

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:

Health of:

Nicholas Zimmerman on his 28th birthday, offered with love by his family.
Cecelia, happy 12th birthday from mommy and Joanna.
Ryan P. Wettstein, USN, U.S.S. Bainbridge.

Memory of:

Newly departed **Janet**, sister of Fr. Dn. Edward.

Hebrews 6:13-20 (*4th Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)

Readings:

[Ephesians 5:9-19](#) (*Saint*)

Mark 9:17-31 (*4th Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)

[Matthew 4:25-5:12](#) (*Saint*)

Brethren, 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.”

Sunday Services:

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 Father Matthew
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy, 3rd Sunday of each month

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.

Sunday school classes meet every Sunday.

Please see your child’s teacher for meeting times.

Announcements:

- **Today**, March 22, there will be **choir practice for Pascha Services at 9:00 am.**
- This **Wednesday**, March 25th, we will celebrate the **Annunciation** of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with a **Divine Liturgy** at 6:30 pm.
- For the upcoming weeks, there will be a **special collection can**, earmarked for the **repair of the heater’s flue pipe**. The church’s cost was **\$5700**. Please be generous.
- **Sisterhood dues** are now being collected for 2026. **Annual dues are \$15**. Please see Linda Dantine to make your payment.
- The Sisterhood’s **annual Paschal basket raffle** will be **held on Palm Sunday, April 5th** at coffee hour. The Sisterhood is asking **each parishioner to sell or buy 10 raffle tickets at the cost of \$1 each**. Please see Maribeth Romanofsky for your tickets. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the community room for anyone wishing to donate an item for the basket.
- The next **meeting of the parish council** will be **Sunday March 29th**, after coffee hour.

Reminders:

- **The Sisterhood’s food drive is ongoing**. Please be generous with your donations. Collection bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Thank you!
- We now have a dedicated fund for a **parish rectory**. Please **mark** any **donations** for this important fund with the designation “**Rectory**”.
- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers**. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin should be **submitted by email to: bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org**
- Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our parish. There is a donation basket at the candle stand. Also, a **Venmo account** can be used for donations. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson> .
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 PM downstairs in the community room.
- **The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 PM downstairs in the community room.

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder):

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine’s Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God’s Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is “**not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ...**” (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only “**he who endures to the end will be saved**” (Matthew 24:13).

*The Lord truly set you on the height of abstinence,
O our instructor and Father John,
as an unerring star, guiding the ends of the earth by your light.*
Kontakion – Tone 4

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2026/03/22>

Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers:

Each **Sunday afternoon (5:00 PM)**, around the New Jersey Deanery, different parishes invite everyone to a Sunday Lenten Vespers Service. This year the remaining dates and locations are:

March 22 – Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, 29 Huron Ave, **Clifton, NJ** 07013

March 29 – Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt - Saints Peter and Paul Church, 76 Whitehead Ave, **South River, NJ**

All Sunday Lenten Vespers services will be followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/.
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
See our Website at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org
See our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog
Email us at: bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce

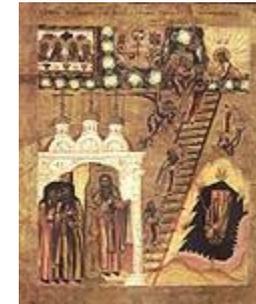
Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deaconm

Email: njdawsons@comcast.net Phone: 609-335-6130



**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

**4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John
Climacus (of the Ladder)**

*Dweller of the desert and angel in the body,
you were shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father John.*

*You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.*

Glory to Him who gave you strength.

Glory to Him who granted you a crown.

Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all.

Tone 1 – Troparion

March 22, 2026

Today the Church remembers:

St. John Climacus (of The Ladder) • Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363) •
Martyr Drosis, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.) • Ven. Isaac, the Confessor
Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.) • Monastic Martyr
Euthymius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos—1814)

Triodion week 8
Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

4th Sunday of Great Lent
Tone 8 of the [Octoechos](#)