

(There are no bulletin sponsors this week)

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**Readings:** **Hebrews 11:24-26,32-40** (*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)  
[Hebrews 12:1-10](#) (*40 Martyrs of Sebaste*)  
**John 1:43-51** (*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy*)  
[Matthew 20:1-16](#) (*40 Martyrs of Sebaste*)

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**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.

**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.”

**Sunday Services:**

<p><b>Hours - 9:40 AM</b>  <b>General Confession</b> – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month  <b>Private Confession</b> - by appointment, contact Father Matthew Pannikidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</p>	<p><b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b></p>
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**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 Lent at 6:30 PM.**
- Today, March 9, **Orthodox Sunday Vespers will take place at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 285 French Hill Rd., Wayne, NJ**, beginning at 4:00 PM. A Lenten supper will follow the service. His Eminence Archbishop Michael along with clergy from our Diocese and various other Orthodox jurisdictions will concelebrate the Vespers.
- The **Sisterhood’s** annual Pascha **basket raffle** is coming up soon. The basket will contain many traditional ethnic foods for the holiday. Each parishioner is asked to sell or buy 10 tickets at \$1 each. The raffle will be held on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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.) For more information, see Maribeth Romanofsky or Tamara Zimmerman.
- A **Pysanky** (egg decorating) **class** is planned for Sunday **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** after coffee hour. Please see Mat. Holly Dawson for more information.

**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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy:**

The First Sunday-Triumph of Orthodoxy– commemorates the victory of the Church over the last major heresy: Icorioclasm (842).

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today’s Liturgy reflect this older usage.

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 state by uniting it to divine beauty.*

*We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images.*

Kontakion – Tone 8

**Lenten Fasting:**

The first universal precept is that of **fasting**. The Orthodox teaching concerning fasting is different from the Roman Catholic doctrine and it is essential to understand it. Roman Catholics identify fasting with a “good deed,” see in it a sacrifice which earns a “merit.” The Orthodox idea of fasting is first of all that of an **ascetical effort**. It is the effort to subdue the physical, the fleshly man to the spiritual one, the “natural” to the “supernatural.” Limitations in food are **instrumental**; they are not ends in themselves. Fasting thus is but a means of reaching a spiritual goal and, therefore, an integral part of a wide spiritual effort. Fasting, in the Orthodox understanding, includes more than abstinence from certain types of food. It implies prayer, silence, an internal disposition of mind, an attempt to be charitable, kind, and-in one word-**spiritual**. Brethren, while fasting bodily, let us also fast spiritually...

And because of this the Orthodox doctrine of fasting excludes the evaluation of fasting in terms of a “maximum” or “minimum.” **Every one must find his maximum**, weigh his conscience and find in it his “pattern of fasting.” But this pattern must necessarily include the spiritual as well as the “bodily” elements. The Typicon and the canons of the Church give the description of an ideal fast: no meat or dairy products, total abstinence on certain days. “He that is able to receive it, let him receive it” (Matt. 19:12). But, whatever is our measure-our fasting must be a total effort of our total being.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/03/09>

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,**

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**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



*Glory to  
Jesus Christ*

*Glory  
forever*

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.*

Tone 2 –Troparion

**March 9, 2025**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy** • The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste: Cyriion (or Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclus, Smaragdus, Eunocius (or Eunicus), Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Prescus, Theodulus, Euthychius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecditius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontius, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, Agladius, and Meliton (ca. 320) • Martyr Urpasianus, of Nicomedia (ca. 295) • St. Cæsarius, brother of St. Gregory the Theologian (ca. 369) • Righteous Tarasius • The “ALBAZIN” Icon of the Mother of God (“THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH”—1666) • Venerable Vitalius of Castronovo (10<sup>th</sup> c.)

Lenten Triodion Week 5  
37<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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