



MOTHER OF GOD

JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

ORTHODOX CHURCH

904 Cherry Hill Road + Princeton, NJ 08540 + mogoca.org



Joy of all who sorrow art thou
and protectress of the oppressed,
feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers,
haven for the tempest tossed,
visitation for the sick,
protection and aid for the infirm, staff of old age,
O, all pure Mother of the Most High God,
Hasten, we pray, to save thy servants.

We welcome
all who seek to know
Christ in His Word
and in His Church.

A Message from Father Peter



As we come closer to Holy Week, we will begin to hear in our scripture readings Christ preparing His disciples and apostles for his passion. For us as Orthodox Christians this is not just a remembrance of the events of Christ's passion, we are preparing to walk with Christ into His Passion. The Church tells us: *Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the Tree. The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns. He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.* (Hymn of Good Friday). As we hear Christ speaking of His passion in the gospels He is speaking to us, to prepare us to enter His Passion, to walk with Him, and to stand with the faithful women at the cross. The liturgical services of Holy Week are our presence with Christ.

We begin Holy Week with the services of Bridegroom Matins. We are warned that we must be ready and prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom. The story of the wise and foolish virgins is asking us how we are getting ready to meet the Bridegroom. Will we waste our time and light on self-absorbing comfort, or will we make the time to attend the services of Holy Week with anticipation? The doors of the Church are open for us to participate fully in the events of Holy Week. What is needed is for us to turn the light of desire to be with our Lord. We are told we do not know the time or hour that the Bridegroom will call us, and we need to live in the expectation that He will come today or we will be unprepared.

In the gospel of this week we celebrate with Christ the mystical supper, hearing the words, "Take eat this is my body, take drink this is my blood." We will witness the arrest, hear the false charges, see and hear the mockery and the punishment. Then we will witness how everyone deserted him and ran away. However, some did not abandon him. The women, who were with Him from the beginning, and His mother followed Christ and He will speak to them on the road: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children."

Holy Week allows us to live and understand the sacrifice that Christ made for us and our salvation. We come to the empty tomb with the experience of the women, who stood by Christ throughout His passion. They went early in the morning to anoint a body, and they were given the privilege to be the first to hear that He is Risen! They were commissioned to proclaim this first to the apostles and then to the world. We join the women in the joy and commission to proclaim the good news, by standing with them living in the present with our participation in the services of Holy Week.

I encourage all to make it a priority to attend as many Holy Week services as possible. Let us be the wise virgins who are ready to meet the Bridegroom and be the faithful women who did not abandon our Lord. Let us live Holy Week and make ready our walk to the tomb that brings us forgiveness, love and life.



The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha



Let us begin the Fast with joy! Let us give ourselves to spiritual efforts. Let us cleanse our souls. Let us cleanse our flesh." - Hymn on the 1st day of Great Lent

On Sunday, March 17th, our parish was honored to have our arch pastor, Archbishop Michael, with us for the Divine Liturgy. *(See photos on the next page.)*

Following a beautiful Forgiveness Vesper service, the Sisterhood of Sts. Mary & Martha provided a delicious luncheon.

Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped set up and clean up. It really was a beautiful day.

Mark your calendar for **the next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, April 21st**, following the Liturgy. As always, all women are welcome to join in.

*The bee is more honored than other animals not because she labors, but because she labors for others.
~St. John Chrysostom*





Deacon John being awarded the right to wear the double oration by the holy synod.



Church School Update

Lazarus Saturday Church School Retreat

We will have a church school retreat after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, April 27th.

Lunch will be provided.

