

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

# Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

Gospel: John 1:43-51

**Tone 4**

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

## *1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy*

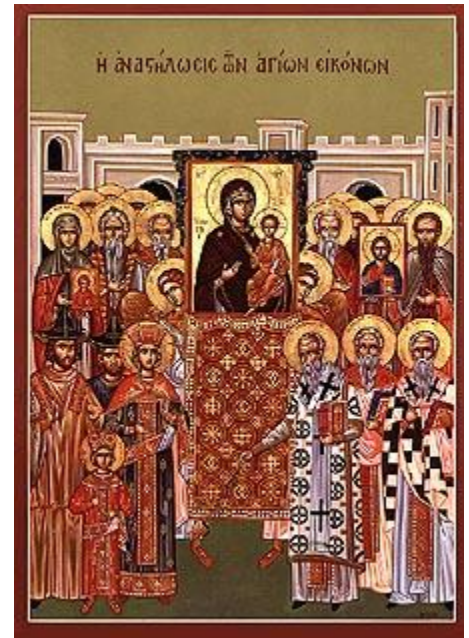
Martyr Conon of Isauria (1st c.). Finding of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Theodore, Prince of Smolensk and Yaroslavl', and his children Ss. David and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavl' (1463). Monk Martyr Adrian of Poshekhónsk (Yaroslavl'—1550). Martyr Onesimus of Isauria (1st c.). Martyr Conon the Gardener, of Pamphylia (3rd c.). Virgin martyr Irais (Raïssa) of Antinoë in Egypt (ca. 308). Martyr Eulogius, of Palestine. Martyr Eulampius, of Palestine. St. Mark the Faster, of Egypt (5th c.). St. Hesychius the Faster, of Bithynia (ca. 790).

## **Troparion – Tone 2**

*We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God. / Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh / to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy. / Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You: / You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, / by coming to save the world.*

## **Kontakion – Tone 8**

*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.*



*1st Sunday of Great Lent:  
Sunday of Orthodoxy*

## **Prayer Requests**

**For Health of:**

**Dhimitra Nushi (Home of Hope), on her birthday offered by Sub-Deacon Vlashi.**

## **Orthodox Quote of the Day**

He is not yet a faithful servant who bases himself on bare knowledge alone; a faithful servant is he who professes his faith by obedience to Christ, Who gave the commandments.

**St. Mark the Ascetic**

***Liturgical Schedule***

**Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am: No Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
9:45 am: General  
Confession  
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Liturgy/  
Presanctified Gifts

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am: Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Liturgy/  
Presanctified Gifts

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm: Vespers

**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am: Sunday School  
9:40 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30 pm: Liturgy/  
Presanctified Gifts

***Bulletin Sponsors***

***No Sponsors***

***Readings:***

**The Prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy name  
forever! (*Song of the three Holy Children, vs. 3*)  
vs. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!  
(*vs. 4*)

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2**

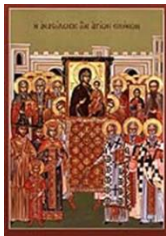
**Brethren**, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, 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.

**Alleluia in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on  
His Name. (*Psalms 98:6*)  
vs. They called to the Lord and He answered them.  
(*Psalms 98:6*)

**Gospel: John 1:43-51**

**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."



### *1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy*

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. Today we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora (February 11).



**Bulletin Sponsor:** Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

**Memorial Candles:** Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

**Private Confessions:** Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

**General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

**Pannikhida Service:** The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

**Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

[OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com](mailto:OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com) ; [reader.charles@hotmail.com](mailto:reader.charles@hotmail.com) or [rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com](mailto:rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com)

**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.



### *Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News*

#### *The Protection of The Mother of God Sisterhood News:*

Also being planned for this Lenten season is a class. The pysanki (Ukrainian egg decorating) class will be held today Sunday March 5th after coffee hour, from 12 to 2 PM. The class is free for church members. Non-parishioners are invited as well, but are asked to pay \$5.00 for supplies.

A Paschal basket raffle is also being planned. A large basket filled with traditional Paschal foods will be raffled off on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Tickets are now available, please see Lore Stefy.

#### *Church School News:*

This year we will be having a Paschal basket raffle just for kids! The basket will include items that will bring holiday happiness to any child. Tickets are not for sale, but can be earned each week your child attends church and church school. One ticket with the child's name on it will be placed in the raffle jar for each Sunday the child is in attendance during Great Lent. One winner will be drawn on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

On Saturday, March 25 at 10 AM, the Sunday School teachers will be holding a prosphora making class for all interested children. Each child will have the opportunity to prepare and make their own personal prosphora loaf. See Linda Dantine or Matushka Barbara Seerforce for more information.

