

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:

For the memory of:

Joseph Milaro, offered by his daughter Denise Hartzel.

Readings:

Hebrews 11:24-26,32-12:2 (*1st Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

John 1:43-51 (*1st Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

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.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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."

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:

- Fr. Matthew has emailed the **schedule of Lenten services**. Please try to attend as many as you can. **This Wednesday at 6:30 pm, we will celebrate the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** (St. Gregory).
- The **annual Paschal basket raffle will be held on April 5th**. Tickets for the raffle are \$1.00 each and can be obtained from Maribeth Romanofsky. Each parishioner is asked to sell ten tickets. If you'd like to contribute an item for the basket, there is a sign-up sheet on the community bulletin board.
- **Two Paschal baskets for children** will be raffled off on April 12th. Children can earn tickets for this raffle by attendance at church and Sunday School during Lent.

Reminders:

- **Dues and assessments** are now being collected for the year 2020. Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200. Partial payments are gladly accepted. Please indicate on the check that it is to be applied to Membership.
- We offer **general confession** the first Sunday of each month, and **Private Confession** after Vespers by appointment on Saturday evenings. It is important that every Orthodox Christian go to confession.
- 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.

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).

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome.

The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 Jn 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

*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.*

Kontakion – Tone 8

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2020/03/08>

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

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

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

*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.*

Troparion – Tone 2

Today the Church remembers:

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT • Sunday of Orthodoxy • St. Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (842-845) • Ven. Lazarus (1391) and Athanasius (15th c.), of Múrom • Apostle Hermas of the Seventy (1st c.) • Hieromartyr Theodoretus of Antioch (4th c.) • Ven. Dometius (363) • The "KURSK-ROOT" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos

March 8, 2020

**1st Sunday of Great Lent
Triodion week 5**

**Tone 5 of the Octoechos
Sunday of Orthodoxy**