

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:

For the Health of:

Joshua, on his 6th birthday, offered by his family.

For the Memory of:

Christopher Dawson, offered by the Dawson family.

Olga, mother of Andrew Romanofsky, offered by her family.

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

[Ephesians 5:9-19](#) (*St John Klimakos*)

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

[Matthew 4:25-5:12](#) (*St John Klimakos*)

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."

Saturday service:

Vespers – 6:30 PM

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

All classes will meet every Sunday.

Grades 5-8 – 9:30 am

Preschool and Grades K through 4 – immediately after communion.

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

Announcement:

- Because of the **Coronavirus Pandemic**, services will be celebrated with only the minimum required number of people in attendance. **(no one else should attend in person)**
- **We will not have Coffee Hour, Council meetings, or Sunday School** until this emergency has subsided.
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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
 The parish still needs to pay its bills.
- **The Paschal basket and children's basket raffles, scheduled for April 5th and April 12th, have been postponed until it is safe for the entire congregation to meet again.** Raffle ticket entries into the children's basket will be based on children's attendance at Sunday School for the school year. Questions about either raffle can be addressed to Maribeth Romanofsky (609)204-1007.

Reminders:

- **Because of the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) pandemic, SERVICE and EVENT info, here and on our web site's calendar, may no longer be valid.**
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: **Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 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 (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint 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).

*The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,
O our Father and Teacher John.*

Kontakion -Tone 1

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2020/03/29>

To read more about any day, see:
<https://churchmotherofgod.org/church-calendar/daily-evets.html>

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

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

And, as always, our website:
<https://ChurchMotherOfGod.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"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

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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 wonder-worker, 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

Today the Church remembers:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT • St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*) • Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364) • Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.) • St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.) • St. Niketas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia—1793)

March 29, 2020

**4th Sunday of Great Lent
Triodion week 8**

Tone 8 of the Octoechos