

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For health of:**

Fr. **Matthew** offered by the Parish Council.

**Michael** Naumov on his birthday, offered by Grandma Elena Wolff and family

**Marisa** Romanofsky on her birthday, offered by her family

**For the eternal memory of:**

**Kathleen**, Mother of Maribeth Romanofsky

**Readings:**

- Galatians 6:11-18
- Luke 13:10-17

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**BRETHREN**, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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**At that time**, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**Saturday service: Vespers** – temporarily canceled due to Fr. Matthew's absence.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

**Coffee hour** – after Liturgy

**Church School** - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)

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

**Announcements:**

- We would like to welcome the Fr. Daniel Hubiak to our parish, and thank him for celebrating Divine Liturgy with us today.
- Fr. Matthew is still recovering from his car accident. Please continue to pray for him and his recovery.
- We would like to thank Fr. Gregory and Matushka Linda Dudash for joining us last Sunday.
- The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be December 1<sup>st</sup>, after coffee hour.
- The baptism of Gabrielle Guedes will be celebrated on December 8<sup>th</sup> during Liturgy.
- Our annual St. Nicholas Day celebration will be held on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. All children are welcome to join us after Divine Liturgy to help decorate our tree. We are hoping for a visit from St. Nicholas himself. If you would like your child to participate in the festivities, please see Maribeth Romanofsky or Linda Dantine for details.

**Special Announcements:**

- Books make great gifts. Please check our online bookstore at: [astore.amazon.com/orchofthmoofg-20](http://astore.amazon.com/orchofthmoofg-20) or use the "Church Bookstore" link on our website: [churchmotherofgod.org](http://churchmotherofgod.org)
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

**Who is in Delusion?**

A recent issue of Time Magazine contained an interview with Richard Dawkins, a biologist and popular author well-known for his vehemently atheistic opinions. As part of the interview, a reader asked, "Given how little we know about the universe, how can we possibly be sure there is no God?"

Dawkins' answer: "There are all sorts of things we can't be sure of—we can't be sure there are no leprechauns and fairies. Science in the future is going to be revealing all sorts of things which we have no idea of at present, but it's extremely unlikely that it would happen to home in on an idea from a Bronze Age tribe in the desert." With typical disdain, he breezily equates belief in God's existence with belief in leprechauns and fairies.

Dawkins claims that reliable truth must be based on evidence. He has no use for religious faith, which he calls "blind trust in the absence of evidence." Yet his answer to the Time Magazine reader is not at all based on evidence. He says that it's "highly unlikely" that science will "home in on" the God of the ancient Scriptures. Where's the evidence for such a statement? What facts is it based on? How does he know this?

In giving such an answer, Dawkins unwittingly displays his own faith, his absolute certainty that only science can reveal truth. It's a very dogmatic faith, too. It leads him to claim that anyone who doesn't share it is deluded, holding onto an "infantile" idea, a relic from a superstitious era in human history.

This exclusive faith in science is the basis for the title of one of Dawkins' best-known books, "The God Delusion." He writes that a world without God would be a better one, because religious faith cripples people's minds.

The Orthodox Church knows about delusion. In the baptismal service, God is asked to remove far from the one being baptized his or her "former delusion." In his book "For the Life of the World" Father Alexander Schmemmann describes baptism as God's gift to bring us out of delusion into truth. He writes: "The world from which the human being has received his life, and which will determine this life, is a prison. The Church did not have to wait for Kafka or Sartre to know it. But the Church also knows that the gates of this hell have been broken and that another Power has entered the world and claimed it for its true Owner."

Father Alexander then discusses the exorcism prayers, in which the baptismal candidate is asked to renounce Satan and confess faith in God. Father writes that the meaning of the exorcisms is "to face evil, to acknowledge its reality, to know its power, and to proclaim the power of God to destroy it. The exorcisms announce the forthcoming baptism as an act of victory."

Christians would say, to deny that we have been given that victory by the only one who can give it, is truly to live in delusion. Why would anyone want to do that?



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E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

Founded 1966

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**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

**Afterfeast of the Entry Into  
the Temple**

*The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,  
is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
therefore, the angels of God praise her:  
"Truly this woman is the abode of heaven."*

Kontakion -

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple** • Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313). Greatmartyr Mercurius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (3rd c.) • Martyr Merkúry of Smolensk (1238) • Ven. Mercurius, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.) • Martyrs Augusta the Empress, Porphyrius the General, and 20 soldiers, martyred at Alexandria with Greatmartyr Catherine (305-313) • Virgin Mastridia of Alexandria • Martyr Philotheus (Romanian—1060) • Ven. Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery (Vologdá—1562)

**November 24, 2013**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**Tone 5 of the Octoechos  
(Nativity Fast)**