

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

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Schedule of Services

- 12/31 Sunday**
*Leave-taking of Christmas
Civil New Year's Eve*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy,
with prayers for the New Year
- 1/1 Monday (In the Hartford Parish!)**
*Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord
Feast of Saint Basil the Great*
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
(At All Saints Church in Hartford!)
- 1/3 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/5 Friday**
Eve of the Feast of Theophany
7:00 PM – Festal Vigil
- 1/6 Saturday**
Feast of Theophany
9:15 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy,
with the Blessing of Water
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/7 Sunday**
Sunday after Theophany
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
Installation of the new Parish Council
- 1/8 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 1/10 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/13 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/14 Sunday**
Leave-taking of Theophany
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 1/17 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/20 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/21 Sunday**
Zacchaeus Sunday
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 31, 2017

The 30th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

*Leave-taking (Last Day) of
the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord*

Commemoration of the Venerable Melania of Rome

A Prayer on the Occasion of the New Year

O Master, Lord our God, the Fountain of Life and Immortality, the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible, who governs the seasons and the years and guides all things by Your wise providence; we thank You for all the blessings that You have poured out upon us during the past years of our lives, and we beg You, all-bountiful Lord, bless this coming New Year with Your Goodness, direct our civil authorities in the path of goodness, and bestow Your heavenly blessings upon all Your people, especially the blessings of salvation, health and growth in virtue. Deliver Your Church and this town and countryside from every assault of the Evil One, and grant us peace and tranquility; and grant, also, that we may always offer thanksgiving to You, the Father who is without beginning, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your most-holy Spirit, God glorified in three persons, and may we joyfully praise Your all-holy Name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

Andrew Behr—Macrina Hopko's uncle d. 12/17/17
Julie Ann Voytovich—Fr. Steven Voytovich's mother d. 12/15/17
Michael "Mischa" Semanitzky—Dn. Paul Nimchek's uncle d. 12/3/17
child Maven—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family d. 11/29/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Harry Leba, Sr. 12/31/1999
Afton Andrash 1/1/1937
Peter Duke 1/1/1956
Peter Markovich 1/2/2009
Walter Sobestanovich 1/3/1993
Vassily (Charles) Cartona 1/4/1988
John Skovran 1/4/2003
Neda Brenner 1/4/2004
Lewis Plasko 1/5/1991
Nikolai Jakimenko 1/5/1997
Cyril Goidich 1/6/1937
Malakai Motylvk 1/6/1941
Anne Toropilo Rossini 1/6/2009

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures
Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yaht-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin

Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
Anatoli—a friend of Tania Bouteneff; diagnosed with colon cancer
Galina—wife of above-mentioned Anatoli
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; still in need of prayers for health
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Bachloan—friend of Jeanne Moore; recent open heart surgery
Sophie (Sonia) Ozerov—Fr. John's great-aunt; broken pelvis
Jerry Grasso—Jayne Grasso's husband; unwell and in need of prayers

Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol; now on hospice care
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Abigail and the twins she is carrying—M. and K. Orelup's daughter and grandchildren
Matushka Holly (Hanna) and the child to be born of her
Matushka Brenda (Barbara) and the child to be born of her
And all the other expectant mothers and their children for whom we have been asked to pray

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Travelers, those soon to be traveling, and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until spring 2018
Peter and Chezelle Serev
John "Jack" Kriniske

Birthdays

Marina Bharara 1/3
Donna Osuch 1/5

News and Notes

2018 Pledge Forms: The Pledge Forms for 2018 have been distributed. Please review your packet carefully. Please make a prayerful decision about how you are going to support our parish financially in the coming year, and then fill out and return your pledge form using the envelope provided in the packet. If you have any questions about this matter, please see Fr. John.

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation "button" is located on our parish website to make possible online donations. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal's fees are 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

Weather Related Cancellations: If we need to cancel parish services and/or other events due to bad weather, those announcements will appear on NBC Connecticut Television and on the NBC Connecticut Internet website. Also, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information.

MORE NEWS AND NOTES

Installation of the Year 2018 Parish Council, Sunday, January 7: The Year 2018 Parish Council will be formally installed with a brief service of prayer at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, January 7, 2017.

Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:00 PM: The Year 2018 Parish Council will meet for the first time on Monday, January 8, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM.

House Blessings in the Theophany Season: Soon, it will be time for the annual blessings of homes. House Blessing Forms are now available in the Narthex. If you want your home blessed this year, please fill out a form and return it in the box provided. Thank you!

Details about House Blessings

The Annual Blessings of Homes takes place each year following the Feast of Theophany in January. Fr. John will contact those who have requested home blessing to set up an appointment to perform this service.

When the Fr. John comes to bless your home, the following should be arranged:

A table should be set in a central place, covered with a clean tablecloth. Often the dining room table, cleared of nonessential items, is used for this purpose.

On this table should be placed:

- A candle in a candlestick, lighted. This candle will be used by a member of the household to lead the priest through the house during the service of blessing.
- A bowl filled with Holy Water that was blessed during this present year's celebration of Theophany.
- An icon, if the place where the table is located does not have one visibly nearby.
- A list of the names of the living and departed members, relatives and friends of the household whom you wish to have mentioned during the service of blessing.

During the brief service of blessing the following points should be observed:

- All electronic devices (televisions, computers, tablets, gaming systems, smart-phones, etc.) should be turned off and all headphones should be removed.
- All members of the household should be gathered, standing and appropriately attired, at the table where the service will begin. (Neat, clean, casual clothing is fine, but no dirty work clothes or T-shirts with slogans, etc. should be worn.) Non-Orthodox and/or non-believing members of the household are asked to be respectful during the service, or respectfully to absent themselves.
- Pets should be appropriately secured.
- The doors to each room of the home should be opened and, if necessary, lights should be turned on throughout the house. A member of the household should be selected ahead of time to lead the priest through the house during the blessing. This person should have determined his or her route ahead of time and should carry a lighted candle during this portion of the service. Children usually enjoy being invited to do this task. More than one child can certainly participate in this part of the service, if they so desire.
- It ought to go without saying, but when the time comes for the visit of the priest, the house should be in "blessable" condition, not necessarily pristine, but neat and presentable.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday after Christmas, this year December 31

The Reading from the Epistle to the Galatians (Gal. 1:11-19)

Brother and Sisters: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Scripture Readings for the Sunday after the Feast of the Theophany, this year January 7

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:7-13)

Brothers and Sisters: Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 4:12-17)

At that time: When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."