

The bulletin sponsors this week are for:**The Health of:**

Adam Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his family.

Readings: **II Corinthians 11:31-12:9** (*19th Sunday after Pentecost*)
Luke 7:11-16 (*3rd Sunday of Luke*)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Ar'etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Sunday Services:

Hours - 9:40 AM	Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month	
Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew	
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3 rd Sunday of each month	

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 has started for the new school year.**Announcements:**

- The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for **Sunday, October 29th**, after coffee hour.
- Save the date! On **Sunday December 10th**, **Archbishop Michael** will be visiting our parish. Invite your family and friends! There will be a luncheon after the Liturgy along with our celebration of St. Nicholas' Day. This will be our only Fall luncheon this year!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.

Reminders:

- 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.)
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- 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.

Venerable Euthymius the New of Thessalonica, and Monk of Mount Athos:

*Crossing dryshod through the storms of life,
venerable and divinely wise Euthymius,
you mightily drowned the bodiless foe in the streams of your tears;
you received the gift of miracles to heal all sufferings.
Unceasingly pray for us all.*

Kontakion – Tone 2

Parables:

Since the time of the primitive Christian Church, parable has been the term for a story told by the Lord Jesus Christ to illustrate His teaching. The Greek root-word, parable, means comparison. So a parable is a spiritual lesson of a story developed by comparison to everyday life. The Lord's parables draw memorable details from nature, human, social, economic, or religious life of His time. Characteristically, all oral teachers of the eastern cast of mind teach by comparisons and riddles, using homely images to stir curiosity and reflection. So His parables use images from life in this world to discover spiritual truth.

The Savior also told sacred insights in parables for three practical reasons.

First, His parables were hard for many listeners to grasp, but His listeners could recall the vivid details from ordinary life long enough to discover the wisdom behind the allegory.

Second, the Lord Jesus Christ told parables to make men expect a double meaning, and to make them want to discover the fullness of the divine plan for their conversion. Because the Church and Kingdom that our Lord founded differ so sharply from the Jewish expectation of the Messiah at that time, that the Lord's teaching had to be cautious and indirect. His parables use allegory to compare the recognizable world to the start, development, mixed character, and final triumph of Church and Kingdom. What may seem simple to us, of course, was a intriguing riddle to His contemporaries.

And third, the Lord used the parable format because His followers could not readily forget or misinterpret the commonplace images. The parable format preserves the purity of Christ's teaching in distinct but evocative images.

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/10/15>

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and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
forever**

Venerable Euthymius the New of
Thessalonica, and Monk of Mount Athos

*The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Father,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away
but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, venerable Euthymius, rejoices with the angels.*

Troparion – Tone 8

October 15, 2023

Today the Church remembers:

Ven. Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica, Monk of Mt. Athos (889) •
Martyr Lucian, Presbyter of Antioch (312) • St. John, Bishop of Suzdal' (14th c.)
• Hieromartyr Lucian, Presbyter of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1243) •
Martyrs Sarbelius and Bebaia (Barbea) of Edessa (2nd c.) • St. Sabinus, Bishop
of Catania (760)

19th Sunday after Pentecost
4th Sunday of Luke

Tone 2 of the Octoechos.