

## 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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## Sunday, April 23, 2017

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha – Thomas Sunday

Also, April 23, annually, is the date of the Commemoration of the Great-Martyr, Victory-bearer, and Wonder-worker Saint George

### Saint George

Saint George was a Christian soldier in the Roman Imperial Army who was martyred for Christ during the massive persecution of Christians that took place during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian (284-305 AD).

Saint George had been raised as a Christian by pious parents and then, as a young man, he joined the Imperial Army and became a military officer. When Diocletian became Emperor, however, he began to demand that Christians in the Imperial Army denounce the Christian Faith. Diocletian, both wrongly and unfortunately, saw the strong faith and allegiance of his Christian soldiers to the person of Jesus Christ as a threat, so he demanded that these soldiers publicly deny Christ.

Saint George, when he heard of the decision of the Emperor, did not deny Christ, but rather acknowledged and confessed Him, saying: "I am a servant of Christ, my God, and trusting in Him, I have come among you voluntarily, to bear witness concerning the Truth." "What is Truth?" asked one of the authorities who heard George speak, echoing the question Pontius Pilate asked Jesus Christ. The saint replied, "Christ Himself, Whom you persecuted, is Truth." Upon hearing these words, the authorities arrested George and had him tortured, and then killed. Saint George endured his sufferings bravely.

After his death, a story came to be associated with Saint George, that he, while still alive and serving in the Imperial Army, had bravely taken on and defeated in personal combat a great serpent or dragon that had been threatening a certain city. In recognition of this story, iconography of Saint George has come to depict him as a mounted warrior slaying a dragon with a spear. As such, Saint George has come to be considered the patron saint of mounted warriors. Saint George is also considered to be the patron saint of soldiers who presently fight in tanks, as tankers consider themselves the successors of equestrian cavalrymen.

### *Schedule of Services*

- 4/23 Thomas Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy  
12:15 PM – Annual Blessing of Graves in the Parish Cemetery
- 4/26 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 4/29 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 4/30 Sunday**  
***Holy Myrrhbearers***  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/1 Monday**  
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 5/3 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/6 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/7 Sunday**  
***The Paralytic***  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/9 Tuesday**  
***Eve of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost***  
7:00 PM Vespers for the Middle of the Feast
- 5/10 Wednesday**  
NO Matins (Morning Prayers)  
***Eve of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius***  
6:15 PM – Festal Vespers and Divine Liturgy
- 5/13 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/14 Sunday**  
***The Samaritan Woman***  
***NOTE CHANGE TO START TIME OF LITURGY!***  
8:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/17 Wednesday**  
NO Matins (NO Morning Prayers)

# 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!***

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

John Bayda	4/23/1954
Anthony Tkach	4/23/1961
Diane Wrettick	4/23/1979
Nadejda Loshoski	4/24/1966
Joanna Pawelchak	4/24/1979
Aftan Pastyrnak	4/25/1978
John Maichack	4/26/1997
Louis "Lou" Kopcha	4/26/2013
Maria Komansky	4/27/1925
Theodore Hrabsky	4/27/1939
Konstantine Yatsenick	4/27/1961

## **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 ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer  
Allison—undergoing cancer treatment; friend of Peter Serev  
Matushka Marie Kreta—Fr. John Kreta's mother; increasingly unwell  
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell  
Phyllis George—Donna Krinske's cousin; battling breast cancer  
Maria Oraschewsky—unwell and grieving, and in need of our prayers  
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin  
Michael "Mischa" Semanitzky—Dn. Paul's uncle; ongoing health issues  
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer  
Hope—Fr. John's sister Catherine's sister-in-law; tumor in one of her kidneys  
Nicole—acquaintance of Tom and Marie Wood; young mother, overcoming leukemia  
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  
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell  
Bill Markovich—recently unwell

Veronika "Nika" Dubnansky—continuing her recovery  
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray  
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer  
Mara—Fr. Patrick Burns' wife; recently unwell  
Marie Wood—still in recovery from recent ill health, but doing well, praise be  
Peter Oraschewsky—recovering from back surgery  
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease  
Deryl—Ann Sovyrda's nephew; kidney disease  
Mark Sovyrda—recovering from back surgery  
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer  
Lucretia—friend of Jeanne Moore; broken leg  
Fr. Steven Hosking—recently unwell  
Anne Hosking—Fr. Steven Hosking's wife; facing health challenges  
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease  
James—Louine King's son; chronic ankle joint issues, perhaps requiring surgery  
Justin—Louine King's great-grandson; troubled and in need of our prayers  
Steve Panasuk—recently unwell; now at home and feeling better of late  
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant  
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; undergoing treatment for lung cancer  
Virginia—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers  
Dolores Matzkevich—Bob's mother; quite unwell at this time  
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer  
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer  
Maven—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family; serious medical condition  
Dianna—Jennifer Wegh's mother; suffered an apparent stroke with complications  
John Kuzmich—underwent surgery on April 7  
Louine "Anna" King—very unwell and in need of our prayers

