



Mother of God 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

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
(Psalm 136:1)*

The words of the psalmist expressed how we should approach every day of our lives. In this month of November, we will celebrate a day of Thanksgiving. For us, as followers of Jesus Christ, every day is a day of thanksgiving. In our services, our daily prayers, our practice of fasting, confession and receiving the Eucharist, we are called to be thankful people. As your priest, and the Rector of Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow, I am full of thanksgiving.

It was just a few months ago that I proposed that we create a new space for fellowship, and to allow our children to have a space where they can have their religious education classes. In many ways it was a vision of hope and trust. I did not know what the project would entail, and being somewhat naïve I thought how difficult could it be? So, I proposed, and you, the faithful of Mother of God, showed your love, faith and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. You lived the words of the psalmist and gave thanks to the Lord, and provided the support that was needed to make this project come into reality.

Being a thankful community means that we share a vision not for ourselves, alone, but for the future. We see the potential and opportunity to make visible the love, compassion, forgiveness and healing of our God whose mercy endures forever. Being a thankful community allows dreamers to dream, and visions to become reality. I know that your faithful love of God, and your thankfulness, has shown forth in the people who have come to work on this project. People who see a community that is not afraid to take risks, to trust and to build. There is a special joy and excitement I find in the people we have contracted with, and those who work in the Montgomery Township office. They share in the joy of our vision of growth, and in providing a place where those who need healing, hope, forgiveness, love and compassion can go and hear the words of hope, and be treated with dignity and respect.

I am thankful for you and the work that we do together as a community of faith. You all have shown what it means to live giving thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.



MOG Fellowship Space

Fundraising Goal

\$120,000



Raised
\$115,000

bloomerang



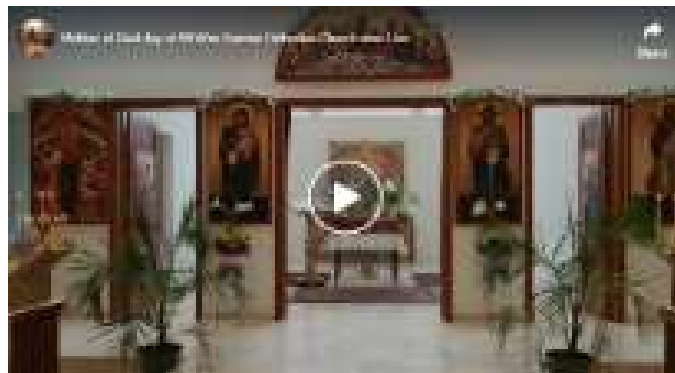
Services, Feasts & Special Events

~ November 2025 ~

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.youtube.com/@mogprinceton>. **CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD ON SATURDAYS, BEFORE OR AFTER VESPERS, OR BY APPOINTMENT.**

Saturday, November 1st	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, November 2nd	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, November 8th	12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Heritage Bake Sale/ 4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, November 9th	930 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, November 15th	NO VESPERS
Sunday, November 16th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Friday, November 21st	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
Saturday, November 22nd	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, November 23rd	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, November 29th	NO VESPERS
Sunday, November 30th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School



View the master MOG calendar at: http://www.bit.ly/MOG_calendar



Church School



Our Church School students will be practicing for the Nativity play during the month of November.

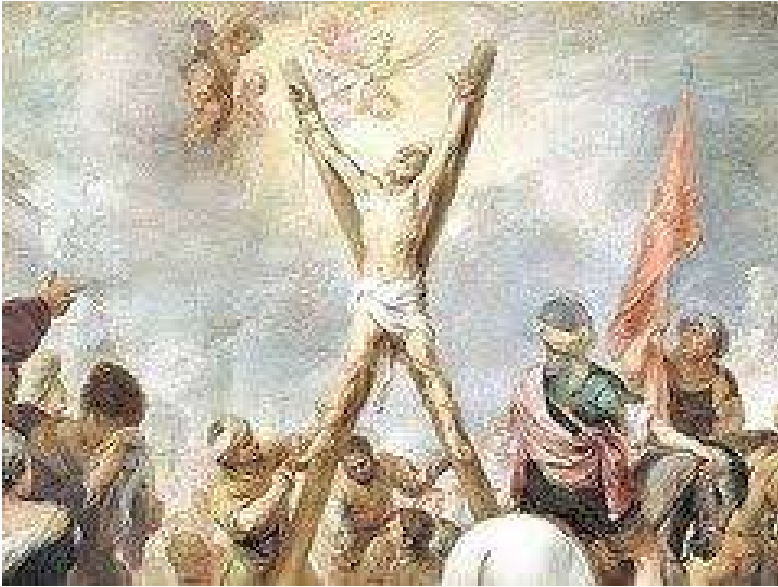
If you are interested in volunteering or need to contact Kristina regarding the Church School you may reach her at:
kbaktis@gmail.com

Thank you.



Wisdom of Our Church Fathers

Words at his crucifixion on the cross:



"O good Cross,
made beautiful by
the body of the
Lord: long have I
desired you,
ardently have I
loved you,
unceasingly have I

sought you out; and now you are ready for my
eager soul. Receive me from among men and
restore me to my Master, so that he—who, by
means of you, in dying redeemed me—may
receive me. Amen."

~Andrew the Apostle



The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha



Please spread the word! The sisterhood is hosting the “Heritage Bake Sale” on November 8th from 12-3 PM. Come warm up by the fire and stock up on amazing baked goods for the holidays! Please help to pass out the flyers to family, friends and neighbors. In addition, please participate in our Thanksgiving Food Drive (see flyer below).

Heritage Bake Sale

Saturday, November 8th

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Cookies, Pies, Brownies, Biscotti and more!
Come sip our Homemade Apple Cider and Herbal Teas!

Special Featuring: Book Signing by Margery Cuyler,
Ceramic Mugs by KatyushaDesignStudio and more!

Mother Of God
Orthodox Church
904 Cherry Hill Rd, Princeton
www.mogoca.org

For more information or questions
please contact Carrie at: carrieellmore@gmail.com

THE SISTERHOOD OF
STs. MARY & MARTHA

**THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE**

LET'S CARE AND SHARE

JOIN US IN HELPING
SAINT BASIL'S HOUSE!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Canned green beans
- Canned fried onions
- Cream of mushroom soup
 - Canned yams
 - Stuffing mix
- Canned cranberry sauce
 - Jar gravy
- Corn muffin mix
- Marshmallows
- Instant mashed potatoes

DROP OFF LOCATION:
**MOTHER OF GOD
JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW
NOVEMBER 16TH**

Thank you to all who serve in this ministry.

**“The bee is more honored than other animals not because she labors,
but because she labors for others.”**

~St. John Chrysostom



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

Resumed on September 21, 2025

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
- ❖ Inquirers class via Zoom: Nov 6, 20, and Dec 4. Contact FP at pabaktis@gmail.com for the Zoom link.
- ❖ Confessions by appointment, please contact Fr. Peter
- ❖ Please consider donating to the Fellowship Space fundraiser, and finalize your 2025 pledges!





November 2025
stbasilshousenj@gmail.com

THANK YOU for donating **canned goods, toiletries, clothing, toys, books** and re-usable shopping bags in the bin in the vestibule at MOG; your gifts are greatly appreciated. We are privileged to receive the lovely gifts and to pass them along to our neighbors.

We have been meeting on **Wednesday mornings** for breakfast, Bible study and the distribution of clothing and groceries. We have enjoyed herbs, cucumbers and tomatoes from MOG's Ephrosini's Garden; many thanks to John for the digging, planting, watering and harvesting, and to Grace for bringing the produce to us. Joe has cooked lovely and varied breakfasts. Mat. Jeanne, Matthew and Julia led the group on October 8. We had to close on Wednesday, October 22, due to illness, but otherwise we met every week. Many thanks to our volunteer host, Grace. Additional volunteers are needed on the fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month.

Natalie and George hosted an open house on **Saturday**, October 4; they brought food and led a **craft** project which was enjoyed by all. They plan to host another open house on Saturday, November 8. If volunteers were available, we would be able to host other Saturday gatherings; please consider serving.

On Saturday, October 4, a number of our neighbors joined Natalie and George in several hours of **work**: sorting clothing to be given away; power washing the porches, doorways and outdoor furniture; pulling weeds and planting a lovely small hydrangea in the front yard. Many thanks for all the help!

Please continue to **pray** for us, and for our neighbors. Please pray that God will send people to help so that the work may continue.

-- Judith

stbasilshousenj@gmail.com



A lovely dwarf hydrangea, lovingly planted by a volunteer on our October workday.



Making paper pumpkins at the October open house.

GROCERY & TOILETRY NEEDS*(for neighbors served through St. Basil's House)*

- **Canned Goods:** pasta sauces, soups, peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce, vegetables (corn, beans, peas, carrots, yams, tomatoes, etc.), beans (chickpeas, black, kidney, pinto, white), prepared meals (SpaghettiOs, ravioli, chili, stews, mac & cheese cups)
- **Proteins:** canned tuna, chicken, sardines, salmon, mackerel, turkey, peanut butter, peanuts, grape jelly, strawberry jam, honey
- **Grains:** spaghetti, elbow macaroni, pasta, rice (white & brown), oatmeal, boxed mac & cheese, cold cereals
- **Drinks:** UHT milk (low fat, whole), unsweetened soy/oat/almond milk, fruit juices
- **Toiletries:** shampoo, conditioner, bath/face soap, lotion, toilet paper, tissues, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, individually wrapped toothbrushes, women's sanitary products, adult incontinence supplies, deodorant.



