

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:

School children beginning a new school year, offered by Holly and Ed

Readings:

- **2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (today)**
- **Matthew 22:1-14 (today)**
- Galatians 6:11-16 (Sunday before the cross)
- John 3:13-17 (Sunday before the cross)
- Philipians 2:5-11 (Theotokos)
- Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)

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 this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:PM

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)
Church School – 9:30 AM beginning September 23rd

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:

- **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross Services:**
6:00 PM - Thursday, September. 13th - Vespers
9:00 AM - Friday, September. 14th - Divine Liturgy
The Feast of the Exaltation Cross is also Fr. Daniel's ordination day (60 years). May God grant him and Matushka many years!
- **The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** will meet today after coffee hour.
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council** will be on **September 30th** after coffee hour.
- Church School will begin again for the school year on September 23rd at 9:30 AM. If your child has not attended our church school previously and you are interested in having them participate this year, please fill out a registration sheet at the candle stand. Classes are for children from pre-K through Grade 8. If you have any questions please see Maribeth Romanofsky or Linda Dantinne.
- **Reminder:**
Prospora (bread) is available at the candle stand. Before the Divine Liturgy, while the Hours are being read, the faithful can have the bread sent into the altar with a list of names for prayers of *health and salvation* for the living and for the *repose* of the departed servants of God. (Bread can be purchased a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign up sheet at the candle stand.
Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8):

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.

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: 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
Very Reverend Daniel Hubiak,
Temporary Rector

Glory to Jesus Christ



Afterfeast Nativity of the Theotokos

*Your Nativity, O Virgin,
Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
Has shone from You, O Theotokos!
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life*

Troparion -

On this day the Church remembers: Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos • Uncovering of the Relics of St. Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernigov (1896) • Sunday before Elevation • Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna. Martyr Severian of Sebaste (320) • Ven. Joseph, Abbot of Volotsk (1515) • Ven. Theophanes the Confessor and Faster, of Mt. Diabenos (ca. 300) • Martyrs Chariton and Straton. Bl. Nicetas the Hidden, of Constantinople (12th c.) • Commemoration of the Third Ecumenical Council (431).

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Tone 5 of the Octoechos 14th Sunday After Pentecost