

Today's Bulletin Sponsors is for:**The health of:**

Willow Dangle on her birthday, offered by her parents Kira and Dan Dangle

The memory of:

Archpriest Daniel, 40th day of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by our parish family.

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

Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy - 6:30 PM

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in person services in our parish have been cut back for now. Fr Matthew has sent out reader's services via email each week to follow at home. In addition, the diocesan web page nynjoca.org has online services for viewing.

Sunday services are celebrated with only the allowed number of people in attendance. Please contact Fr Matthew if you wish to attend as part of the restricted number. (No one else should attend in person.)

Church School

Church School is temporarily not meeting.

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:

- **The Sisterhood is preparing for their annual Paschal basket raffle.** Please help out by purchasing at least 10 entries at \$1.00 each. Checks for the raffle should be made to the Sisterhood and mailed to Maribeth Romanofsky, 8 Willowbrook Lane, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Cash purchases should be left at the candle stand in an envelope marked "Sisterhood raffle". Please include your name and a list of individual entries if desired. The drawing will be held on April 24th. Thank you!
- **The annual meeting of the parish will be held on Sunday April, 11th** after the Liturgy. Since everyone cannot attend, please let Andy Romanofsky know if you plan to attend.
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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
 The parish still needs to pay its bills. **(Our monthly revenue has recently dropped below our monthly expenditures.)**
 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 e-mail to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer.
- 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:

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

Each Sunday in Lent, although it preserves its basic meaning: that of the weekly feast of Resurrection, has its own special theme:

Today, the First Sunday - Triumph of Orthodoxy— commemorates the victory of the Church over the last major heresy: Iconoclasm (842).

*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 state by uniting it to divine beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.*

Kontakion – Tone 8

The second Sunday is dedicated to the memory of St. Gregory Palamas, a great Byzantine mystic and theologian of the 14th century, who centered his teaching on the high calling of man, on his “deification” in Christ.

The third Sunday is the Sunday “of the Veneration of the Holy Cross.” At Matins the Cross is brought in a solemn procession from the sanctuary and placed in the center of the Church, where it remains for the whole week, ‘his rite announces the approaching of the Holy Week, with its commemoration of Christ’s Passion. A special veneration of the Cross takes place at the end of each service.

Fourth Sunday-St. John of the Ladder, one of the greatest Ascetics, who in his “Spiritual Ladder” described the various stages of spiritual life.

Fifth Sunday-St. Mary of Egypt, whose life is a most wonderful example of repentance.

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/03/21>

Please check the website of our Diocese:
<https://nynjoca.org/>
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:
<https://www.oca.org/>
and our website:
<https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

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

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Glory to Jesus
Christ

Glory
Forever

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

Today the Church remembers:

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT • Sunday of Orthodoxy • St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th-9th c.) • St. Cyril, Bishop of Catania (1st-2nd c.) • St. Thomas, Patriarch of Constantinople (1610)

March 21, 2021

**First Sunday of Lent
Triodion week 5**

**Tone 8 of the Octoechos
Sunday of Orthodoxy**