



# Mother of God Orthodox Church

904 Cherry Hill Road + Princeton, NJ 08540 + [mogoca.org](http://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.



## Message from Father Peter

### God is Glorified in His Saints

The glorification of saints in the Orthodox Church is a recognition that God's holiness is manifested in the Church through these grace-filled men and women whose lives were pleasing to God. The Orthodox Church has continued this practice from the very early days to the present. In October we will celebrate the memory of three North American Saints: St Innocent Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostles to America (6 Oct); St. Tikhon Enlightener of America (9 Oct); and, our most recent saint Righteous Olga, Matushka of All Alaska. Each of these saints lived

and worked on the North American continent to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to live and teach the Orthodox faith. They are, for us, not only our legacy but an example of how we too must continue to witness our faith in this very present time.

We glorify those whom God Himself has glorified, seeing in their lives true love for God and their neighbors. The Church merely recognizes that such a person has cooperated with God's grace to the extent that his or her holiness is beyond doubt. Saints Innocent, Tikhon and Olga each offer us an example and challenge to the question: "Am I living an Orthodox witness to those whom I encounter?" Innocent and Tikhon came to North America with the purpose of evangelizing; Olga was a native of the Alaskan lands and evangelized by a life of service and sacrifice. All three were challenged and overcame obstacles that allowed them to become an example for us.

**St. Innocent:** "spent 45 years laboring for the enlightenment of the peoples of Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, North America, Yakutsk, the Khabarov frontier, performing his apostolic exploit in severe conditions and at great risks to life. Saint Innocent baptized ten thousand people and built churches, beside which he founded schools and he himself taught the fundamentals of the Christian life. His knowledge of various crafts and arts aided him in his work."

**Saint Tikhon:** "did much to promote the spread of Orthodoxy, and to improve his vast diocese. He reorganized the diocesan structure and changed its name from 'Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska' to 'Diocese of the Aleutians and North America.' He established St. Tikhon's monastery in 1905, and he established theological schools, which in his words: 'This seminary would not be like the Russian ecclesiastical seminaries. We must establish a school to fit the needs of the people in America.' St. Tikhon reminds us that 'The spread of Christ's faith ought to be near and precious to the heart of every Orthodox Christian.'"

**Mother Olga:** our most recent Saint of the Orthodox Church "offered hospitality not as a performance, but as a way of life. Whether sewing warm clothes for those in need, baking bread for the altar, or comforting a grieving neighbor, she did all things without self-importance." She continues to help those in need through her intercessions and miracles. After her death "stories began to circulate—quietly at first, then more widely—of dreams, visions and healings. Women in distress felt her nearness. Survivors of abuse spoke of being comforted in their sleep. Families troubled by sorrow found themselves praying to 'Matushka Olga' as they would to a beloved elder or a wise grandmother. And she answered."

She has become a healer for women who have been abused as these two stories from her life witness: “A woman, a survivor of childhood abuse, saw Matushka Olga in a dream—not as a distant figure, but as a mother and midwife who labored with her soul. In the dream, Saint Olga embraced her, anointed her, and gently removed the pain that had festered for decades. The woman awoke healed of her spiritual torment, no longer afraid of love, no longer ashamed.

A survivor of clerical abuse shared a similar vision: Saint Olga appeared silently, offering no condemnation but only pure maternal compassion, restoring the woman’s faith and helping her begin again.”

These Saints are our gift from God to help us on the road to our salvation. They were not superheroes, or famous sport figures or celebrities, just people who heard the word of God and lived it to the best of the talents that God gave them. I encourage you to read their lives and take away examples of how you can develop your talents to manifest to others the work that God continues to do every day in your life. May the prayers of Saints Innocent, Tikhon and Olga strengthen us to continue the work of evangelization and healing to all who dwell and make their home on the North American continent.

*\*Quotes are taken from the life of the Saints on the Orthodox Church in America website:  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2026/10/27>*



## Services, Feasts & Special Events

~ October 2026 ~

Sunday liturgical services are at MOG @ 9:30 A.M. Saturday Vesper Services are at MOG @5:00 P.M. All are welcome.

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.**

|                                           |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup></b>   | <b>No Choir Rehearsal or Vespers Service</b>                                                     |
| <b>Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG</b>                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service</b>                                      |
| <b>Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School</b>                                        |
| <b>Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG</b>                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service</b>                                      |
| <b>Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School</b>                                        |
| <b>Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG</b>                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service</b>                                      |
| <b>Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Parish Feast Day, followed by Church School</b>                     |
| <b>Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG</b>                                                         |
| <b>Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>9:00 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, with Metropolitan Tikhon and the Diocesan Assembly</b> |
| <b>Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>Hosting the Diocesan Assembly</b>                                                             |
| <b>Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service</b>                                      |

View the master MOG calendar at:



[http://www.bit.ly/MOG\\_calendar](http://www.bit.ly/MOG_calendar)



## Church School



**Christ is in our midst! The 2026-27 church school season has begun! The goal is to teach children to know and love their God with all of their heart, mind and soul. This is a community effort. When children see those around them, especially their church friends, participating and worshipping in Church, there is a joy to join and partake in the beauty and mystery of God's gifts.**

*St John Chrysostom says, "Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have great wealth and more glory*

*than riches can provide".*

Every Sunday the children choose a job from the star chart. This is a wonderful, whole sensory engagement that Kristina put into place while she was directing church school. The children look forward to their church jobs. This guides them to know when to go, where to stand, when to wait, touching and smelling the candles, and moving in and through the church service.

