



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.



Message from Father Peter

Happy New Year! September 1st marks the Church's New Year, and what a New Year we have to celebrate. This past year was filled with much activity, especially the completion of the Fellowship Space. With the support of all of you and our contractors, we were able to bless the space on August 23rd, beginning a new chapter in our community's life. This project was needed as we continue to grow and provide space for our church school program, fellowship after services and other educational and community events.

Our church school program will begin on Sunday, September 13th, and I thank Carrie for taking on the role of program director. Much work has gone into making this year's program one that will allow our children to grow in their relationship with our Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. I thank the teachers who have volunteered and who give so much to make the program such a success. I also thank you, parents, for making it a priority to have your children educated in the faith, bringing them to church each week and participating in the special programs throughout the year.

On October 28–29, we will host the Diocesan Assembly. This will be a first not only for our parish, but for the Diocese. Archbishop Michael has asked our Primate, Metropolitan Tikhon, to be present with us on this occasion. It will be an opportunity to show how warmly we welcome our guests and to provide the loving hospitality for which we are known. I ask that you make yourself available for the many support needs required to make this a memorable event. Tom has arranged for a two-piece jazz ensemble to provide entertainment for the dinner on Thursday evening.

I will continue our Inquirers/Catechumen instruction on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m., and I am planning an educational program for Advent. We will also offer a program to help enhance our congregational singing and encourage everyone to participate in learning how to use the gift of voice God has given us, so that we may live the words of the Psalmist: "Praise God in the highest!"

Lastly, please save the date of September 23rd for our annual fall clean-up. Much work is needed to clear the path to the stream, as well as to weed and mulch.

I am so excited to begin this New Year, and I thank God for each and every one of you who works to make the love, forgiveness and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ visible in your lives and in the lives of all whom you meet.



Services, Feasts & Special Events

~ September 2026 ~

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.**

Wednesday, September 2nd	6:00 P.M. / Inquirers Class at MOG
Saturday, September 5th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, September 6th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, September 8th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/ The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Wednesday, September 9th	6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG
Saturday, September 12th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, September 13th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Monday, September 14th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/ The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross
Wednesday, September 16th	6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG
Saturday, September 19th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, September 20th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
Wednesday, September 23rd	6:00 P.M./ Inquirers Class at MOG
Saturday, September 26th	4:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal/ 5:00 P.M. Vespers Service
Sunday, September 27th	9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy followed by Church School

View the master MOG calendar at:



http://www.bit.ly/MOG_calendar



Church School



Church School Begins on Sunday, September 13th following the Divine Liturgy. It will cover the school year for 2026-2027.



Wisdom of Our Church Fathers



On the living presence of Christ

'I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' (Matt. 28:20).
Here is consolation above all consolations! Here is consolation for those broken by tempest. Let them only remember that Christ is there among them, and let them not be afraid. He is the Helmsman.

Here is consolation for those in pain. Let them know that Christ is there by their bed, and let them not despair. He is the Healer.

Here is consolation for the old. Let them not lose sight of the fact that Christ goes with them through the years right to eternity and eternal youth, and let them be at peace.

Here is consolation for those who are tormented by men. Let them not think that they are left alone, for Christ is with them in all their pain, and at their judgement, and in prison; and let them rejoice. He is the Judge.

Here is consolation for those tormented by evil spirits. Let them remember that Christ, the Conqueror of evil spirits, is on their side, and let them be strengthened. He is the Victor.

Here is consolation for those who seek the light of righteousness and truth. Let them believe that Christ is closer to their souls than to their eyes, and let them follow His leading. He is the Light.

Oh, my brethren, Christ is truly always with us, as a light that is ever present to the eyes of those who look. But, to our loss, if the eyes of our soul are closed, then the light seeks in vain to encounter the pupil of our eye! Oh, what sorrow and grief is ours when we are not with Christ!

He comes to meet us – do we go to meet Him? He desires to be with us – do we desire to be with Him? If we desire consolation, we must be with Him every day to the end of our lives.

O Lord, our only Consoler, do not leave us! To Thee be glory and praise for ever.

~ St Nikolai Velimirovic, *The Prologue from Ochrid*





The Sisterhood of Saints Mary and Martha

On August 4th, the Sisterhood of Sts. Mary and Martha, along with members of the Brotherhood of St. Lazarus, came together to put the finishing touches on our new Fellowship Space.

The children helped clean and install yards of shelf liner in the new cabinets and drawers, while the men painted, spackled and assembled furniture.

It was a wonderful example of our parish family working side by side in service to one another, fulfilling the call to “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

Afterward, Fr. Peter rewarded everyone’s hard work with a pizza lunch.



