

Bulletin sponsors for this week are for the:

Health of:

Breiten (Michael) Sundra and **Timothy** Kirk on their reception into the Orthodox faith, requested with love by our Parish Family.

Readings: **Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4** (*Sunday of Cheesefare, Sunday before lent*)
Matthew 6:14-21 (*Sunday of Cheesefare, Sunday before lent*)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Sunday Services:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month
Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.

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

Sunday School meets every Sunday after Communion.

Announcement:

- The **Sisterhood** is holding its annual **pre-Lenten Cheesefare luncheon** today, **March 17th**. (The last day for eating dairy and eggs before Great Lent begins.) The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. (Children 12 and under are free.)
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served **every Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 PM**
- **Tickets** are now available for the Sisterhood’s annual **Pascha basket raffle**. Tickets cost \$1.00 each, and the Sisterhood would like each parishioners to buy or sell 10 tickets. Included in the basket will be a variety of delicious traditional ethnic foods. The raffle will be held on **April 28th**. **To purchase tickets please see Maribeth Romanofsky.**

Reminders:

- The **Sisterhood’s food drive** is ongoing. Donation bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Please be generous. Thank you!
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers. And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- 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. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand. Or a **Venmo account** can be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>)
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- **The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

Sunday of Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday): Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise:

Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam’s exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14–18).

To read about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/03/17>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/
See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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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: searbks1@verizon.net Phone: 856-227-6915

Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory
forever

Sunday of Cheesefare (Forgiveness
Sunday): Expulsion from Paradise

*O Master, Guide to wisdom, Bestower of prudence,
Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor:
make firm my heart and grant it understanding.*

O Word of the Father,

give me speech, for behold, I shall not restrain my lips from crying out to Thee:

"Have mercy, have mercy on me who have fallen."

Tone 6—Kontakion

March 17, 2024

Today the Church remembers:

The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise • Ven. Aleksy (Alexius) the Man of God (411) • Ven. Macarius the Wonderworker, Abbot of Kalyázinsk (Tver’—1483) • Martyr Marinus • St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461)

41st Sunday after Pentecost
Triodion week 4

Tone 8 of the Octoechos.
Meat fast (Great Lent starts Monday)