

**The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos:**

On **October 1st**, the Church celebrates *The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary*. This holiday was established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Russian Church, although the historical basis for it was the defeat of their Russian forebears as they attacked the capital of Byzantium, Constantinople, which was saved through the intercession of the Theotokos. (Celebrated on October 28 in the Greek tradition.)

The Russian Church celebrates an event which occurred in ancient times and in a foreign land - the faraway Greek city of Constantinople, more than 1000 years ago. The event took place in the Vlaherna church, in the presence of a multitude of people, although it was seen only by two - the blessed fool-for-Christ Andrew and his disciple Epiphanius. Both of them saw the Queen of heaven and earth appear in the church, praying for the world and all the people, and blessing the faithful with her most-holy covering.

In the great city of Constantinople St. Andrew seemed to be poor and base-born. However, under the cover of oddity he concealed from everyone his shining spirit and his grace filled wisdom. St. Andrew was a Slav by birth and as a child was sold into slavery.

Beloved by his master, he received an excellent education and showed particular aptitude for reading and writing; as a result he was given the honorable position of scribe. However, his innate wisdom impelled him to shun earthly honors and immerse himself in spiritual contemplation. Following his inner impulse, he left the world under the guise of madness, concealing his great spiritual gifts under beggar's rags, and took upon himself the spiritual feat of foolishness-for-Christ, along with the labors of fasting, poverty, homelessness and constant prayer. It was this fool-for-Christ whom the Mother of God chose to witness Her coming to the Vlaherna church. She chose neither the patriarch, nor a bishop, nor a clergyman or monastic; She chose neither the king or his nobles, nor any of the wise and learned men for whom Byzantium was famous; nor did She choose any of the city's prominent citizens. Instead, the Holy Theotokos chose the fool-for-Christ Andrew, and granted him the grace of witnessing, together with his pious disciple Epiphanius, the great and awesome vision.

This happened at the end of blessed Andrew's life. While attending an all-night vigil at Vlaherna, in the early hours of the morning he saw the Mother of God enter the church through the royal doors, surrounded by a host of angels and a multitude of saints, supported by Saint John the Baptist and the holy apostle John the Theologian.

As the Theotokos approached the ambo, Saint Andrew asked Epiphanius: **"Do you see the Mistress and Queen of the world?"** To which the latter tremblingly replied: **"I see, father, and I am awed."** After praying for a while, the Most-pure took off Her head covering, which glittered like lightning, and spread it over the people.

**In celebrating this feast, the Church commemorates the great and joyous revelation of the divine protection which is spread over the world, the Mother of God's great love for mankind.** For not only in the Vlaherna church did the Theotokos tearfully pray a thousand years ago, but She prays for us always until the end of time. And Her venerable covering was spread not only over the faithful who were present in church at that time, but over the entire world, over all of mankind, and over all of us, sinners, shines the saving Protection of the Mother of God.

**The world has not been abandoned in its sorrow;** man is not alone in his grief: for us, and together with us, grieves the Holy Virgin. Yes, we know that we are great sinners, but we also know that we have not been forgotten by the Mother of God, to Whom each human soul is precious. Can there be any greater comfort? Throughout the ages the joy of the Holy Virgin's Protection shines in the hearts of the faithful, the joy of Her prayer for the world.

See us on the web at:  
[ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
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"*

115 Hudson St.  
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**Rev. Boris Slotsky, Rector**

2B Pembroke Lane  
Manchester, New Jersey 08759  
(732) 350-9588



**Christ is in our midst!**

**He is and always will be!**

**The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary**

*Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.*

*Angels and bishops worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.*

Kontakion - Protection of the Mother of God

---

**On this day the Church remembers:**

Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia (304). Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople (936). Repose of Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Kashin (1338). Ven. Cassian of Uglich (1504). Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia (740). Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov (1817).

---

October 2, 2011

**Tone 7** of the Octoechos.

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke

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

Members of the **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God**, offered by the parish counsel.

Members of the **Parish Choir**, offered by the parish counsel.

**Readings:**

- 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
- Luke 6:31-36

**BRETHREN**, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**The Lord said**, "And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

**Summer Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**(General Confession – 9:50 AM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**Church School - 9:30 AM**

(no classes 1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

- **Today**, (first Sunday after the feast-day of Saint Romanus the Melodist) the diocese of New York and New Jersey marks its first "**Choir Appreciation Day.**" Faithful of the diocese are encouraged to recognize the importance of dedicated parish choir leaders and singers, and to celebrate the God-given talents of their choir members while expressing gratitude to them (and God) for their musical ministry.
- **Church School** will not meet on the first Sunday of each month beginning today, so that the students will be on time for General Confession.
- **The Church School** is in need of a preschool teacher to work with our youngest students. The requirements are: the ability to arrive at Church by 9:30 for three out of four weeks a month (no Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month), patience with young children, and basic knowledge of our faith. **No home preparation will be necessary**, as all lesson plans will be prepared for you in advance. Please see Maribeth Romanofsky if interested.
- **Pannikhida Services** - The Church Council asks that all Pannikhida Services be restricted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. The Pannikhida, if requested, will be celebrated right after the Liturgy and before Coffee Hour. From ancient times it has been an established custom to remember the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> day after their repose. The parish will still respect this tradition, but for the anniversary of death, or for the name day of our deceased loved ones, etc., we would like to have this service monthly on the same Sunday. (Arrangements can be made through Fr. Boris)

**Upcoming Sisterhood Events:**

- **Today**, the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be having a covered dish luncheon in honor of their Feast Day. Cost is \$5.00 for adults.
- The Sisterhood **will be meeting next Sunday, October 9th**, after coffee hour.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Today** there will be a Pannikhida for **Diane Evanova** requested by her daughter and son-in-law.