

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

**Moscow Patriarchate**

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Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Timothy M. Barna, Rector

Fr. Deacon Daniel Woytowich

Matushka Sherry Barna, Choir Director

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. – Weekdays Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

General Confession 1st Sunday of month

**Private Confession every Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or upon request**

**Sunday, September 27, 2020**

Epistle: 2 Cor 6: 1-10

Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11

**PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH:** Please pray for the following: Stephanie Kennedy, Drake Kennedy, Wellington Kennedy, Conrad Kennedy, Pat Federonko, Gloria Wheeler, Doris Sprague, Gregory Harvilla, Judy Wadysz, Barbara Sapick, Paul Sapick, Mildred Cislo, Anna Hagopian, Reader Gary (Paul) Repella, Michael Gaujanian, Marion Kurtyka, Alice Caddy, William Harvey, Daniel Moran, Brian Kurtyka, Ryan Kerrigan, Frances Munaco, Sonia Kurtyka, Nancy Hawkins, Jim Fisher, and Mark Sudia.

**PRAYER:** Please continue to pray for those who are afflicted with the Covid 19 virus, as well as those who put their lives on the line administering to the sick, and also for those who serve our communities – police, emergency personnel, fireman, government officials, and those working to provide necessities for us.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY WHILE ATTENDING CHURCH, as mandated by the governor. Also, follow safe distancing practices and sanitize your hands.**

**SPECIAL THANKS:** To members and friends for your continuing support of St. Michael's Church through your generous offerings sent in during this difficult time of the Covid 19 virus. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**FLOWERS FOR THE HOLY CROSS:**

Millie Youmans, Sub-deacon Ted Malloney

\$35.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!**

**CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

**Wednesday, September 30th – Vespers** for the *Holy Feast of Protection of the Holy Theotokos* 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Divine Liturgy** for the *Holy Feast of Protection of the Holy Theotokos* 10:00 a.m.

**FROM THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN . . .** Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey

**THE HOPE & PROTECTION OF ALL PEOPLE**

The Virgin Mary is referred to in many beautiful and meaningful ways. She is called the Theotokos - the Mother of God – because she is best remembered for giving birth to Jesus Christ. Another title she is called is “*Protectress of the world.*” In fact, a popular holy day observed by some jurisdictions goes by the graphic title of the Feast Day of the PROTECTION of the Mother of God.

The historical basis for this feast is traced back to the city of Constantinople in the early years of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The capital of the Byzantine Empire was under siege. It was only a matter of time until the city would fall to its pagan attackers. The Emperor Leo the Wise called upon his best means of defense: PRAYER.

Believers from all over the city gathered in the Church of Blachernae, dedicated to the Mother of God. Among those present for the all-night vigil was a certain St. Andrew, called a “*fool for Christ,*” and his faithful disciple Epiphanius. While all of the faithful were deeply engrossed in prayer, these pious saints are said to have had a vision of the Mother of God appearing over the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands in a sign of protection.

Andrew and Epiphanius quickly shared their vision with the rest of the worshippers. Viewing this as a sign of God's favor, they continued to pray with great fervor. At that very moment, the tide of the battle turned, and their enemies were driven back. They had been protected by the Mother of God!

This Feast serves to remind us of Mary's constant role as our “*Protectress.*” We are called upon to always seek her maternal protection.

**APPLES OF GOLD: (ON FAITH)**

Instead of waiting upon the Lord, some people want the Lord to wait upon them.