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



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



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



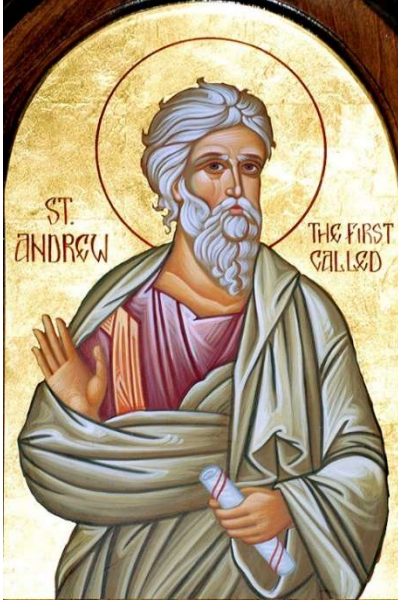
[stbasilshousetrentonnj](https://www.instagram.com/stbasilshousetrentonnj)



Apostle Andrew, the Holy and All-Praised First-Called

Commemorated on November 30

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ (John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, Saint Andrew became his closest disciple. Declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God, Saint John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian.



After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, Saint Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians

towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness and Maximilla and Stratokles, the wife and brother of the governor of Patra, were healed. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo Saint Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

Saint Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens

who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take Saint Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

A few centuries later, under the emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy Evangelist Luke and Saint Paul's disciple Saint Timothy.

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PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Gathering in Thanksgiving

On Sunday, October 26th, the faithful of Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church in Princeton, New Jersey, gathered in love and thanksgiving to celebrate our parish feast day. The day began with Divine Liturgy, lifting hearts in joyful praise.

Festive Picnic and Fellowship

Following the service, the parish family came together for a festive outdoor picnic, basking in the blessings of fellowship and sunshine. The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha and The Brotherhood of St. Lazarus lovingly sponsored the luncheon, offering grilled chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs, delicious side dishes, and desserts.

Activities for Children

Laughter and delight filled the air as the youngest church school children explored the pumpkin patch. With joyful enthusiasm, they selected their own pumpkins to paint under the gentle guidance of Kristina Baktis.

A Day of Joy and Grace

The day unfolded beneath a clear autumn sky, touched by golden light and the warmth of shared joy. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, family and the enduring grace of God in our midst.









Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow



Contribute to Mother of God online!

- ✓ We now offer the ability to send your contributions online!
- ✓ Our members and friends have even more ways to access current and past contribution's activity – choose the way that suits your lifestyle best!

Visit mogoca.org
for more information
and to sign up.

Sign up for e-contributions today! It's free, easy, and secure.

Save time and money, while helping the environment!

- **View your current and past contributions:** Access previous contributions online, with the option to print or save to your computer.
- **Never miss a contribution:** Receive an email according to your preferred timetable for making contributions.
- **Help us honor our obligations:** Set up a recurring contribution and automatically deduct the payment from your bank account or credit card on the same day of every month.
- **Save time and money:** Don't be hassled writing checks, stamping envelopes, and/or mailing contributions. View and make contributions from anywhere at any time.
- **Earn rewards:** Use your credit card to make your contribution and earn points or rewards for every dollar you contribute.
- **Help the environment:** Reduce the impact you have on the environment by choosing to view and make your contributions online.

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 pray for the victims of hurricanes and other natural disasters. Please pray for unity, love, peace and joy.
- Please pray for **George Gabriel**, and for...
- **Debbie Baktis**, Matushka Jeanne's sister-in-law who is awaiting 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 continues to suffer from mobility and digestive issues. And **Dana Talley**, who is struggling with aggressive prostate cancer. Also, please continue to pray for Margery and Jan's friend, **Carl**, who is doing better with his alcohol addiction struggles, and for Margery's friend Mary. who is in a very difficult relationship.
- **Jackie and Nick DeLarato**, who have health issues. Also, Nick's sister, **Kathy**.
- **Olga Mezina**, friend of Lana.
- **Carson & Addison**, Joe Elchak's granddaughters.
- Lauren Ugorji's: husband, **Richmond**, who struggles with health issues, adult children **Jade & Mike Edwards**, **Jordan & Eric Mosurick** (and all young couples struggling with health issues and getting permanent homes) and teenage **Anastasia Ugorji**. Her dad, **Don Robinson**, for continued good health as he battles blood cancer. Aunt & Uncle **Kirra & Jesse Filkins** and **Aunts Scott Brown Pempeit** and **Laverne Tisdale**. Her friend **Missy Gillespie** and Missy's husband, **Kurt**, who needs a kidney transplant.

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

May their memory be 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.**

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

