

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

**Johnathan** Dawson on his birthday, offered by his parents, Holly and Ed.

- **Readings:**
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-24**
- **Matthew 21:33-42**

**BRETHREN**, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Steph'anas were the first converts in Acha'ia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Steph'anas and Fortuna'tus and Acha'icus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aqu'ila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**The Lord said**, "Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**

**Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room**

**(Church School has ended for the school year.)**

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

**Announcements:**

- **There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Theotokos today after coffee hour.
- **On Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will be having a **parish barbecue** at Natalie and Robert Morris' house, 6060 Main St. Mays Landing. The BBQ will be held immediately after the Liturgy. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs if you would like to contribute a food or beverage item to the BBQ.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Any Announcements 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.

**St. Maximus says:** "Do not lend your ear to the slanderer's tongue, nor your tongue to the fault finder's ear by readily speaking or listening to anything against your neighbor. Otherwise you will fall away from Divine Love, and be found excluded from eternal life"

**Nativity of the Theotokos (Monday):**

**The Most Holy Virgin Mary** was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

**The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary** is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6)

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God***"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

Founded 1966

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Glory to  
Jesus ChristGlory  
Forever**Forefeast of the Nativity  
of the Theotokos**

*Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,  
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.*

*Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices!*

*Heaven and earth rejoice together.*

*Praise her, you families of nations,*

*for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out:*

*"The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!"*

Troparion — Tone 8

**Today the Church remembers:****Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos • Sunday before Elevation**

- Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304) • St. John, Archbishop and Wonderworker of Novgorod (1186) • Ven. Serapion of Spaso-Eliazar Monastery (Pskov—1481)
- Martyrdom of St. Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev (Pereyaslavl'—1678)
- Apostles Evodia (Euodias) and Onesiphorus of the Seventy (66) • Martyr Eupychius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (2nd c.) • Ven. Luke, Abbot, near Constantinople (10th c.) • Ven. Cloud (Clodoald), Abbot, founder of Nogent-sur-Seine near Paris (560)

**September 7, 2014****13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost****Tone 4 of the Octoechos**See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)