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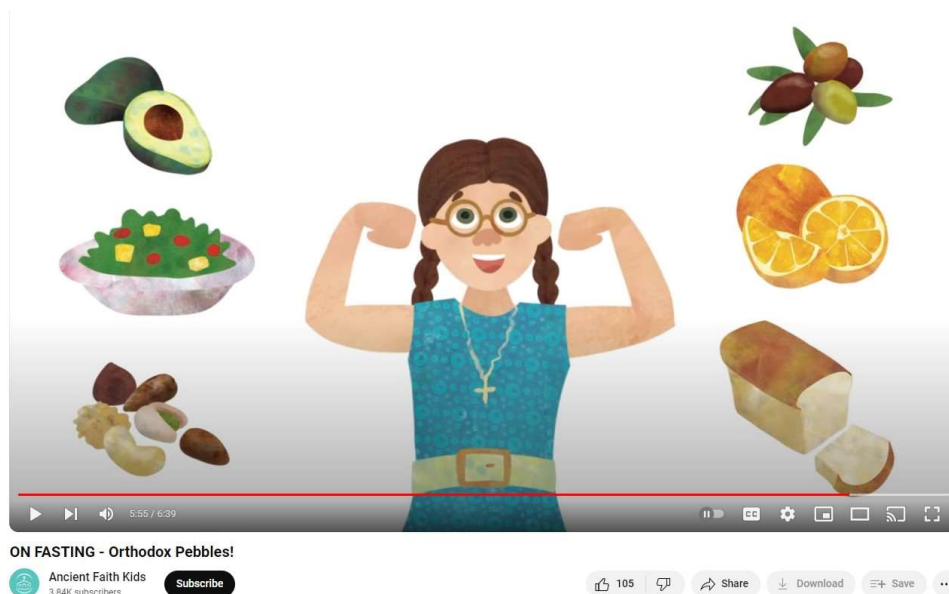
If you would like to help the Church School provide a nice Easter Egg Hunt experience for our kids this year, please consider bringing a dozen **filled**, plastic

easter eggs to church before our Pascha on May 5th. Western Easter has taken place and soon all the Easter candy will be gone, so we have to "Hop to it" You may also provide non-candy treats for the kids if you would like. All donations are greatly appreciated.

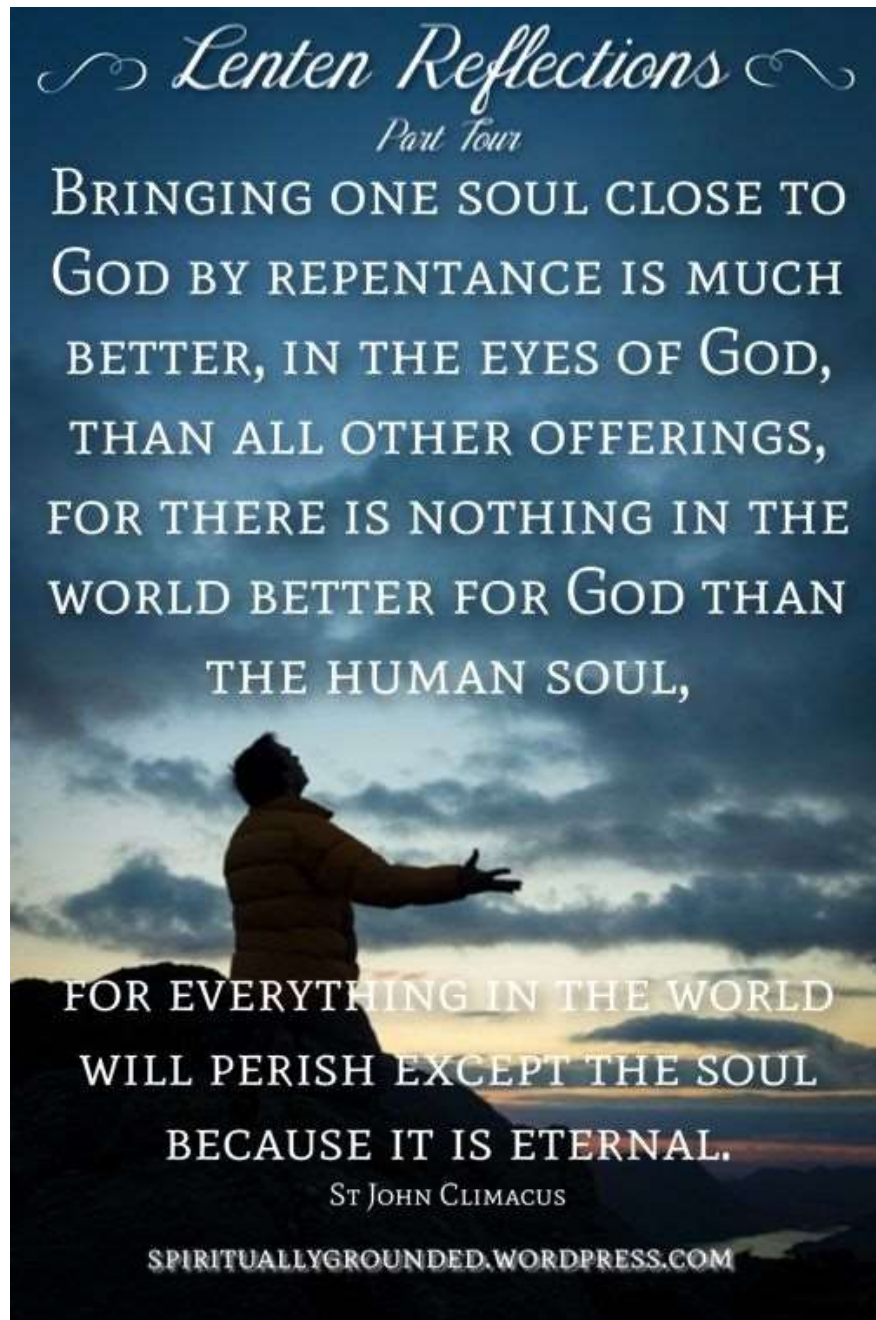
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Search online for quality Orthodox Christian resources for kids, like this video On Fasting by Orthodox Pebbles:

<https://youtu.be/eHHv-ePTrSI?si=8TIJiHl6Z3zt5jXA>



Wisdom of Our Church Fathers



Church Hospitality

Please contact Matushka Jeanne at jbaktis@hotmail.com or (915) 255-9896 if you are able to sponsor a coffee hour after Sunday Liturgies.



Work is a blessing, a gift from God. Work gives vigor to the body and refreshes the mind. If God had not given us work, man would have become moldy. Those who are diligent continue to work into their old age. ~ Saint Paisios of Mount Athos



Announcements

Donations for St. Basil's House

Mother of God continues to support St. Basil's House with food donations, placed in the collection bin at the side entrance of the Church.

Please, when you shop, think of those in our community who are in need and bring your offerings to the Church.

Church School

Church School resumed in March. Please check the calendar schedule for dates.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Kristina Baktis, kbaktis@gmail.com.

Donations for a Garden Fund

MOG is seeking donations for a garden fund to finance more plantings to beautify the outdoors around the church.

A donation basket for this purpose is on the table in the side-door entry room.

Please write "beautification fund" somewhere on your check or just donate cash.

Thank you!

- ❖ Catechetical Class has begun. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Fr. Peter
- ❖ Adult Study via Zoom – Please send suggestions for consideration to Fr. Peter
- ❖ Confessions by appointment, please contact Fr. Peter
- ❖ **Please make your 2024 pledges!**

Parish Cleaning and Maintenance: Volunteers Needed

Historically, the MOG community has maintained the beauty of our church by volunteering to clean, garden and make minor repairs to our building. When the pandemic started, we hired a professional cleaning service to come in twice a month to ensure that everything was properly sanitized and that no parishioner was put at risk while providing this service. Now that we are putting the worst of the pandemic behind us and are gathering more frequently in our church we would like to return to the community effort to maintain our beautiful building.

Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer to do some light cleaning after coffee hour on Sunday.
- Volunteer to do a more thorough cleaning once a month (this can be done any day of the week).
- Volunteer for our Pre-Pascha and Fall clean up.
- Volunteer to make minor repairs to the building.

Please contact Kristina Baktis (347-598-4050) to help out.

Pascha Preparation Announcement

We need donations to purchase flowers for the Tomb and for Pascha. You can make your donations through the MOG donations online or in an envelope for the collection plate. **Please specify that the donation is for the flowers.**

Father Peter needs a list of the names of those you want prayed for at the Memorial Saturday Liturgy on April 13th (9:30 A.M.).

There will be a sign-up sheet for Holy Week and Pascha. **We need people to sign up** for the services and the jobs that need to be done.

Thank you.

Holy Monday (4/29/24)				
Put candles in cups				
Holy Wednesday (5/1/24)				
7 Epistle Readings				
Good Friday (5/3/24)				
Carry the Tomb				
Carry processional candles				
Holy Saturday (5/4/24)				
15 Old Testament Readings				
Set up tables and tents for the picnic				
Pascha (5/5/24)				
Receive the Light 2 people	Don Noe	Myra Noe		
Light candles inside church	Sandra Hunchar			
Procession				
Read Gospel of John 1:1-17 in Multiple Languages				

Services, Feasts & Special Events

Sunday liturgical services are at MOG @ 9:30 A.M. (All are welcome. Masks are optional.) **When services are held inside, capacity may be limited.** Saturday Vesper Services are at MOG @5:00 P.M.