**Services of Great Lent 2017**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 5  | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, Sunday of Orthodoxy  |
| March 8  | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts St. Gregory: with potluck to follow  |
| March 11 | Saturday: 6:30 pm Vespers  |
| March 12 | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, St Gregory Palamas Sunday  |
| March 15 | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow   |
| March 18 | Saturday: 6:30 pm Vespers  |
| March 19 | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Holy Cross   |
| March 22 | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow   |
| March 25 | Saturday: 6:30 pm Vespers  |
| March 26 | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, celebrating Annunciation and St. John Climacus   |
| March 29 | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow   |
| April 1  | Saturday: 6:30 pm Vespers  |
| April 2  | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, St. Mary of Egypt  |
| April 5  | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck to follow,  |
| April 8  | Saturday: 6:30 pm Vespers, Panikhida for the departed to follow  |
| April 9  | Sunday: 10 am Divine Liturgy, Sunday of Entry into Jerusalem   |
| April 12 | Wednesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Sacrament of Holy Unction – Healing Sacrament, open to all Orthodox Christians |
| April 14 | Friday: 7 pm Holy Friday Matins  |
| April 15 | Saturday: 11:30 pm Holy Pascha Vigil Nocturns, Matins, Divine Liturgy  |



**NY/NJ Diocese News**

**ANNUAL LENTEN TEEN RETREAT: 10-12 MARCH 2017**

The **Annual Diocesan Lenten Teen Retreat** is scheduled for **10-12 March 2017 at Saint Basil Academy located at 79 St. Basil's Rd, Garrison NY 10524**. Teens in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend! There is no charge to participate in this three day event. Participants may begin arriving for check-in on Friday, 10 March, beginning at 6:30 PM. The theme will be **"The Challenge: Who Are We Called To Be?"** Guest speaker Greg Fedorchak will have candid discussions addressing participants' aspirations and suggest ways in which they can keep God and the Church in their lives while in pursuit of their goals. Additionally, as a Diocesan sponsored event, Archbishop Michael will be in attendance for part of the weekend. Saint Basil Academy sits on the Hudson River across from West Point Military Academy, approximately an hour north of New York City. During their free time participants will be able to take advantage of the center's indoor gym/basketball court and quaint chapel. See "Upcoming Events" on this webpage for information, details, and registration.

**Congratulations to the following members of our Diocesan family:**

**Father Matthew Markewich**, awarded the Skufiya, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, February 19, in Christ the Savior Church, Ballston Lake NY. May God protect and preserve his servant, the Presbyter Matthew, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"

**Stephan Karlgut**, tonsured to the rank of Reader, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, February 26, in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY. May God protect and preserve His servant, the newly-tonsured Reader Stephan, for many blessed years! "Mnogaya Lyeta!"

***Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News***



**St. Tikhon's Monastery site of PaTRAM's Memorial Day workshop**

In conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery here, the Patriarch Tikhon Russian-American Music Institute [PaTRAM] will hold its Conductors' and Singers' Workshop Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29, 2017. The conference will offer an expanded program for conductors and singers working independently and in tandem with Maestro Dr. Peter Jermihov and other faculty, culminating in singing at the pilgrimage's hierarchical services celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael.

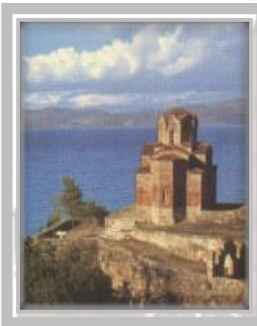
The workshop will provide the aspiring musician—whether just starting out or with more moderate skills—a chance to grow as a singer or choir director. Dr. Jermihov—a highly respected and renowned conductor, teacher and specialist in Orthodox liturgical singing—will lead the team of outstanding faculty members. Conductors will learn the craft of conducting and acquire manual techniques, musicianship and vocal skills, knowledge of liturgical rubrics, and organizational and people skills. Singers will learn the art of choral singing and acquire solid vocal techniques, including proper breathing, purity of vowels, good resonance and beauty of tone. All participants will receive personal attention and feedback, and most importantly aspiring church musicians will reinforce their experiential knowledge of singing and conducting in Church to the glory of God with mind, heart and deep commitment to prayer.

