

Bulletin sponsors this week are for the:**Health of:**

Adam Romanofsky on his birthday, offered by his parents with love.

Readings:

II Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (*19th Sunday after Pentecost*)
Luke 8:5-15 (*4th 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 Father 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 classes meet every Sunday.

Please see your child's teacher for meeting times.

Announcements:

- The **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will have a meeting today after coffee hour.
- Our parish will be celebrating our **59th anniversary** on **Sunday, November 9th** with a potluck **luncheon** after the Divine Liturgy. The luncheon will **cost \$10** per person (13 and up), **payable at the door**. A sign-up sheet for luncheon items is posted downstairs. All parishioners are invited to share a food or beverage item!
- The **Parish Council** under direction of Archbishop Michael, will be creating a special fund for a **parish rectory**. As our parish grows and with an eye toward the future, this is an important step for our becoming a full time parish. Please **mark** any **donations** for this important fund with the designation “**Rectory**”.

Reminders:

- **The Sisterhood's food drive is ongoing.** Please be generous with your donations. Collection bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Thank you.
- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.** And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin should be **submitted by email to:** bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org
- Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our parish. There is a donation basket at the candle stand. Also, a **Venmo account** can be used for donations. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>.
- **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.

Prophet Joel:

The Prophet Joel (800 B.C.) predicted the desolation of Jerusalem. He also prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all people, through the Savior of the world (Joel 2:28-32).

*Enlightened by the Spirit,
your pure heart became the dwelling place of most splendid prophecy;
for you saw things far off as if they were near.
Therefore, we honor you, blessed and glorious Prophet Joel.*

Kontakion — Tone 4

Martyr Varus, and with him seven Monastic Martyrs:

Martyr Varus lived in Egypt during the period of several persecutions against Christians (late third to early fourth century). Varus (Ouaros) was a military commander and secretly a Christian. He gave assistance to many of the persecuted and imprisoned Christians, and he visited the prisoners at night. He also brought food to the prisoners, dressed their wounds, and gave them encouragement.

Once Varus spent a whole night talking with seven imprisoned monks. These men were Christian teachers who had been beaten and starved. Varus marched with the teachers when they were led to their execution. The judge, seeing Varus' strong faith, had him fiercely beaten. Varus died during the beating. After his death, the monks were beheaded.

*Your holy martyr Varus, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.
Through his intercession, save our souls!*

Tone 4 - Troparion (St. Varus)

*Following Christ, O Martyr Varus, you drank of His chalice;
you received the crown of martyrdom and now rejoice with the Angels.
Pray for our souls unceasingly!*

Tone 4 - Kontakion (St. Varus)

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/10/19>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

See our Website at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org

See our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

Email us at: bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

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Prophet Joel

*Glory to
Jesus Christ*

*Glory
Forever*

*We celebrate the memory
of Your prophet Joel, O Lord;
through him we entreat You,
save our souls.*

Tone 2 — Troparion

October 19, 2025

Today the Church remembers:

Prophet Joel (ca. 800 B.C.) • Martyr Varus, and with him seven Monastic Martyrs (ca. 307) • Translation of the Relics of Ven. John, Abbot of Rila, Bulgaria (1238) • Bl. Cleopatra and her son John, in Egypt (327) • Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342)

19th Sunday after Pentecost
4th Sunday of Luke

Tone 2 of the [Octoechos](#)