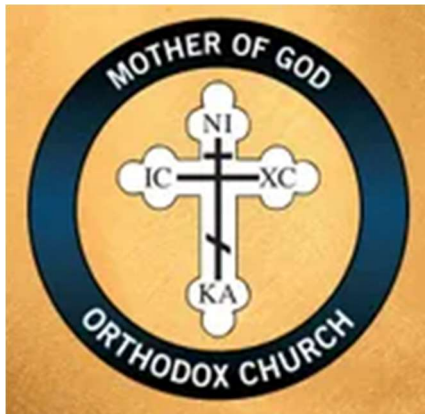
We will continue to stream the services online for those of you who are unable to attend the live services. You can view the live stream and recast at <https://www.facebook.com/mogprinceton/>. CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD BEFORE OR AFTER SERVICES, OR BY APPOINTMENT.

Wednesday, April 3 rd	5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 6 th	5:00 P.M. Vespers/Confessions
Sunday, April 7 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Holy Cross
Wednesday, April 10 th	5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 13 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Memorial Saturday/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers/Confessions
Sunday, April 14 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Sunday of St. John Climacus
Friday, April 19 th	5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 20 th	3:30 – 4:45 P.M. Church Music for Beginners followed by 5:00 P.M. Vespers/Confessions and a light dinner
Sunday, April 21 st	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Wednesday, April 24 th	5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday, April 27 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday followed by Church School Retreat
Sunday, April 28 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/ Palm Sunday
Monday, April 29 th	5:30 P.M. Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 30 th	5:30 P.M. Bridegroom Matins



View the master MOG calendar at: <http://bit.ly/MOGcalendar>





Save the Dates

Presanctified Liturgies, April 2024

Wednesdays, 5:30 P.M., April 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Memorial Saturday

Saturday, April 13th 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy
 Saturday, April 27th 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 29 th	5:30 P.M. Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 30 th	5:30 P.M. Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, May 1 st	5:30 P.M. Holy Unction
Thursday, May 2 nd	9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Holy Thursday
	5:30 P.M. Institution of the Eucharist
Friday, May 3 rd	3:00 P.M. Vespers of the Burial
	5:30 P.M. Holy Friday Matins
Saturday, May 4 th	9:30 A.M. Vespereal Liturgy of Holy Saturday
	5:30 P.M. Holy Saturday Matins
Sunday, May 5 th	9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Pascha, followed by Parish Picnic & Easter Egg hunt
Monday, May 6 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Bright Monday



From St. Basil's House April 2024

Please continue to donate **canned goods** and **toiletries** by using the bin in the vestibule of MOG. We are also accepting **seasonal clothing** and **small household items**. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Wednesdays. By God's grace, we have been able to open every Wednesday this past month. Grace Ramus volunteered on March 6th and planned to come again on March 27th; Fr. Peter and Mat. Jeanne handled March 13th; Lucia Andrei volunteered on March 20th. We offered breakfast, Bible study, prayer, groceries and toiletries. Attendance varied from 5 to 12 neighbors.

At noon on **Saturday, April 6th**, we will be offering a Lenten lunch. We will be talking about the work at St. Basil's House and how people might volunteer at times other than Wednesday mornings.

At 9 A.M. on **Saturday, April 13th**, students from the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at The College of New Jersey will be coming to the House for a work day. We will be ending with a Lenten lunch at 12 noon. Other helpers would be welcome. If someone could come with a **shredder** for our leaves and twigs, that would be especially appreciated.

If interested, please contact Judith at 1 (908) 420-7900 or judith@stbasilshouse.org.

Please consider joining the **Bible study** on ZOOM at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesdays -- e-mail judith@stbasilshouse.org for the link.

Please **pray** for us, for our neighbors, and for **more volunteers**.



Please like, follow and share St. Basil's new Facebook page!

