



Mother of God Orthodox Church

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

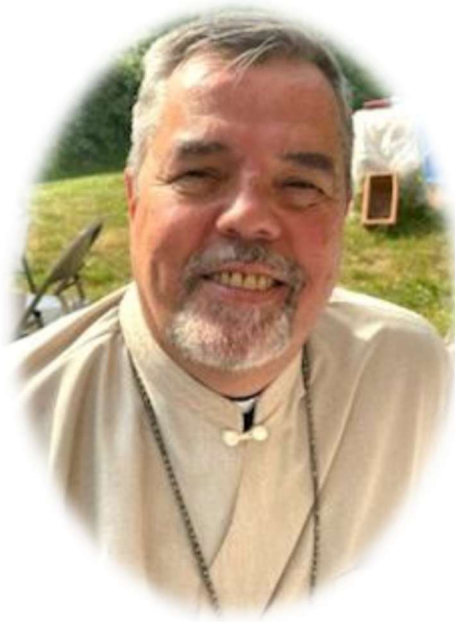


Joy of all who sorrow art thou
and protectress of the oppressed,
feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers,
haven for the tempest tossed,
visitation for the sick,
protection and aid for the infirm, staff of old age,
O, all pure Mother of the Most High God,
Hasten, we pray, to save thy servants.

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



A Message from Father Peter



Autumn is here and with it comes all those activities that come with the season: apple picking, raking leaves, harvest fests and, of course, the famous pumpkin everything – coffee, cake, candy and whatever you wish. We at Mother of God will also have our annual Fall Fest in celebration of our Patronal Names Day, on the 26th of October. This will be a time for us as a community to gather and honor our Patron, The Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow, and to spend some time in fellowship and sharing. Fellowship is an important part of a Christian community, it is where we learn about each other, and to build the vision of living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “Where two or three are gathered” Christ is present. I encourage you to set aside this time on the 26th of October and attend not only the Divine Services, but to stay for fellowship and get to know more about the people that you worship with on this day.

Speaking of fellowship, as you know the basement project is well underway. I want to thank all who have contributed to this project and encourage those who have not to prayerfully consider supporting in the manner you feel God is calling you to. This project is needed and will provide us a space to gather for many different opportunities: fellowship, educational programs, celebrations and other activities. It also provides for us to keep the Narthex and the Sanctuary as a place of prayer and quiet reflection. It will allow our children to have their own quiet church school area, and an opportunity for those in the Greater Princeton area to rent a space for their functions.

I thank God for the opportunity to embark on the basement project; it shows that we have grown not only numerically but also spiritually. In the past 10 years of my being the rector at MOG, I have seen how God is using our community to become the witness of his Love, Mercy, Compassion and Forgiveness. We offer to those who are searching for a community that is rooted in prayer, service and hospitality.

With the finished basement we will have many opportunities to offer the community new and exciting activities. God has truly blessed us with the opportunity to serve Him, His Church, and the people that we have come to know and those who we are yet to know. Let us continue to focus on growing deeper in our practice of attending worship services and sharing our lives with each other. We cannot live the image found in the book of Acts if we do not know one another:

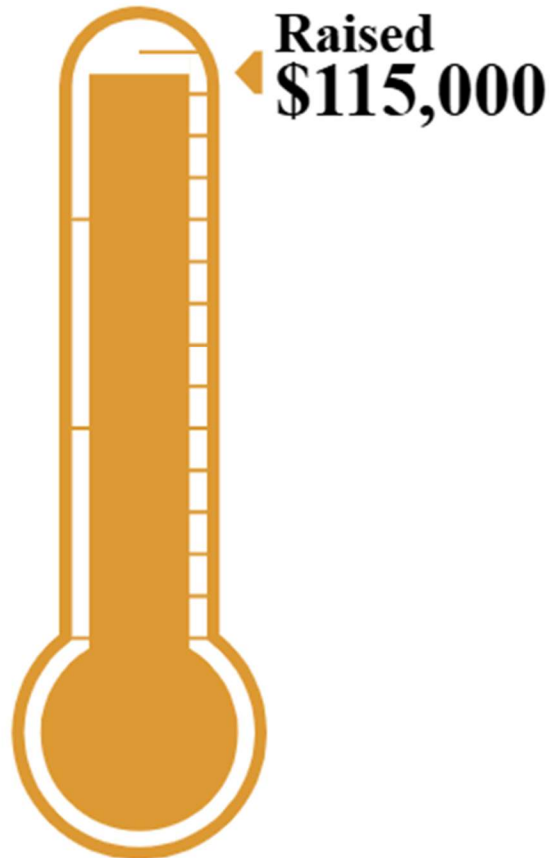
Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; (Acts 4:32-34)



MOG Fellowship Space

Fundraising Goal

\$120,000



bloomerang



Services, Feasts & Special Events

~ October 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, October 4 th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, October 5 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, October 11 th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, October 12 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, October 18 th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, October 19 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Saturday, October 25 th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, October 26 th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church Feast Day Picnic – No Church School



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



Church School



Church School resumed on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Since then, and for the month of October, we are Practicing Processions and Learning and Practicing the Trisagion.

