

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

Members of the Sisterhood, offered by Holly Dawson.
Newborn **Gabrielle and her family**.

Readings:

- 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4
- Luke 6:31-36

BRETHREN, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me--it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

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****Church School - 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, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- Congratulations to Susan, Michael, Alex, and Jonathan Guedes on the new addition to their family, Gabrielle, who was born on September 24th. **Blessings and many happy years to Gabrielle and family!**
- Today, the faithful of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey will celebrate “**Church Musician Appreciation Day.**” It is the Sunday closest to the feast-day of *Saint Romanus the Melodist* (October 1). Special thanks to the choir directors, singers, composers, arrangers, and those who teach church music to the children in our diocese.
- There will be a **meeting of the Parish Council** today, September 29th, after coffee hour.
- The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be sponsoring their **Annual Feast Day Luncheon** next Sunday, October 6th. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Children under 12 and Sunday School Students are free.
- **His Grace Bishop Michael** will be visiting our parish on the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd. The Sisterhood will be sponsoring a luncheon on Sunday November 3rd after the Divine Liturgy in his honor. The luncheon will also commemorate the 47th anniversary of our parish. Ethnic foods will be featured. Cost of the luncheon will be \$10.00 per person.

Special Announcements:

- Special 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.

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

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 12th 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 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.

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

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**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

**Protection of our Most Holy
Lady the Mother of God and
Ever-Virgin Mary
(Tuesday)**

*Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
"Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection;
deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ,
your Son and our God that He may save our souls."*

Troparion - Protection

Today the Church remembers:

Ven. Cyriacus the Hermit, of Palestine (556) • Martyrs Dada, Gabelas, and Casdoë (Casdoa) of Persia (4th c.) • Ven. Theophanes the Merciful of Gaza.



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

September 29, 2013

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 of the Octoechos