This year we are blessed to have 16 children enrolled, as well as 6 volunteer teachers! The children are divided by age into 3 groups. Each group has a group name. We have: the St. Nicholas group, led by Mina and Liza; the St. Olga's with Natalia and Matt; and, the Cherubims led by Markus and Carrie. This year Anna will be directing the Nativity play. The play will be on December 6th. This aligns with Archbishop Michael's visit.

The children have started learning about the 12 feasts; one each Sunday. As we move into the Nativity Fast, the play will be the main focus as well as planning service projects, deepening friendships with social activities, fundraising for our school field trip, and broadening our church school library. After the winter break, we will move into Saint studies, which will culminate in final presentations of the children's own name's day Saint.

Icons help us remember stories from the bible and are "windows into heaven." In January, we pray to find an Iconographer to teach an art workshop for the children.

Please consider donating to the church school fund. The money is used for supplies, books, trips and anything else needed to keep this ministry thriving and keep our children strong in the faith. Please also take a look at our church school calendar if you would like to stay informed about what we are studying. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Lastly, thank you to Father Peter and Matushka Jeanne for your guidance and support in this ministry. Thanks to all who support with prayers and donations!

Mother of God Church School Calendar 2-26-2027

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mmakb3xIHCnxhq0Ef2Q11k6f8Lkqx0gk6sI9VG04clc/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

In Christ, Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch



## Wisdom of Our Church Fathers

The wisdom of the Orthodox Church Fathers (known as *patristics*) centers on acquiring a pure heart, unceasing prayer, and achieving union with God (*theosis*) through humility and love.



### St Antony teaches ....

St Antony teaches about ceaseless abiding with God: “Let your soul be with God at all times, and your body be as some statue on earth. Stand always straight before the face of God. Have the fear of God always before your eyes, as also the remembrance of death and withdrawal from all worldly things. Die daily, that you may live; for he who fears God will live for ever. Be always alert, that you fall not into laziness and idleness. Hate all that is of this world and flee from self, for otherwise it will separate you from God. Hate all that brings harm to your soul.

Do not depart from God for the sake of transient things. Do not take the example of him that is weaker than you, but that of him who is more perfect.

Be attentive to the example of those who have loved the Lord with all their hearts and performed good works. Above all, pour forth constant prayer and give God grateful thanks for all that happens to you. Fulfil all that is commanded, and you will receive the inheritance which ‘eye hath not seen

nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man (I Cor. 2:9).”





## The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha

Please read this special message below, from the Saints Mary and Martha Orthodox Monastery in South Carolina, and help however you can. Praise God.

### Saints Mary and Martha Orthodox Monastery

A Community of Prayer and Hospitality in Wagener, South Carolina



The monastery chapel iconostasis.

Our Parish Sisterhood is named after the sisters of St. Lazarus, St. Mary, and St. Martha. We chose these saints as our patrons because of their selfless sacrifice and friendship with Christ, which we wanted to emulate as a group. This month, I want to highlight a very special group of female monastics whose monastery bears the same name as our Sisterhood and who provide our church with the beeswax candles we use every week.

#### About the Monastery

Saints Mary and Martha Orthodox Monastery is a women's monastic community of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South. Founded in 1989, it has been located since 1996 on sixty peaceful acres in Wagener, South Carolina, approximately thirty miles southwest of Columbia. The community's life centers on prayer, hospitality, and offering a place of spiritual refreshment to those who visit.

The sisters maintain the daily monastic cycle of prayer and welcome visitors for Divine Liturgy, retreats, and quiet time away from the distractions of everyday life. Individual retreats, mother-and-daughter retreats, and retreats for small groups of women may be arranged, although accommodations are limited and reservations must be made in advance.

## The Sisters and Their Work



Mother Helena, our candle maker, and Mother Thekla, the Abbess.



The monastery building in Wagener, South Carolina.

One of the monastery's important means of support is the making of pure beeswax candles with cotton wicks. These are the candles our parish uses each week in worship. By purchasing them, we support the sisters' life of prayer while bringing the fruit of their faithful labor into our own church.

## How We Can Help

- Pray for Mother Thekla, Mother Helena, and the growth of their monastic community.
- Donate to the monastery and its continuing building work.
- Purchase the sisters' handmade beeswax candles and other monastery items.
- Visit for worship or a retreat, making arrangements with the monastery in advance.

Saints Mary & Martha Orthodox Monastery  
65 Spinner Lane, Wagener, SC 29164  
803-564-6894 | Mary\_MarthaM@comporium.net  
saintsmaryandmarthaorthodoxmonastery.org

May the prayers and example of Saints Mary and Martha inspire us to serve Christ with the same love, devotion, and hospitality.