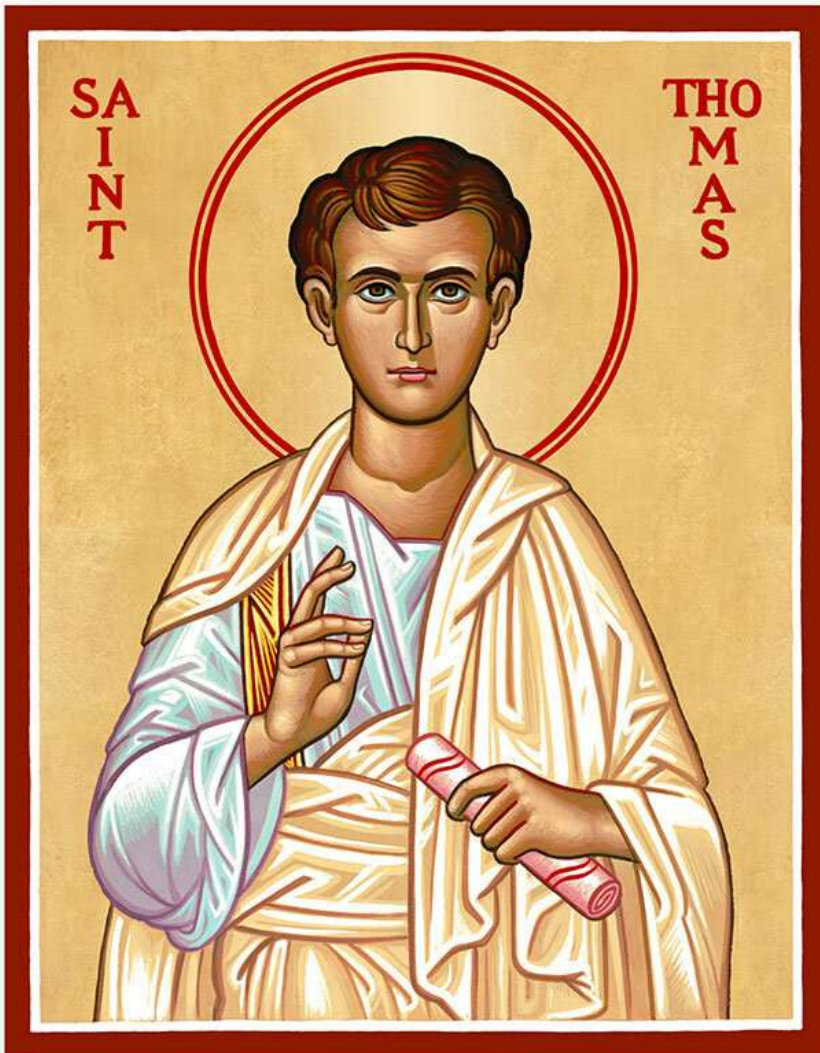
We will not have Church School on Sunday, October 26, 2025, as we will be celebrating our Parish Feast Day picnic

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



“Jesus said, ‘If the flesh came into being because of spirit, it is a wonder. But if spirit came into being because of the body, it is a wonder of wonders. Indeed, I am amazed at how this great wealth has made its home in this poverty.’”
~Thomas the Apostle





The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha

Come and join us in thanksgiving, joy and fellowship as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day.

Bring your family, invite your friends and enjoy a beautiful autumn afternoon with our parish community.

Delicious food will be provided by our Sisterhood.



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
- ❖ Adult Study via Zoom: Send suggestions for consideration to Fr. Peter
- ❖ Confessions by appointment, please contact Fr. Peter
- ❖ Please consider donating to the Fellowship Space fundraiser, and finalize your 2025 pledges!





October 2025
stbasilshousenj@gmail.com

By the grace of God and with the help of many volunteers, St. Basil's House has continued to open its doors most Wednesday mornings and one or two Saturday mornings each month.

Current Ministries

- **Wednesdays:** We serve hot breakfasts, share in Bible study, provide groceries and fresh seasonal produce, distribute toiletries and offer gently used clothing, toys, books and small household items.
- **Saturdays:** Our open houses feature breakfast snacks, prayer and creative activities such as crafts and music.
- **Hospitality:** Our small space is often filled with appreciative neighbors, and the front garden continues to bring beauty to the community. At present, the house is also offering temporary shelter to an immigrant seeking asylum.

