

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:

The health of:

Cecelia, Happy 11th birthday from her mom and sister.

Hebrews 4:14-16;5:1-6 (*3rd Sunday of Great Lent, Adoration of the Cross*)

Readings: **Mark 8:34-38; 9:1** (*3rd Sunday of Great Lent, Adoration of the Cross*)

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.”

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 meets every Sunday after Communion.

Announcements:

- **PreSanctified Liturgy is celebrated each Wednesday during Great Lent at 6:30 PM.**
- The **Sisterhood’s** annual Pascha **basket raffle** will be held on **April 13th**. The basket will contain many traditional ethnic foods for the holiday, along with spirits and candy. The Sisterhood is asking **each parishioner** to sell or buy **10 tickets** at \$1 each. To get your tickets, please see Maribeth Romanofsky. A sign-up sheet for basket items is posted downstairs. (You do not need to be a Sisterhood member to donate an item for the basket.)
- A **Pysanky** (Egg decorating) **class** is planned for today, **March 23rd**, after coffee hour. Please see Mat. Holly Dawson for more information.
- There will be a **meeting of the parish council** on Sunday, **March 30th**, after coffee hour.
- The next **meeting** of the **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will be held on **Sunday, April 6th** after coffee hour.
- The clergy and faithful of the New Jersey Deanery invite you to a **Lenten Mission Service at St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ today**, March 23, at 5:00 PM. Following the service, a Lenten Potluck will be held. All are welcome!

Reminders:

- **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**
- 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
 Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand. A **Venmo account** can also be used for donations to our parish. 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.

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross:

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of 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).

*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

Lenten Prayer:

We must always pray. But Lent is the time of an increase of prayer and also of its deepening. The simplest way is, first, to add the [Lenten prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian](#) to our private morning and evening prayers. Then, it is good and profitable to set certain hours of the day for a short prayer: this can be done “internally” -at the office, in the car, everywhere. The important thing here is to remember constantly that we are in Lent, to be spiritually “referred” to its final goal: renewal, penitence, closer contact with God.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/03/23>

KOINONIA: A Diocese Publication:

<https://nynjoca.org/files/publications/koinonia/Koinonia-March-17-2025.pdf>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/.

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org

See us on Facebook 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 Searforce,

Temporary Rector

Email: searbsk1@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Veneration of the Cross

*Glory to
Jesus Christ*

*Glory
forever*

*O Lord, save Your people
and bless Your inheritance.
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians,
over their adversaries.
And by virtue of Your Cross
preserve Your habitation!*

Tone 4 –Troparion

March 23, 2025

Today the Church remembers:

- 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) ● Monastic Martyr Luke of St. Anne’s Skete (Mt. Athos—1802)

Lenten Triodion Week 7
39th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 6 of the [Octoechos](#)
3rd Sunday of Great Lent