

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for:**

**The health of:**

**Joshua** Turpin on his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, requested with love by his grandparents.  
**Nicholas** Zimmerman on his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, offered with love by his family.

**The eternal memory of:**

**Christopher** Dawson from Fr.Dn. Edward and Mat. Holly.  
**Olga** Romanofsky, offered by Andrew and Maribeth

---

**Readings:** **Hebrews 6:13-20** (*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)  
**Ephesians 5:9-19** (*St. John*)  
**Mark 9:17-31** (*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)  
**Matthew 4:25-5:12** (*St. John*)

---

**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:**

<b>Hours - 9:40 AM</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b>
<b>General Confession – 9:45 AM</b> on the first Sunday of each month	
<b>Private Confession -</b> by appointment, contact Father Matthew	
<b>Pannikhidas –</b> after Divine Liturgy 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.**
- From now until Holy Week, there will be a separate **collection canister** at the candle stand for donations towards **Paschal flowers**. Please be generous, thank you!
- The **Sisterhood’s** annual Pascha **basket raffle** will be held on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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.)
- There will be a **meeting of the parish council** today, **March 30<sup>th</sup>**, after coffee hour.
- The next **meeting of the Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will be held on **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** after coffee hour.

**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](mailto: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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus:**

Fourth Sunday-St. John of the Ladder, one of the greatest Ascetics, who in his book, “Spiritual Ladder”, described the various stages of spiritual life.

*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

**Lenten Change of Life:**

And, last but not least: there must be an effort and a decision to **slow down** our life, to put in as much quiet, silence, contemplation, meditation. Radio, TV, newspapers, social gatherings - all these things, however excellent and profitable in themselves, must be cut down to a real minimum. Not because they are bad, but because we have something **more important** to do, and it is impossible to do without a change of life, without some degree of **concentration** and discipline. Lent is the time when we re-evaluate our life in the light of our faith, and this requires a very real effort and discipline. Christ says that a **narrow path** leads to the kingdom of God and we must make our life as narrow as possible. At first the natural and selfish man in us revolts against these limitations. He wants his usual “easy life” with all its pleasures and relaxations. But once we have tasted of such spiritual effort, once we have made by it one step towards God, the reward is great! We discover a joy that cannot be compared to any other joy. We discover the reality of the spiritual world in us. We begin to understand what St. Paul meant by “the joy and peace in the Holy Spirit.” **God Himself enters our soul:** and it is this won

“If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23)

**Let us make this Lent a real Lent!**

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/03/30>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynjoca.org/](http://nynjoca.org/)  
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)  
See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org)  
See us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](http://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)  
Email us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto: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: [searbks1@verizon.net](mailto:searbks1@verizon.net)

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



*Glory to  
Jesus Christ*

*Glory  
forever*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus

*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.*

Tone 1 – Troparion

**March 30, 2025**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, author of The Ladder (6<sup>th</sup> c.)** • St. Sophrony (Sophronius), Bishop of Irkutsk (1771) • Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11—10<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.)  
• Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Cæsar, and Epaphroditus, of the Seventy (1<sup>st</sup> c.) • St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303) • Ven. John the Silent of St. Savva Monastery (6<sup>th</sup> c.) • St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662)

Lenten Triodion Week 8  
40<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 7 of the [Octoechos](#)  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent