

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:****Kathleen** Sheehan, mother of Maribeth Romanofsky**For health and of:****Marisa** Romanofsky, on her 21st birthday, offered by her family.**Eugina**, on her 6th birthday, offered by Tatsiana, Anthony, and Mark DaGrosa**Readings:**

- **Ephesians 4:1-6**
- **Luke 13:10-17**

BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

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 – 6:00 PM**Sunday service:****Hours** - 9:40 AM**Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM**(Private Confession** – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)**(General Confession** – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)**(Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)**Church School** – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

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

Announcements:

- Last Sunday Fr. Daniel Hubiak announced that today is his last Sunday as our Temporary Rector. We are thankful for his time with us. **May God grant many years to Fr. Daniel and Matushka Dunia.**
- **There will be a meeting of the Parish Council today after coffee hour.**
- **There will be choir practice 9:30 AM downstairs next Sunday, December 2nd.** The practice is for the Christmas services.
- To make a donation to the **Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund**, please make checks payable to "Diocese of New York and New Jersey" with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo. **Mail to:** Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund, c/o Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 285 French Hill Rd, Wayne NJ 07470-3976
- **Upcoming December events:** On Sunday **December 9th** we will be **decorating our Christmas tree** after the Liturgy. All children are invited to help with the decoration. This event will be held downstairs in our community room.
Our annual St Nicholas Day Celebration will be held on Sunday December 16th. There will be a short Sunday School presentation followed by a pizza party and a visit from St Nicholas. If you would like your child to receive a gift from St Nicholas, please bring that gift, wrapped and with their name on it, in on that day. Again, all children are invited to participate.
- **The Diocese of New York and New Jersey is running webinars on parish growth**, the next one is on November 28 at 8:00 pm. – 9:00 pm. If interested, you can register at:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/666562520>. See the Diocese website for more information at **NYNJOCA.ORG**. Also, please take the survey at: **<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X2M62QC>**
- The **Diocesan Assembly** will be held at the Holy Assumption Church, Clifton, New Jersey on Tuesday, December 11, 2012.
- **Dues and assessments for the year 2012 are still being collected**, Total **Parish Membership Fee is now \$200**. Partial payments are gladly accepted.

Nativity Fast (or Advent; also called St. Philip's Fast):

As Orthodox Christians, we begin the celebration of the Nativity of Christ (December 25) with a time of preparation. Forty days before the feast of the birth of Our Lord we enter the period of the Christmas Fast [Advent]: to purify both soul and body to enter properly into and partake of the great spiritual reality of Christ's Coming. This fasting season does not constitute the intense liturgical season that is characteristic of Great Lent; rather, Christmas Lent is more of an "ascetical" rather than "liturgical" nature. Nevertheless, the Christmas fasting season is reflected in the life of the Church in a number of liturgical notes that announce the coming feast.

Within the forty days preparation the theme of the approaching Nativity is introduced in the services and liturgical commemorations, little by little. If the beginning of the fast on November 15 is not liturgically marked by any hymn, five days later, on the eve of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, we hear the first announcement from the nine *hirmoi* of the Christmas Canon: "Christ is born, glorify Him!"

With these words something changes in our life, in the very air we breathe, in the entire mood of the Church's life. It is as if we perceive far, far away, the first light of the greatest possible joy — the coming of God into His world! Thus the Church announces the coming of Christ, the Incarnation of God, His entrance into the world for its salvation. Then, on the two Sundays preceding Christmas, the Church commemorates the Forefathers and the Fathers: the prophets and the saints of the Old Testament who prepared that coming, who made history itself into the expectation, the waiting for, the salvation and reconciliation of mankind with God. Finally, on December 20th, the church begins the Forefeast of the Nativity, whose liturgical structure is similar to the Holy Week preceding Pascha — for the birth of the Son of God as child is the beginning of the saving ministry which will lead Him, for the sake of our salvation, to the ultimate sacrifice of the Cross.

Rev. Alexander Schmemmann

This Nativity Season, try to remember some of the remarkable saints of the season, such as Apostle Andrew, the Holy and All-Praised First-Called November 30; St. Nicholas, December 6; St. Herman of Alaska, December 13; St. Stephen the protomartyr, December 26; and on New Year's Day, St. Basil. Try to increase prayer time. Go to confession.

Remember to give alms with generosity and joy. Try to go to Church more often. And try to incorporate the Church's traditions in ways that make sense here and now (such as an Advent wreath and calendar for six Sundays, or a Christmas Eve dinner that is a variation of old traditions). Though we may not be perfect fasters, we must try to incorporate the spirit of Orthodox worship and emphasis to this time of year. Also remember:

"The Lord's birth and baptism are directly connected to His dying and rising. He was born in order to die. (The harmony between the events is overwhelming.) Jesus lay as an infant in the cavern in the reign of Caesar Augustus that He might lay in the tomb under Pontius Pilate. He was hounded by Herod that He might be caught by Caiaphas ... He was worshipped by wise men that the whole of creation might adore Him in His triumph over death."

-Rev. Thomas Hopko

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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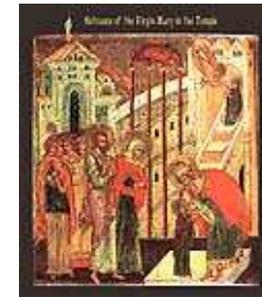
Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**Very Reverend Daniel Hubiak,
Temporary Rector**



Leavetaking Entry Into the Temple

Glory to Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

*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,
Which the angels of God do praise.
Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!*

Kontakion- Leavetaking

Today the Church remembers:

Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple • Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians (916) • Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (101). Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria (311) • St. Peter Galata of Syria (ca. 429)

November 25, 2012

Nativity Fast

Tone 8 of the Octoechos

25th Sunday After Pentecost
10th Sunday of Luke