Opening Ceremony with the Mayor of Montgomery, The Architect and the Contractor



“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 will begin on September 13th for the 2026-2027 School Year

For information or to volunteer, contact Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch at 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
- ❖ 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 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





September 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, romaine, blueberries, tomatoes, beans and peas.

We have been blessed to be able to continue to meet during July and August on **Wednesday mornings** 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. On August 11, Fr. Peter and Mat. Jeanne led the gathering; they could use an extra hand with serving and clean-up on the second Wednesday of each month (September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9).

Natalia T. hosted an open house on the morning of **Saturday**, August 1; we decorated mugs. On July 18, Eleni T. hosted an open house, and the participants prayed the Jesus Prayer together. Natalia T. and George plan to host gatherings on Saturdays, September 5, October 3, 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 help with journaling? or painting? 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.



Hand decorated Mugs



Summer produce offered to our neighbors



Gifts from Ephrosini & Jackie's garden



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

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Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised

Commemorated September 16th

The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia (Euphēmia / Ευφημία) was the daughter of Christian parents, the senator Philophronos and his wife Theodosia. She suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople, the Queen of Cities.

Priscus, the Proconsul of Chalcedon, issued a decree which required all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and the surrounding area to attend a pagan festival, in order to worship and offer sacrifice to the idol of Ares. He threatened grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they worshiped the true God in secret. The young virgin Euphemia was among those who prayed there.



Soon their hiding place was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer the charges against them. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various torments, but none of them wavered in their faith, nor did they consent to offer sacrifice to the idol. The governor, beside himself with rage and not knowing any other way of forcing the Christians to abandon their faith, sent them to Emperor Diocletian for trial. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not persevere if she were left all alone.

Separated from her fellow-Christians, Saint Euphemia fervently prayed that the Lord Jesus Christ would strengthen her for her impending ordeal. Priscus urged the Saint to offer sacrifice to the idol, promising her many rewards. When she refused, he ordered that she be tortured.

The martyr was tied to a wheel with sharp knives attached to it, which slashed her body. The Saint prayed aloud, and miraculously, the wheel stopped by itself and would not move despite all the efforts of the executioners. An angel of the Lord, came down from Heaven, removed Euphemia from the wheel, and healed her of her wounds, and the Saint gave thanks to God.

Priscus did not notice the miracle which had taken place, so he ordered the soldiers Victor and Sosthenes to take the Saint to a red-hot furnace. But the soldiers, seeing two Angels in the midst of the flames, refused to carry out the Proconsul's order and declared that they believed in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes awaited punishment. They were sentenced to be devoured by wild beasts. In the arena, they begged God to forgive the sins they had committed, asking the Lord to receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A Divine voice was heard, and the two soldiers entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not harm their bodies.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, did not suffer. With God's help she emerged unscathed after many other torments. Ascribing these things to sorcery, Priscus ordered a pit to be dug. Filling it with knives, he had it covered over with earth and grass, so that the martyr would not notice this trap.

Once again, Saint Euphemia remained safe, walking over the pit. Finally, she was sentenced to be devoured by wild beasts in the arena. Before her execution the Saint prayed that the Lord would deem her worthy of martyrdom. But none of the bears or lions attacked her, but only licked her feet. Finally, one she-bear wounded her foot, which bled slightly, and the Holy Great Martyr Euphemia died right away. As her soul departed, there was an earthquake. The city was shaken, the walls fell down, and

the pagan temples crumbled. As Saint Euphemia lay dead in the sand, the guards and spectators fled in terror, so that the Saint's parents were able to take her body and bury it near Chalcedon.

Later, a majestic church was built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia. The sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place there in the year 451. At that time, the Holy Great Martyr Euphemia confirmed the Orthodox confession of faith in a miraculous way, exposing the Monophysite heresy. That miracle is commemorated on July 11.

When the Persians captured Chalcedon in the year 617, the relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia were transferred to Constantinople (around the year 620). During the Iconoclast heresy, the reliquary containing Saint Euphemia's relics seems to have been thrown into the sea, but pious sailors recovered them. They were brought to the island of Lemnos, and they were returned to Constantinople in 796.

The incorrupt body of Saint Euphemia is in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George at the Phanar in Constantinople. Portions of her relics are to be found in Kykkos Monastery on Cyprus, and in the Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra at Saint Petersburg.

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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:

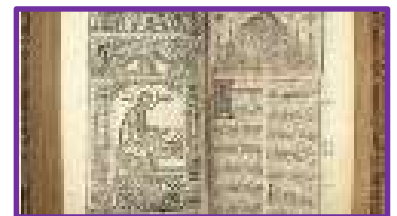
- We pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy. We pray for peace in the Middle East. We pray the same for all war-torn nations.
- Please pray for an end to gun violence, particularly in the United States – 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 who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- **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

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!!!
