to all in equal measure."

David's last words to the monks gathered around his deathbed included these: "**Do the little things.**" These words are a reminder of the words of Christ Himself, read two Sundays ago. Jesus' surprised listeners asked Him when they seen Him in need or distress, and ministered to Him. He answered, "**As you did it to the least of these, you did it to Me**" (Matthew 25: 40).

- Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America.

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

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
Forever

Triumph of Orthodoxy

*No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former beauty.*

We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.

Kontakion — Tone 8

Today the Church remembers:**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT • Sunday of Orthodoxy**

- Martyr Eudoxia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170) • Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) of Zelenétsk (Pskov—1603) • Martyrs Nestor and Tribimius (3rd c.) • Martyr Antonina of Nicæa in Bithynia (3rd-4th c.) • Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony
- Virgin Domnina of Syria (ca. 450-460) • Ven. Agapius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos)
- David, Bishop of Wales

March 1, 2015

38th Sunday after Pentecost
Tone 5 of the Octoechos

Triodion week 5
First Sunday of Lent