Participants also will have an opportunity to conduct or sing in the Feature Choir for the pilgrimage's hierarchical services. Each participant will receive a VIP ticket to a concert to be performed by the Chamber Choir of Saint Tikhon's Monastery. A special social outing also is being planned.

The workshop cost is \$350.00, which includes tuition, class materials, meals, and activities.

Detailed workshop information and registration forms are available on-line. Questions may be addressed to [info@patraminstitute.org](mailto:info@patraminstitute.org). Early registration is encouraged.

PaTRAM's mission is to cultivate and promote the beauty and spiritual depth of Russian Orthodox liturgical arts in general and choral singing in particular, in both the English and Slavonic languages. PaTRAM seeks to utilize rigorous educational programs, distinctive performance events, and the latest technological tools to realize this mission and founding principal.



***Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, XCVII:***

*Your visit, my Power, brings powers to every creature.  
You pour oil into each of them as into empty lamps, and they begin to burn.  
Blessed is he who receives You into his own emptiness; he will be filled and will burn.  
When there is no oil, the wick burns with smoke and a sooty odor.  
People used to burn before Your visit, but this was not You who would burn, but the wick with its smoke and sooty odor.  
When You came to visit the earth, You filled all the lamps with oil and the oil began to burn, without the smoke and the sooty odor.*

However the ignorant see no difference, but say: "There was burning before, and there is burning now."

The ignorant see no difference between the burning of an empty lamp and the burning of a full lamp.

O you ignorant people, when earth burns with its own fire, this is a wick that is burning and not oil, and it burns with smoke and a sooty odor.

When earthen vessels are filled with heavenly oil, the oil burns, and its burning is with flame and light, but without smoke and the sooty odor.

Indeed, You are not like ordinary visitors, who come to take. You did not come in order to come and go like ordinary visitors, nor to come and take, but rather you came in order to leave something behind -- truly, in order to fill everything and leave it full!

You brim with blessings, O Lord, and every creature is filled with might and power, after You have come to visit.

Water, which used to be able to wash only the body, obtained the power to baptize the soul -- in Your name, O Lord!

Oil, which used to be able to glisten only on a healthy face, obtained the power to give strength to the sick -- in Your name, O Lord!

Bread, which used to be able only to pile up ashes upon ashes within a man, obtained the power to nourish life with Your life -- in Your name, O Lord!

The springs have been imbued with strength, and the gras-ses of the field have ripened with life -- in Your name, O Lord!

Words have become a cure, and signs have become a defense -- in Your name, O Lord!

The dead have begun to take the infirmities of the living upon themselves and the living have begun to converse with the dead as with the living -- in Your name, O Lord!

Tombs, out of which only stench used to seep, have begun to pour forth myrrh, and the dens of wild beasts have become caves for penitents -- in Your name, O Lord!

Before Your visit, O Lord, everything was smokier than a burning wick, and everything was frailer than a cobweb.

Will the ignorant open their eyes and see the difference? For all who are ignorant I kneel and pray before You, O Lord Almighty: Open their eyes, so that they may see the difference.

So that they may see the difference and open their empty lamps, for You to fill them.

So that they may not be forever choking in the smoke and sooty odor, O Heavenly Oil of my lamp.

For all who are ignorant I kneel and pray before You, O Holy Life-creating Spirit.

Blow like a gale and shake up the souls of the ignorant, so that they may wake up and experience the hour of Your visitation.

So that they may repent and kneel down with me and exclaim: "How new earth becomes, after You visit it, O Majestic and Awesome God

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### *Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XCVII:*

#### **III. Us and Our Neighbors How to Relate to the Sins of Others**

A brother asked an elder: If I see my brother fall into sin, is good to hide him? The Elder answered: When, out of love, we hide the sin of our brother, then God also hides our sins; but when we show our brother's sin before others, then God also makes our sins known to people.

**Ancient Patericon, 9.9**

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### *The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon*



#### **The Catholicity of the Church**

*The Church is catholic because Christ is catholic*

Christ's presence in the Church, which is His Body, by its very nature requires us to manifest His catholicity by fully living out our faith by the way we live, and by the way we love. The fact that Christ transforms us by grace, negates that which separates us from one another. The fragmenting nature of the Fall is overcome by Christ, and we are restored to the oneness and unity that had been destroyed by our disobedience. The catholicity of our unity in the Body of Christ is restored.

