

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:

For the health of:

James Matthews on his birthday, offered by his mother-in-law Lore Stefy
Bill Kuzemchak son of Bill and Mary Ann Kuzemchak

Readings:	4th Sunday of Great Lent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 6:13-20 • Mark 9:17-31 	Saint Climacus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephesians 5:9-19 • Matthew 4:25-5:12
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Brethen, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.

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:

- **The Sisterhood will again be sponsoring a Cinderella cheesecake sale this Paschal season.** The orders for cheesecakes are due today March 22nd. Cost of the cheesecakes will be \$22, or \$25 for specialty cheesecakes. See Tamara Zimmerman.
- **The Sisterhood will be raffling off a traditional Pascha basket including delicious holiday items.** Tickets are \$1.00 and each person is asked to sell 10 tickets. The raffle will be held on March 29th. See Lore Stefy for tickets.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be March 29th, after coffee hour.
- **This week's services of Great Lent:**
 - March 18 6:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Ss. Peter and Paul Churchsanctified Gifts with potluck to follow (Wednesday)
 - March 21 6:30 PM Vespers (Saturday)
 - March 22 Sunday of St. John Climacus (of The Ladder), Divine Liturgy 10 AM
 - March 25 6:30PM Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts Holy Day of the Annunciation with potluck to follow (Wednesday)
 - March 29 Deanery Lenten Vespers, St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, 4:00 PM Sts. Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ (Next Sunday)
- **Sunday March 22, at 4:00PM, our parish will be hosting the New Jersey Deanery South for Lenten Vespers.** The Sisterhood will be serving a light meal after the Lenten vespers.
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 15 to July 1, 2015 and to go on a pilgrimage to **Mt. Athos** (the Holy Mountain) in Greece. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so. Every dollar donated over the cost of the trip will be given to the orphanage (Children's Home of Hope on the grounds of the Shen Vlash Monastery and Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy in Durres, Albania).

Special Announcements:

- **Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.

Patristic Wisdom for Daily Living with the Church Fathers:

Put God at the beginning

No matter what scientific explanation you come up with for the origin of the universe, says St. Basil, you'll go far wrong if you don't put God at the beginning of it.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

I stop struck with admiration at this thought. What shall I say first? Shall I demonstrate the vanity of the Gentiles? Shall I praise the truth of the faith?

The philosophers of Greece have tried very hard to explain nature, and not one of their systems has remained firm and unshaken. They are enough in themselves to destroy one another. Those who were to ignorant to rise to a knowledge of God could not allow that an intelligent cause presided at the birth of the universe—a primary error that trapped them in sad consequences.

Some fell back on material principles and attributed the origin of the universe to the elements of the world. Others imagined that atoms, and invisible bodies, molecules and tubes, unite to form the nature of the visible world.

It is because they did not know how to say, “In the beginning God created the heaven and earth.” Fooled by their inherent atheism, they thought that nothing governed or ruled the universe, and that everything was given up to chance.

To keep us from this error, the writer on creation, from the very first words, enlightens our understanding with the name of God: “In the beginning God created.”

—St. Basil, Hexameron, 1.2

In God's Presence consider....

In a world where science has made so much progress, what does it mean to put God at the beginning?

Closing Prayer:

Father, you alone are eternal, and you alone live in unapproachable light. I thank you that you have me in your image; have mercy on my sins, and save me through your Son Jesus Christ.

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
Forever

On the height of abstinence did the Lord establish thee as a true and unerring star, guiding the ends of the world by thy light, O John, our instructor and father.

Kontakion — Tone 4

Today the Church remembers:

- Fourth Sunday of Great Lent • St. John Climacus • Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363) • Martyr Drosis the Daughter of the Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.) • Venerable Isaac the Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.) • Monkmartyr Euthymius of Prodromou of Mt Athos (1814) • Martyr Callinica of Rome • Martyr Basilissa of Rome.**

March 22, 2015

Tone 8 of the Octoechos

Triodion week 7
Fourth Sunday of Lent