### **Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**

#### For health of:

Nicholas Zimmerman on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Offered with love by his family.

Baby **Daniel** Maximus, born Dec. 28. Offered by a friend of his Mom and Dad, Linda Jankowski.

Olga Romanofsky, Mother of Andrew, who is hospitalized.

#### **Readings:**

# • Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40

#### • John 1:43-51

**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."

# Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM

#### **Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(**Private Confession** – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.) (**General Confession** – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month.) (**Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)

#### Church School – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

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

#### **Announcements:**

- This week's services of Great Lent:
  - March 27 (Wednesday) 6:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck supper to follow.
  - March 30 (Saturday) 6:30PM Vespers
  - March 31 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy 10AM
- The flowers for Orthodoxy Sunday are given "In honor of the Bishops and priests who rightly divide the Word of God's Truth". Thanks to Trudy Ellmore for providing them.
- Thanks to Reader Charles and Sub Deacon Edward for the recent painting and electrical work done in our church building.
- Choir practice for Pascha services will be held every Sunday at 9:30
- There will be a Parish Council meeting today, after coffee hour.
- The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be April 7<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.

## **Special Announcements:**

- Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2013, Total
   Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

#### **Sunday of Orthodoxy:**

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Epistle and Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. **Today**, on **the first Sunday of Great Lent**, we commemorate the "*Triumph of Orthodoxy*", the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "*This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith*" (I John 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "*created in the image and likeness of God*" (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

#### **Annunciation:**

**Tomorrow** is the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.** 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, the Matins and the Divine Liturgy, stress again and again the joyous news of the salvation of men in the birth of the Saviour.

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).

Sunday Bulletin

# **Church of the Mother of God**

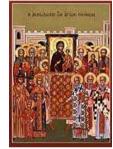
"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Temporary Rector

Email: docandrn1@verizon.net

Glory to Jesus Christ



Glory Forever

Triumph of Orthodoxy

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 beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images

Kontakion

# Today the Church remembers: Forefeast of the Annunciation • Sunday of Orthodoxy

- Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemius (Artemon), Bishop of Seleucia (1st-2nd c.) Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.)
- Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan' (1552) St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th-9th c.).

# March 24, 2013

Tone 1 of the Octoechos
Triodion week 5

Sunday of Orthodoxy 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent

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

E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org