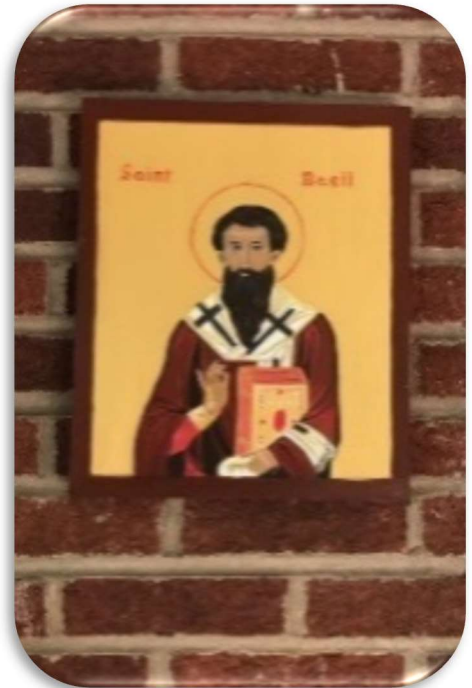
<https://www.facebook.com/stbasilshouseni/>



St. Basil's House is now on Instagram! Please follow, share & support us there!

[stbasilshousetrentonnj](https://www.instagram.com/stbasilshousetrentonnj)

THANK YOU!



Great and Holy Monday

Commemorated on April 29, 2024



Holy Week: A Liturgical Explanation for the Days of Holy Week

3. MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY: THE END

These three days, which the Church calls Great and Holy have within the liturgical development of the Holy Week a very definite purpose. They place all its celebrations in the perspective of End Times; they remind us of the eschatological meaning of Pascha. So often Holy Week is considered one of the “beautiful traditions” or “customs,” a self-evident “part” of our calendar. We take it for granted and enjoy it as a cherished annual event which we have “observed” since childhood, we admire the beauty of its services, the pageantry of its rites and, last but not least, we like the fuss about the Paschal table. And then, when all this is done we resume our normal life. But do we

understand that when the world rejected its Savior, when “Jesus began to be sorrowful and very heavy... and his soul was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death,” when He died on the Cross, “normal life” came to its end and is no longer possible. For there were “normal” men who shouted “Crucify Him” who spat at Him and nailed Him to the Cross. And they hated and killed Him precisely because He was troubling their normal life. It was indeed a perfectly “normal” world which preferred darkness and death to light and life.... By the death of Jesus, the “normal” world, and “normal” life were irrevocably condemned. Or rather they revealed their true and abnormal inability to receive the Light, the terrible power of evil in them. “Now is the Judgment of this world” (John 12:31). The Pascha of Jesus signified its end to “this world” and it has been at its end since then. This end can last for hundreds of centuries, but this does not alter the nature of time in which we live as the “last time.” “The fashion of this world passeth away...” (I Cor. 7:31).

Pascha means pass-over, passage. The feast of Passover was for the Jews the annual commemoration of their whole history as salvation, and of salvation as passage from the slavery of Egypt into freedom, from exile into the promised land. It was also the anticipation of the ultimate passage—into the Kingdom of God. And Christ was the fulfillment of Pascha. He performed the ultimate passage: from death into life, from this “old world” into the new world into the new time of the Kingdom. And he opened the possibility of this passage to us. Living in “this world” we can already be “not of this world,” i.e. be free from slavery to death and sin, partakers of the “world to come.” But for this we must also perform our own passage, we must condemn the old Adam in us, we must put on Christ in the baptismal death and have our true life

hidden in God with Christ, in the “world to come....”

And thus, Easter is not an annual commemoration, solemn and beautiful, of a past event. It is this Event itself shown, given to us, as always efficient, always revealing our world, our time, our life as being at their end, and announcing the Beginning of the new life.... And the function of the three first days of Holy Week is precisely to challenge us with this ultimate meaning of Pascha and to prepare us to the understanding and acceptance of it.

1. This eschatological (which means ultimate, decisive, final) challenge is revealed, first, in the common troparion of these days:

Troparion—Tone 8

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight,
And blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching,
And again unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless.
Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,
Lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom.
But rouse yourself crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, are You, O our God!
Through the Theotokos have mercy on us!

Midnight is the moment when the old day comes to its end and a new day begins. It is thus the symbol of the time in which we live as Christians. For, on the one hand, the Church is still in this world, sharing in its weaknesses and tragedies. Yet, on the other hand, her true being is not of this world, for she is the Bride of Christ and her mission is to announce and to reveal the coming of the Kingdom and of the new day. Her life is a perpetual watching and expectation, a vigil pointed at the dawn of this new day. But we know how strong is still our attachment to the “old day,” to the world with its passions and sins. We know how deeply we still belong to “this world.” We have seen the light, we know Christ, we have heard about the peace and joy of the new life in Him, and yet the world holds us in its slavery. This weakness, this constant betrayal of Christ, this incapacity to give the totality of our love to the only true object of love are wonderfully expressed in the Exapostelarian of these three days:

“Thy Bridal Chamber I see adorned, O my Savior
And I have no wedding garment that I may enter,
O Giver of life, enlighten the vesture of my soul
And save me.”