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





## 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 begin on September 13<sup>th</sup> for the 2026-2027 School Year

For information or to volunteer, contact Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch at [carriellmore@gmail.com](mailto:carriellmore@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 at [pabaktis@gmail.com](mailto:pabaktis@gmail.com)
- ❖ Inquirers class are held at MOG  
Contact FP for information
- ❖ Confessions by appointment, please contact FP
- ❖ Thanks to all who donated to the Fellowship Space fundraiser. Please finalize your 2026 pledges!



## Church Hospitality

Please contact Matushka Jeanne at [jbaktis@hotmail.com](mailto: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***





October 2026  
stbasilshousenj@gmail.com

- **THANK YOU** for donating **canned goods**, **toiletries**, **clothing**, toys, books, small household items 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.

Special thanks to Carrie and her crew for their work in Ephrosini & Jackie's Garden! We have been pleased to distribute herbs, kale, lettuce, tomatoes, beans and even 2 melons.

We have been blessed to be able to continue to meet on all but one **Wednesday morning** during September for breakfast, Bible study, and the distribution of clothing and groceries. Grace, Matthew, Natalia T. and Mina have helped to serve; Joe has cooked delicious food. Fr. Peter and Mat. Jeanne plan to lead the gathering on October 14, November 11, December 9, and they could use an extra hand with serving and clean-up.

Natalia T. and George hosted an open house on the morning of **Saturday**, September 5; she brought a delicious frittata, we made bracelets, and the participants prayed the Jesus Prayer together. Natalia T. and George plan to host a gathering on October 3, making kaleidoscopes. They plan to host gatherings on Saturdays, November 7 and December 5.

If volunteers were available, we would be able to host **other Saturday** gatherings; please consider serving in this way; we each have gifts to share. How about sharing music? or painting? baking? a seminar on nutrition? recycling? or prayer?

Please continue to **pray** for us, and for our neighbors. Please pray that God would send people to help



so that the work may continue; dependable, younger, stronger volunteers are very badly needed.



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



stbasilshousetrentonnj



## Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord

Commemorated October 16<sup>th</sup>



The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54).

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.

After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. Saint Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus's village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal, the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty.

The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where the saints were martyred. The head of Saint Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate. Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain.

The woman's son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

Saint Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she

began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and Saint Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, Saint Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and Saint Longinus said, "Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness."

The woman carried out the saint's instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. There she buried her son and the head of Saint Longinus. Once, she had been overcome by grief for her son, but her weeping was transformed into joy when she saw him with Saint Longinus. She had sought healing for her eyes, and also received healing of her soul.

*Reprinted from 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](https://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.*

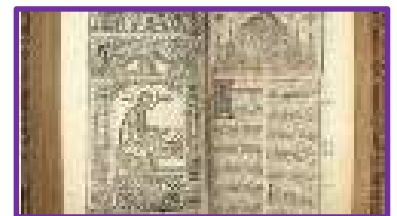
## Have mercy, O Lord, upon:

- 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 – especially as we celebrate 250 years of freedom. Please pray for unity, love, peace and joy.
- Please pray for **Father Peter Baktis** as he heals from his rib injury. And for:
- **Mark**, Daria Pettus' husband, will be undergoing tumor removal surgery in October.
- **Debbie Baktis**, Matushka Jeanne's sister-in-law who is awaiting a kidney transplant.
- Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever: Matushka Jeanne has a great update about **David** (her niece's husband), who has been on our prayer list for a while. Thank God he is finally cancer-free!
- **Jan Perkins**, who continues to suffer from mobility and digestive issues, and please pray for Margery's friend **Roger**, who is dying of pancreatic cancer.
- The **DeLarato Family**. **Nick DeLarato**, who has health issues, and Nick's sister, **Kathy**.
- **Olga Mezina**, friend of Lana.
- **Carson & Addison**, Joe Elchak's granddaughters.
- Nina Robinson's friend, **Stella Goudard**, who has heart issues, and Stella's husband, **Rick**.
- Lauren Ugorji's: mother, **Nina Robinson**, who is having increased bouts with vertigo; husband, **Richmond**, who has health issues, adult children **Jade & Mike Edwards**, who continue to suffer setbacks in quest to rebuild home; **Jordan & Eric Mosurick**, who need jobs, and teenage **Anastasia Ugorji**. Lauren's: dad, **Don Robinson**, as he battles blood cancer; aunt **Kirra** (undergoing chemo treatments for pancreatic cancer) & uncle **Jesse Filkins**; aunts **Scott Brown Pempeit** and **Laverne Tisdale**; friend **Missy Gillespie** and Missy's husband, **Kurt**, who is now on the kidney transplant list – praise God!; and **Lydia**, a teenager and family friend diagnosed with cancer.

*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](mailto:ladyofleasure@yahoo.com)

## COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED Memory Eternal

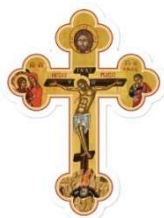


Daily Bible Readings - For a listing and links to the daily scripture readings go to <http://oca.org/readings>





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



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

---