

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:

For health of:

James Matthews on his birthday, offered by his mother-in-law Lore Stefy

Readings:

- **Hebrews 4:14-16;5:1-6**
- **Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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

Services of Great Lent:

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Wednesdays 6:30 PM with potluck to follow.

Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room

Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Basket raffle:** The Sisterhood will be raffling off a traditional Slavic Paschal basket that will include ham, kielbasa, paschal bread and cheese, dyed eggs, chocolates, condiments, and a bottle of cheer. Individual tickets are \$1.00. The basket will be raffled off on Palm Sunday, April 13th.
- **The Sisterhood is sponsoring a Cinderella cheesecake sale,** featuring delicious, creamy cheesecakes. Orders are now being taken by Tamara Zimmerman. The cheesecakes are priced at \$20 - \$23. Delivery will be before Pascha. All profits will go to our Sisterhood.
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. The cost of the trip is \$3,500. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.
- The next **Parish Council meeting** will be March 30th, after coffee hour. If you have anything that needs to be brought to the Council's attention, please let Trudy Ellmore, Council President, know by Sunday, March 23rd. The meeting agenda will be finalized that week. Trudy can be reached at 609-593-6181 or trellmore@gmail.com.

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Veneration of the Cross:

Written by Fr. Alexander Schmemann

Today is the **Third Sunday of Lent**, the **Veneration of the Cross**. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor 1:24).

Today the Cross is brought in a solemn procession to the center of the church and remains there for the entire week. It is noteworthy that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology of this Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy.

We are in Mid-Lent. On the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it serious and consistent, begins to be felt, its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to this point, we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage, and the rays of Easter grow in their intensity. Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ's commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of that Sunday:

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34)

But we can not take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have His Cross which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others.

On this Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the veneration of the **honorable and Life Giving Cross**, and for this reason: inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves and become bitter and despondent and failing, the Life Giving Cross is presented to us for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion, and for comfort.

Annunciation:

Tomorrow evening we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, which falls on Tuesday this year. It comes nine months before Christmas on the twenty-fifth of March. It is the celebration of the announcing of the birth of Christ to the Virgin Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke. The services of the feast of the Annunciation stress again and again the joyous news of the salvation of men in the birth of the Saviour. It is a weekday of lent where the Divine Liturgy is allowed to be served.

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery.

*The Son of God becomes the Son of the virgin,
as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.*

*Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.*

(Troparion).

This weeks lenten services:

- **March 24 (Monday) 6:30 Vesperal Liturgy - Eve Annunciation of the Most-Holy Theotokos**
- **March 26 (Wednesday) 6:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow**
- **March 29 (Saturday) Vespers 6:30PM**
- **March 30 (Sunday) 10:00 AM Liturgy, St. John Climacus**

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915



Veneration of the Cross

**Christ is in
our midst!**

**He is and ever
shall be!**

*Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
it has mysteriously been quenched by the wood of the Cross!
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell:
"Enter again into paradise."*

Kontakion -Tone 7

Today the Church remembers:

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT • Veneration of the Cross

- Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him in Sicily (251)
- Ven. Nikon, Abbot of the Kiev Caves (1088) • Martyrs Philetas the Senator, his wife, Lydia, their sons Macedon and Theoprepus, Chronides the Notary, and Amphilocheus the Captain, in Illyria (117-138) • Righteous Basil of Mangazea in Siberia (1600) • Monk Martyr Luke of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos—1802)

March 23, 2014

Triodion week 7

Tone 6 of the Octoechos
3rd Sunday of Great Lent