2. The same theme develops further in the Gospel readings of these days. First of all, the entire text of the

four Gospels (up to John 13: 31) is read at the Hours (1, 3, 6 and 9). This recapitulation shows that the Cross is the climax of the whole life and ministry of Jesus, the Key to their proper understanding. Everything in the Gospel leads to this ultimate hour of Jesus and everything is to be understood in its light. Then, each service has its special Gospel lesson :
On Monday:

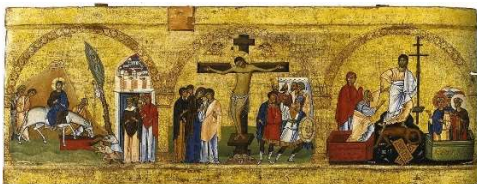
At Matins: Matthew 21: 18-43—the story of the fig tree, the symbol of the world created to bear spiritual fruits and failing in its response to God.

At the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: Matthew 24: 3-35: the great eschatological discourse of Jesus. The signs and announcement of the End. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away....”

“When the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion,
He said to His Apostles on the way:
Behold, we go up to Jerusalem,
And the Son of Man shall be delivered up
As it is written of Him.
Come, therefore, and let us accompany Him,
With minds purified from the pleasures of this life,
And let us be crucified and die with Him,
That we may live with Him,
And that we may hear Him say to us:
I go now, not to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer,
But unto My Father and your Father
And My God and your God,
And I will gather you up into the heavenly Jerusalem,
Into the Kingdom of Heaven....”
(Monday Matins)

by: The Very Reverend Alexander Schmemmann

Reprinted from the OCA website, www.oca.org





Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow



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Prayer Requests



“...and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

James 5:16, NKJV

Commemoration of the Living Servants of God:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who for the sake of Your eternal mercy and loving kindness became man, and suffered crucifixion and death for the salvation of all; Who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father, where You hear the prayers of all who call upon You humbly and with their whole heart: incline Your ear to us, and hearken to the prayer which your unworthy servants offer as a spiritual sacrifice for all Your people.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon: 

- We pray for a cessation of the hostilities against **Ukraine**, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy. We pray for peace in the **Middle East**. We pray the same for all war-torn nations.
- Please pray for an end to gun violence, particularly in the United States.
- Please continue to pray for **George** who is suffering from kidney cancer. His wife says our prayers are helping him.
- **Debbie Baktis**, Matushka Jeanne's sister-in-law, as she awaits a kidney transplant.
- Praise for Matushka Jeanne's niece's husband, **David**. His last brain scan was clear of all cancer. He is doing his chemo rounds and is handling the treatment well.
- **Jan Perkins**, who has been ill.
- **Jackie** and **Nick DeLarato**, who have health issues. Also, Nick's sister, **Kathy**.
- **Olga Mezina**, friend of Lana.
- **Carson & Addison**, Joe Elchak's granddaughters.
- **Daniel Morgan**, Alex Todoroff's grandson.
- Lauren Ugorji's dad, **Don Robinson**, who has concerning blood clots, children **Jade & Mike Edwards** and **Jordan & Eric Mosurick** (and all young couples struggling with health issues and getting permanent homes), and aunt & uncle **Kirra & Jesse Filkins**. Also, her friend **Missy Gillespie** and her partner, **Kurt**, who needs a kidney transplant. Also, that **Nina Robinson's** brain tumor stops growing and shrinks away.
- **Deacon John (Russell) Komline & Judith Komline**.
- **Benjamin Stell & Julie Stell**

May we join you in prayer for all of those on your minds; all of those in your prayers, and all of those in your hearts. Lord Have Mercy.

Please send prayer requests and status updates to: ladyofleasure@yahoo.com.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED

Memory Eternal

Daily Bible Readings - For a listing and links to the daily scripture readings go to <http://oca.org/readings>.





**Please Pray for the
Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church
as we move forward.**

May God's Will Be Done In All Things!!!



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