

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For the health of:**

Marisa Romanofsky on her birthday, offered by her family.

For memory of:

Kathleen, mother of Maribeth, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Readings:

Ephesians 5:9-19 (*26th Sunday after Pentecost*)
 Hebrews 9:1-7 (*Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos*)
Luke 13:10-17 (*10th Sunday of Luke*)
 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (*Most-Holy Theotokos*)

BRETHREN the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

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 – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM
 (Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)
 (General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

2nd through 8th grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

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:

- There will be a meeting of the Church Council today after coffee hour.

Upcoming Nativity season events:

- Dec. 2 - Tree decorating for parish children after coffee hour.
- Dec. 8 – Our church will be participating in the Mays Landing Open House from 5:00-9:00 pm.
- Dec 9 – Annual St. Nicholas Day Celebration: pizza party and visit from St. Nicholas! All parish and visiting children are invited to participate.
- Related information:
 - All parish families are asked to bring in one poinsettia plant to help beautify our church. Please have your poinsettia in by Sunday Dec. 2nd so our church will look lovely for the Open House on Dec. 8th.
 - Parents of parish children who will be participating in the St. Nicholas celebration should bring in a wrapped present for their child on that day, to be given out by St Nicholas.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements or prayer requests for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **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.

Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos Into the Temple:

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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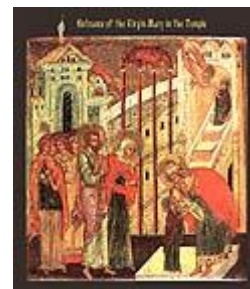
The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

856-227-6915



**Glory to
Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most
Holy Theotokos Into the Temple*

*Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
Of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the temple of God,
In anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.*

Let us rejoice and sing to her:

Rejoice, O Divine Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!

Troparion (Leavetaking of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos) – Tone 4

On this day 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, 2018 - Bulletin

Nativity Fast
Tone 1 of the Octoechos

26th Sunday After Pentecost
10th Sunday of Luke