

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for the:**

**Memory of:**

Walter Romanofsky, offered by Andrew and Maribeth

**Readings:**

**Hebrews 6:13-20** (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder)

[Ephesians 5:9-19](#) (St. John Climacus)

**Mark 9:17-31** (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder)

[Matthew 4:25-5:12](#) (Saint)

**Brethren**, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**At that time** a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served every Wednesday during **Great 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 is asking each parishioner 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 28<sup>th</sup>**. **To purchase tickets please see Maribeth Romanofsky.**
- The **Sisterhood** of the Protection of the Mother of God will meet today, **April 14<sup>th</sup>** after coffee hour.

**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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder) :**

The fourth Sunday of Great Lent rennumbers St. John of the Ladder, one of the greatest Ascetics, who in his book “Spiritual Ladder” described the various stages of spiritual life.

*Dweller of the desert and angel in the body,  
you were shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father John.  
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:  
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.*

*Glory to Him who gave you strength.  
Glory to Him who granted you a crown.  
Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all.*

Troparion – Tone 1

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/04/14>

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

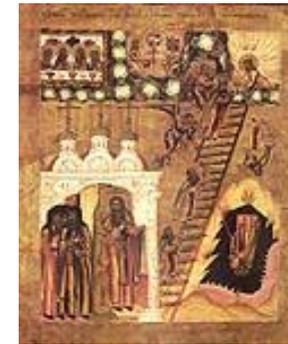
**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

Email: [searbks1@verizon.net](mailto:searbks1@verizon.net) Phone: 856-227-6915

**Dn. Edward Dawson**

Attached Deacon



Glory to  
Jesus Christ

Glory  
forever

4th Sunday of Great Lent:  
St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

*The Lord truly set you on the height of abstinence,  
O our instructor and Father John,  
as an unerring star, guiding the ends of the earth by your light.*

Tone 4 – Kontakion

**April 14, 2024**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)** • St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655) • Martyrs Anthony, John, and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania—1347) • Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4<sup>th</sup> c.) • Martyr Azades the Eunuch and 1,000 Martyrs of Persia (ca. 341)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent  
Triodion week 8

Tone 4  
Great Lent