Beyond the House

Individual volunteers have quietly supported neighbors in countless ways: transportation, visits to those in care facilities, vocational training assistance, meal deliveries, internet access and guidance with navigating the challenges of daily life.

Hopes for the Future

With more volunteers, we hope to:

- Resume offering **lunch, prayer services and regular classes.**
- Open the house for **drop-in hours** with coffee, soup and sandwiches.
- Provide spaces for **conversation, prayer and companionship.**
- Expand support to include **computer and internet access, literacy and after-school tutoring, recovery groups and economic opportunity programs.**
- Explore ways to address the deep need for **stable housing.**
- Create opportunities for neighbors to **share their own gifts.**

Volunteer Highlights

Over the past few months, many hands have made the work possible:

- **Wednesdays:** Joe (cooking, Christmas meals), Grace (produce delivery), Julia (groceries and setup), Mat. Jeanne (Bible study), Margery, Matthew and Lucia (serving; Lucia also tends the garden). Fr. Peter has offered monthly Bible study and occasional cooking.
- **Saturdays:** Natalia E. and Katya (music gatherings, including Christmas), Natalia T. and George (crafts, restarting in October).
- **Ongoing Support:** John and Carrie (gardening at Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow), men from St. Stephen's (groceries and open house hosting), parishioners of SS Peter and Paul (Christmas stockings, shopping, groceries and organizing).

We remain deeply grateful for past help from: St. Anianus (work days, open houses, lunches, drives), OCF students at The College of New Jersey (work days, open houses), Kristina (support groups and drives), Julie and Benjamin (classes, donations, gifts, painting), Mother of God Sisterhood of SS Mary and Martha (work days, groceries, gifts), St. Mark's (Thanksgiving and holiday gifts), Christ the King (groceries) and many others.

In-Kind Contributions

We are always in need of:

- Gently-used clean clothing, baby/children's items and books
- Grocery bags (preferably biodegradable)
- New socks, underwear and hoodies (all sizes)
- Gently-used Bibles, including children's editions

Seasonal Giving

In past years we've shared **Easter baskets, Christmas stockings and back-to-school shoes**. As cold weather approaches, we hope to provide new hoodies. The Sisterhood of SS Mary and Martha plans to again provide Thanksgiving groceries this year. We warmly invite you to help fill Christmas stockings or host a **Soup-er-Bowl canned food drive**.

Work Days

Help is needed for:

- Weeding the backyard
- Sorting and organizing clothing in the garage
- Power-washing the porches and outdoor furniture

Would you or your parish youth group have a Saturday available to lend a hand?

Staying Connected

Our **August–December 2025 schedule** is now available online:

[St. Basil's House Volunteer Schedule](#)

Anyone with the link can edit and sign up. If your name appears at a time you cannot attend, please kindly remove it.

Prayer

Please continue to pray that the Lord will guide our work, open our eyes and hearts and provide His wisdom and strength. May He also show each of us how best to serve so that all we do may bring glory to His holy name.

In Christ,

Judith

☎ (908) 420-7900

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)



(Continued on next page)

A bountiful harvest of cucumbers, tomatoes, and herbs from EPHROSINI'S Garden at Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow church. Many, many THANKS to JOHN for digging, fencing, planting, watering, weeding and harvesting! And many thanks to GRACE for delivering produce to us week after week. It is a privilege to be able to share such lovely fresh produce with our neighbors.



Thank you all for your continued support! ~ **Katya, Deacon John & Matushka Judith**



Holy, Glorious, Apostle Thomas

Commemorated on October 6th



The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in a Galilean city. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. “My Lord and my God,” the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). “Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles,” says Saint John Chrysostom, “toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to all nations.”

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” In Slavonic, it says, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr’s death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Mylapore the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. The name of the Apostle Thomas is associated with the Arabian (or Arapet) Icon of the Mother of God (September 6).



“Arapet” Icon of the Mother of God

Commemorated on [September 6](#)

The Arapet, or “Arabian” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos appeared while the holy Apostle Thomas (October 6) was evangelizing Ethiopia, Arabia, and India.

Instead of the usual three stars (signifying the perpetual virginity of the Mother of God), the outer garment of the Theotokos has three circles with the head of an angel inside each one. In this feature, it resembles the icons “In Giving Birth you Preserved your Virginity” (“A Virgin Before and After Giving Birth”) (October 17) and “O All-Hymned Mother” (October 6).

Reprinted from www.oca.org





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 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 pray for Margery and Jan's friend, **Carl**, who is struggling with alcohol addiction and is resisting rehab.
- **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 Aunt **Scott Brown Pempeit**. Her friend **Missy Gillespie** and Missy's husband, **Kurt**, who needs a kidney transplant. Also, continued prayers for her humble mother, **Nina Robinson**.

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
Alex Todoroff. May his 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!!!

