

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

**Mike and Susan** Guedes on their 21th Anniversary, offered by their family.

**Memory of:**

**Paul** Jankowski, 40 Days, offered by Linda Jankowski (**Pannikhida**)

**Readings:**

- **II Corinthians 9:6-11 (18th Sunday after Pentecost)**
- **Luke 6:31-36 (2nd Sunday of Luke)**

**BRETHREN**, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

**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:PM****Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM** **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
**(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)**  
**(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)**  
**(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**Church School**

2nd through 8th grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)  
 Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion.

**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:**

- **There will be a council meeting today after coffee hour.** If you are a council member and have an agenda item for this meeting, please notify Andy.
- **The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos Appreciation Dinner** will be held October 7<sup>th</sup> at Cousin Mario's. An e-mail was sent to each member with details. (or see Linda Dantine for details)
- **Annual Anniversary Dinner will be held November 4<sup>th</sup>.** Space is limited! Fr. Matthew sent out an e-mail with details and reservation forms.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Any Announcements or prayer requests for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto: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.)

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.

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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

### The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

### V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

Temporary Rector



*(Hieromartyr Gregory)*

**Glory to Jesus Christ**

**Glory Forever**

*By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,  
even to the shedding of your blood.  
Hieromartyr Gregory, entreat Christ God to save our souls.*

Troparion -

### **On this day the Church remembers:**

Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Greater Armenia (ca. 335) • Ven. Gregory, Abbot of Pelshme, Wonderworker of Vologdá (1442) • St. Michael, First Metropolitan of Kiev (992) • Martyrs Rhipsime, Gaiana and 35 holy virgins with them, of Armenia (4th c.)

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## September 30, 2018 - Bulletin

Tone 1 of the Octoechos

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke