

## October 1 - The Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos

*“Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”*

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

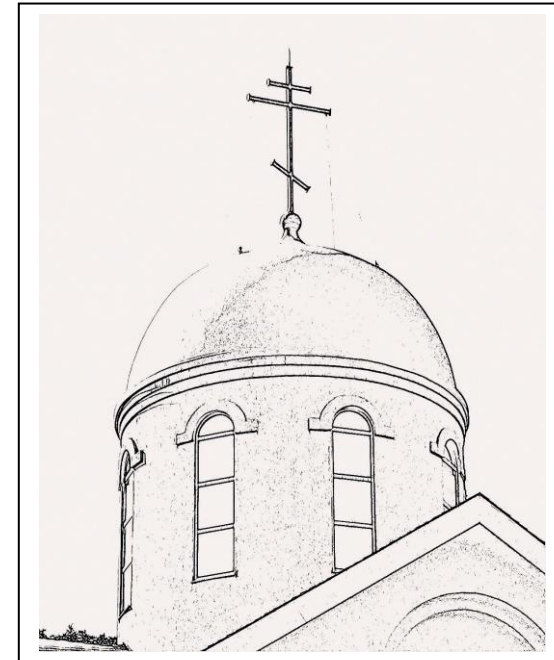
The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

In the PROLOGUE, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, “For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!”

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.”

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

*Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!*

*Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

*A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America*

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032

Email: [gjbretton@gmail.com](mailto:gjbretton@gmail.com)

Fax: (732) 295-0007

Website: [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org)

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

September 29, 2019

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Tone 6. Ven. Cyriacus the Hermit, of Palestine (556). Martyrs Dadas, Gabdelas, and Casdoë (Casdoa) of Persia (4th c.). Ven. Theophanes the Merciful of Gaza.*

### Today's Readings:

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

**Gospel:** Luke 6:31-36

### Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Monday – **7:00pm Great Vespers (Protection)**

Tuesday – **9:30am Divine Liturgy (Protection)**

Saturday - **7:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

### Next Sunday's Readings:

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and Hebrews 7:26-8:2

**Gospel:** Luke 7:11-16 and John 10:9-16



*Protection of the  
Most-holy Theotokos*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org), diocesan news by visiting [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org), and parish news by visiting [www.occa-brick.org](http://www.occa-brick.org).

### Coffee Hour Teams:

*Today* – TEAM E (Bass, Petrides)

*Next Sunday* – TEAM A (Pasick, Stavrou)

### Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Matushka Cathy Smida, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an abbreviated Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall, and to stay or return afterwards for our Annual Parish Ethnic Food Fair and Gift Auction that takes place between 12noon and 6pm.

## Annunciations

**TODAY** – There will be **NO Church School** due to the Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction. Classes will resume next Sunday at their usual times.

**TODAY** – We will hold a **modified Coffee Hour** in the parish hall. The time immediately after Divine Liturgy and 12noon will be focused on preparing for the parish's **Ethnic Food Fair and Gift Auction**. If you stay for the Coffee Hour, please stay for the event. If you must depart after Divine Liturgy, please return during the afternoon. The event will run until 6:00pm.

**TOMORROW** – We congratulate our **Archbishop Michael** on the Nameday of His Eminence's patron saint, the one acquired before His Eminence's episcopal consecration. Grant, O Lord, a peaceful life, health, salvation, and furtherance in all good things, to our Archbishop Michael, and preserve him and protect him for Many Years! **Eis Polla eti Despota!**

**THIS TUESDAY** – We will celebrate the **Feast of the Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos** beginning on Monday evening at 7:00pm with Great Vespers. On Tuesday, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30am.

**Many thanks** to all those who have worked so hard to prepare for today's **Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction**. May God grant you Many Years! May He bless us with a beautiful day of fellowship and prosperity, all for His glory!

Our sister in Christ, **Catherine Ratushnuk**, is currently living in a rehabilitation facility. All **correspondences** should go to: Catherine Ratushnuk, Tallwoods Care Center, Rm 221, 18 Butler Blvd., Bayville, NJ. 08721.

**Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!**

### ***MANY YEARS***

#### Birthdays this week:

*Today* – Paul Berger

*Wednesday* – Charlie Bass

*Thursday* – Emily Mari

#### Wedding Anniversaries this week:

*Tuesday* – Richard & Gail Hascha (#31)

*Friday* – Paul & Vicky Berger (#4)

*Saturday* – Gary & Tara Paxton (#22)

### OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.