

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:

The health of:

Nicholas Zimmerman on his 25th birthday offered with love by his family.

Joshua Turpin on his 9th birthday offered with love by his family.

Memory of:

Olga Romanofsky, offered by Andrew and Maribeth

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

Hebrews 2:11-18 (Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos)

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

Luke 1:24-38 (Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos)

Readings:

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

Mask wearing in church is now optional. Please be respectful of your fellow parishioners.

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.

Church School is now meeting every week after Communion.

Announcements:

- Today we welcome V. Rev. Paul Kucynda to our parish. Fr Paul is filling in for Fr. Matthew today.
- We celebrate the **Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts** every Wednesday during Great Lent at 6:30 pm.
- The Sisterhood's annual **Paschal basket raffle** will be held next Sunday April, 2nd. Tickets for the raffle cost one dollar, and each parishioner is asked to sell or buy 10 tickets. Please see Maribeth Romanofsky or Holly Dawson for tickets.
- The Sisterhood will be having a meeting, today, **March 26th** after coffee hour.
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.

Reminders:

- 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.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- 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.
- Prospora (bread) is available at the candle stand for a donation of \$2. (Prospora should be purchased at least a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)

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

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt 10:12).

The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 24:13).

*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.*

Troparion – Tone 1

Leavetaking of the Annunciation:

*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 – Tone 4

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel:

*Gabriel, Commander of the heavenly hosts,
we who are unworthy beseech you:
by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory,
and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to you:
"Deliver us from all harm, for you are the Commander of the Powers on high!"*

Troparion – Tone 4

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/03/26>

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/bulletin

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 Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

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

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
forever**

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

*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

March 26, 2023

Today the Church remembers:

Leavetaking of the Annunciation • Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel • St. John Climacus (of The Ladder) • Hieromartyr Irenæus, Bishop of Sirmium (304) • Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus—Presbyters, Arpilus—Monk, Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igathrax, Iscoeus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonirilus, Suimbalus, Thermus, Phillus (Philgas)—laymen, and the women: Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Manca), Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha and Duklida, in the Crimea (375) • St. Malchus of Chalcis, Syria (4th c.) • Ven. Basil the New, Anchorite, near Constantinople (10th c.) • Martyr Montanus, Presbyter, of Singidunum, and his wife, Maxima (235)

4th Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 8 of the Octoechos.

Lenten Triodion week 8

[Great Lent](#)