

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

Lidia Naumov on her birthday, daughter of Elena Wolff, offered by her family
Sub Deacon Edward on his birthday, offered by his family

For the memory of:

Theodore Prinz, offered by his daughters, Lore Stefy and Nelly Freed

Readings:

- 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1
- Luke 6:31-36

BRETHREN, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, >and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain.

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."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession – Half hour before any service.

See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room

Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

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

Announcements:

- The **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be meeting **today** after coffee hour. The Sisterhood celebrated their Feast Day this past week. Next Sunday, October 12th, the Sisterhood members will be treated to a special lunch provided by Fr. Matthew.
- Today is the last day of the annual **Russian Festival at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church**, 4th Street and Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia PA. It ends at 4:00 pm.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be October 26th** after coffee hour.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements 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.

St. Maximus says: "The passion of greed is revealed when one is happy in receiving, but unhappy in giving. Such a person cannot be a good steward."

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

Last Wednesday, **October 1st**, the Church celebrated *The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary*. The Russian Church established this holiday in the 12th century, 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 Vlakherna 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 Vlakherna 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 Vlakherna, 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 Vlakherna 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
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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Synaxis of the Hierarchs
of Moscow

Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
Forever

*You were holy as hierarchs;
You taught the people and you were well-pleasing to God.
He has glorified you with incorruption and miracles
As disciples of the grace of God.*

Kontakion — Tone 3

Today the Church remembers:

Martyr Charitina of Amisus (304) • Ss. Peter, Aleksey, Jonah, Philip, and Germogén, Metropolitans of Moscow and All Russia • Ven. Damian the Healer (1097), Jeremiah (ca. 1070), and Matthew (ca. 1085), Clairvoyants, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves) • St. Charitina, Princess of Lithuania (1281) • Hieromartyr Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria (264-264) • Martyr Memelta of Persia (ca. 344) • St. Gregory of Chandzoe in Georgia (861) • Ven. Eudocimus of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos)

October 5, 2014

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8 of the Octoechos