

Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:**For the eternal memory of:**

Maria Markevich, offered by her granddaughter Tatsiana Markevich-DaGrosa and her family.

Readings:

- **Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4** (Sunday before lent)
- **Matthew 6:14-21** (Sunday before lent)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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 with potluck to follow, beginning March 5th.**The Canon of St. Andrew of Crete** - Monday, March 3 at 6:30PM**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:

- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be holding a **Cheesefare luncheon today**. The luncheon will feature dairy specialties including blini. Cost of the luncheon will be \$10.00. Children under 12 are free.
- **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 - \$25. 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.

Special Announcements:

- 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
- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2014. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.

Pre-lent. Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday:

On this eve of Great Lent, the day called **Cheesefare Sunday** and **Forgiveness Sunday**, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6:14-18).

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ

Great Lent:

The beautiful Lenten services more than anything else help us to deepen our spiritual vision. Tomorrow, Monday at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the **Great Canon composed by St. Andrew of Crete** in the year 720. It is one of the richest and most beautiful of our Orthodox traditions.

Each Wednesday evening, our parish will celebrate a special Vespers called the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. It consists of solemn Great Vespers and communion with the Holy Gifts consecrated on the previous Sunday. This service can enhance the week of fasting, with the partaking of the Bread of Life, the ultimate fulfillment of our efforts.

Each Sunday afternoon (4:00 PM), around the New Jersey Deanery, different parishes invite everyone to a Lenten Vespers Service. This year the schedule for NJ Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers 2014 include:

- **March 16, St Gregory Palamas Sunday:** SS Peter & Paul Church, South River, NJ
- **March 23, Sunday of the Holy Cross:** St Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ
- **March 30, St John Climacus Sunday:** Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ - (carpools will be formed, ask Fr. Matthew)
- **April 6, Saint Mary of Egypt Sunday:** Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ - (His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL presiding and delivering the homily)

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
 E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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**Christ is in
our midst!**

**He is and ever
shall be!**

Expulsion from Paradise

*Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue,
you teach the thoughtless and protect the poor:
Strengthen and enlighten my heart.*

Word of the Father,

let me not restrain my mouth from crying to you:

*Have mercy on me, a transgressor,
O merciful Lord!*

Kontakion -

Today the Church remembers:

Sunday of Cheesefare - Forgiveness Sunday

- **The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise** • Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (ca. 320) • St. Arsenius, Bishop of Tver' (1409) • Virgin Martyr Euthalia of Sicily (257) • Martyr Troadius of Neo-Cæsarea (3rd c.) • Ven. Agathon of Egypt (5th c.) • 400 Martyrs slain by the Lombards in Sicily (579)

March 2, 2014

**36th Sunday After Pentecost
Triodion week 4**

Tone 3 of the Octoechos
Last Sunday before Lent