

**The bulletin is sponsored this week for:****The health of:**

**Kira** Dangle on her birthday requested with love by her family.

**Julian** Turpin on his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday requested with love by his family.

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**Readings: I Corinthians 9:2-12** (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

**Matthew 18:23-35** (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

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**Brethren**, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

**The Lord said this parable:** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**Sunday Service:****Hours - 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

We will no longer be taking temperatures when you enter the Church and signing up for services is no longer necessary. Services are open to all.

**Those that are not fully vaccinated are still requested to wear a mask.**

**Church School**

Church school parents who have not completed their email questionnaire, are asked to please do so immediately.

Thank you to those who have already responded.

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We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let's keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

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**Announcement:**

- There will be a service this Tuesday evening, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 for **The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary**
- **The Holy Day of the Elevation of the Precious Cross (9/14), will be celebrated on Sunday, 9/19.** All music, Epistle and Gospel readings will be for the Elevation of the Precious Cross. We will also have the Blessing of Children at the beginning of their school year on that Sunday.
- **Archbishop Michael** will be with us on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 8, 2021. He did not visit us last year due to Covid restrictions. It will be wonderful to have him visit with us this year!
- Donations are also accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.
- If you are unable to attend church, 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.

**Reminders:**

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org) (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via email to many people. Send your donation to the treasurer in time to get it into the bulletin.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

## **Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of Saint John the Baptist:**

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was the sister of Saint Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, “walking in all the commandments of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who “will be great in the sight of the Lord” (Luke 1:15) and “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias” (Luke 1:17).

Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name.

They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the newborn Messiah would be among them.

Herod knew about John’s unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

*Today the prophet Zachariah, priest of the Most High  
and parent of the Forerunner,  
has prepared a banquet to his memory to nourish the faithful,  
mixing the drink of righteousness.  
Therefore we praise him as a divine initiate of the grace of God.*

Kontakion – Tone 3

**To read more about the saints remembered today, see:**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/09/05>

**Please check the website of our Diocese:**

<https://nynjoca.org/>

**and the website of the Orthodox Church in America:**

<https://www.oca.org/>

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

**See us on Facebook at:** [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](http://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)

**Email us at:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

## **Orthodox 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

Email: docandrnl@verizon.net

Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



**Glory to Jesus  
Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth,  
parents of Saint John the Baptist

*The memory of Your prophets Zachariah and Elizabeth  
we celebrate today, O Lord.  
By their prayers, we beseech You,  
O Christ God, save our souls!*

Troparion – Tone 2

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Baptist (1st c.)** • Martyrdom of Ven. Athanasius, Abbot of Bretsk (1648) • Martyrdom of the Holy Passionbearer Gleb (in holy Baptism David—1015) • Martyr Tathuil, and his sister, Bebaia (98-138) • Martyr Sarbelus of Edessa (2nd c.) • Martyrs Juventinus and Maximus the soldiers, at Antioch (361-363) • Martyrs Urban, Theodore, Medimnus, and 77 companions, at Nicomedia (370) • Martyr Abdias (Obadiah) of Persia (5th c.)

**September 5, 2021**

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 2 of the Octoechos