

(No Bulletin sponsors for this week.)

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**Readings:** **I Corinthians 6:12-20** (*Prodigal Son, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before lent*)  
**Luke 15:11-32** (*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before lent*)

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**Brethren**, “all things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

**The Lord said this parable**, “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this

son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

**Sunday Services:**

<p><b>Hours - 9:40 AM</b></p> <p><b>General Confession – 9:45 AM</b> on the first Sunday of each month</p> <p><b>Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b></p>	<p><b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b></p>
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**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 planning two **pre-Lenten luncheons** on Sunday **March 10<sup>th</sup>** (Meatfare), and Sunday **March 17<sup>th</sup>** (Cheesefare). The cost for these luncheons will be \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. (Children 12 and under are free.) If you would like to contribute a food item to either luncheon, there is a sign-up sheet posted downstairs.

**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](mailto: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 the Prodigal Son:**

Today, the second Sunday of pre-lent, is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Hearing the parable of Christ about God’s loving forgiveness, we are called to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our selfinflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Lk 15.11–24).

**The pre-lenten Sundays prepare us for our “lenten journey.”:**

**Zacchaeus Sunday - The desire and effort to see Jesus** begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.

**Last Sunday was that of the Publican and the Pharisee - We are called to see ourselves as we really are** in the light of Christ’s teaching, and to beg for mercy.

**Today, Sunday of the Prodigal Son - We are called to make the movement of return to God.**

Next **Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday (Last Judgment) - We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in everyone and by serving Christ through them.**

Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the Sunday is called **Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday**, We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. **We enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.**

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

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/03/03>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynioca.org/](http://nynioca.org/).

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

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

Email us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto: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,**

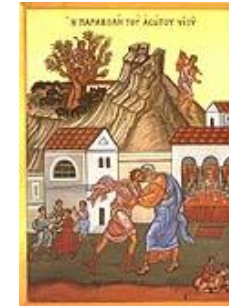
Temporary Rector

Email: [searbks1@verizon.net](mailto:searbks1@verizon.net)

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**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Glory to  
Jesus Christ

Glory  
forever

*I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;  
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You had given me.*

*Therefore, I cry to You like the Prodigal:*

*“I have sinned before You, O compassionate Father;  
receive me a penitent and make me as one of Your hired servants.”*

Tone 3—Kontakion

**March 3, 2024**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON** • Martyr Eutropius of Amasea, and with him Martyrs Cleonicus and Basiliscus (ca. 308) • Saint Piamoun (337) • Ss. Zenon and Zoilus.

39<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Triodion week 2

Tone 6 of the Octoechos.