### ***Shut-ins and those in Nursing Homes***

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol  
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol

### ***Expectant Mother***

Juliana and the child to be born of her—Juliana Dresko Vigh and her baby  
Olga and the child to be born of her—Olga Fedorcak and her baby  
Rachel and the child to be born of her—Rachel Kopcha Goulet and her baby  
Sarah and the child to be born of her—L. King's granddaughter and her baby  
Brianna and the child to be born of her—Chezelle Serev's niece and her baby  
Mikel and the child to be born of her—J. and E. Watras' daughter and her baby

### ***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

### ***Birthdays***

Gregory Wegh	4/25
Frank "Fyodor" Guba	4/25
Laura Koski	4/26
Julie Kowaleski	4/26
Natalie Wingate	4/27
Sarah (Senetcen) Gaulin	4/27
Christopher Osuch	4/27

## ***A HYMN FROM THE LITURGICAL SERVICES OF THOMAS SUNDAY***

O Lord, shining with the splendor of Your divinity,  
You came through closed doors to Your Disciples,  
showing Your pierced side, the wounds from the nails,  
dispelling all sadness and sorrow!

O friends, see that I am not a spirit, but truly man!  
You commanded the disbelieving Disciple [Thomas] to look,  
saying: "Prove to yourself, then come and believe!"  
He touched Your side with his own hand and cried in faith and fear:  
"My Lord and my God, glory to You!"

# News and Notes

**New Email Address:** Fr. John is transitioning to a new email address. Please delete all old email addresses for him and the parish that you may have stored in your contact lists. The new address is [terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com). Please use this new email address, as emails sent to this address are immediately delivered to Fr. John's cell phone, so this is the best way to reach Fr. John quickly and efficiently. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Graduates:** If you or a member of your family is graduating this spring, please let us know so that we might share the news with our Parish Family and offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

**An Anonymous Benefactor:** This past week, a man walked into the Jayne Eugene Florist Shop here in town (at the corner of Route 6/Main Street and Allen Street) and told the owner, Michael Piskorski, that he was there to pay the Paschal Flowers bill for our parish. The man paid the bill, in the amount of \$617.00, in cash, and departed, refusing to give his name. If anyone knows anything more about this anonymous benefactor, please let Fr. John know.

**No water on tap in the Parish Cemetery:** Due to work being performed locally by the water utility company, we presently do not have running water on tap in the Parish Cemetery. That work should be accomplished this coming week. Therefore, if you need to water flowers or plants in the Cemetery, you will need to provide your own water. We apologize for the inconvenience, which is out of our control.

**May Meeting of the Parish Council:** The May Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, May 1, beginning at 7:00 PM.

**Burial of Anna Rosko, Saturday, May 6, 10:30 AM:** The burial of Anna Rosko, which could not take place at the time of her funeral, since the Parish Cemetery was then closed for winter, will take place at 10:30 AM on Saturday morning, May 6.

**The Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius:** We will mark the Feast of our heavenly patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius, with the celebration of Vespers with the Divine Liturgy beginning at 6:15 PM on Wednesday evening, May 10, the Eve of the Feast.

**Changes to the usual schedule on Sunday, May 14:** On Sunday, May 14, Thomas Hopko (Fr. John and Macrina's oldest son) will be getting married to his long-time friend and now wife-to-be, Alexis Cordone, with the wedding beginning at 2:00 PM at All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford. Therefore, with the agreement of the Parish Council, the decision has been made to begin the Divine Liturgy in our parish on that Sunday morning at the earlier-than-usual time of 8:30 AM. Also, we will not be having the usual post-Liturgy Coffee Social Hour in our parish that morning. These changes to our parish schedule will allow those attending both the Divine Liturgy here in Terryville, and the wedding later in the day in Hartford, time to make the necessary transition from Terryville to Hartford. (Many members of the Hopko extended family will be worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy that Sunday morning, May 14.) Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please see Fr. John.

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday of Pascha, called St. Thomas Sunday*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 5:12-20)**

At that time, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn. 20:19-31)**

At that time, on the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

## *Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday of Pascha, called the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)**

At that time, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mk. 15:43-16:8)**

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back--it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.