Christ gathers and unites all peoples, and this catholic nature of the Church is revealed by our love and wholeness to a world in need of His redemptive love. When we opened our hearts to others, and reach out with an abundance of love, we will be willingness to forgive everyone, overlook the failings of others, and actively become a servant to all.

In this catholicity that is the Church, all barriers, be they racial, cultural, economic, national, or social, are overcome by Christ, and we truly manifest the universal nature of our oneness, as originally intended by our Creator God. By our love we will manifest the truth of the Church's catholicity, and her doctrines and worship will be manifest to the whole of the world.



### **Daily Reflection** **Lord of the Sabbath**



*"Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward (εἰς τὸ μέσον, into the middle).' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.'" (Mk 3: 1-6)*

So the Pharisees have murder in their hearts, seeking "to destroy" Jesus, – and this unlawful desire they embrace on the sabbath. At the same time, they object to our Lord's insistence on "doing good" on the sabbath, like healing the man with the withered hand. This is why they are silent, when He asks them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" The Pharisees have so enslaved themselves (and others) to the external forms of the Law that they have no room in their hearts for its Spirit, Who is "Lord of the Sabbath" (cf. Mk 2: 28).

On this Saturday at the end of the first week of Lent, let me re-connect with the Lord of the Sabbath, opening my heart to His humble presence. However "good" or "bad" I am at following our fasting rules, let me not shut out His mercy, through formalistic demands of myself and/or others. I reach out to God, as one with a withered hand, unable "to do good" but by His grace.

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### **Holy Orthodox Quotes**

"Let us lift up our hearts!" The priest exclaims, but our mind often creeps along the ground. Fight against this.

**+St. Barsanuphius of Optina**

#### **Romans 8:5-6**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.† For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

#### **Colossians 3:1-4**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.† Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

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### **The Philokalia: Daily Readings**

Do not reject out of self-love the saving medicine of the soul (humility).

**- St Philotheos of Sinai, 40 Texts on Watchfulness**

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### **Ancient Christian Wisdom**

He is not yet a faithful servant who bases himself on bare knowledge alone; a faithful servant is he who professes his faith by obedience to Christ, Who gave the commandments.

**+ St. Mark the Ascetic**

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### **Wisdom of the Church Fathers**

"You don't become holy by fighting evil. Let evil be. Look towards Christ and that will save you. What makes a person saintly is love!"

**+ Saint Porphyrios the Kapsokalivite "Grandpa"(1906-1991)**

***Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity***

**St Philaret of Moscow: Every Christian..**

“Every Christian should find for himself the imperative and incentive to become holy. If you live without struggle and without hope of becoming holy, then you are Christians only in name and not in essence. But without holiness, no one shall see the Lord, that is to say they will not attain eternal blessedness. It is a trustworthy saying that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). But we deceive ourselves if we think that we are saved while remaining sinners. Christ saves those sinners by giving them the means to become saints.”

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**DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY**  
**New Jersey Deanery - SOUTH**  
**Lenten and Bright Week Vespers Schedule**

**Sunday, March 5 – 5:00pm**

**First Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Saints Peter and Paul Church, 71 Whitehead Road, South River

**Sunday, March 12 – 5:00pm**

**Second Sunday of Great Lent – St. Gregory Palamas**

Mother of God Church, 904 Cherry Hill Road, Princeton

**Sunday, March 19– 5:00pm**

**Third Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of the Cross**

Church of the Holy Cross, 11 Wilkins Station Road, Medford

**Sunday, March 26 – 5:00pm**

**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent – St. John Climacus**

To Be Announced

**Sunday, April 2 – 5:00pm**

**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent – St. Mary of Egypt**

Saints Peter and Paul Church, 605 Washington Avenue, Manville

**Wednesday, April 19 – 7:00pm**

**Bright Wednesday**

Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Road, Paramus

*Celebrant and Homilist: Archbishop MICHAEL*

*Fellowship and refreshments are available after every service  
Freewill offerings to help fund the work of the deanery are accepted at every service*

**New Jersey Deanery SOUTH Parishes**

Brick, *Annunciation Church* – Jackson, *Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church*

Manville, *Ss. Peter & Paul Church* – Mays Landing, *Church of the Mother of God*

Medford, *Church of the Holy Cross* - Perth Amboy, *St. Spiridon Church*

Princeton, *Holy Transfiguration Chapel* - Princeton, *Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Church*

Rahway, *Holy Trinity Church* - South River, *Ss. Peter and Paul Church*

Trenton, *St. Vladimir Church*