

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

- 5/20 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil,
Followed by Monthly General Confession
- 5/21 Sunday**
The Blind Man
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/24 Wednesday**
Leave-taking of Pascha and the Eve of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
NO Matins
6:15 PM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Leave-taking of Pascha and the Eve of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
- 5/25 Thursday**
Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

Fr. John will be participating in the Consecration of the new Altar Table at St. Nicholas Church, Salem, MA, on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27.

- 5/27 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/28 Sunday**
The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
12:15 PM – Memorial Service for Departed Members of Maria Oraschewsky's Family
- 5/31 Wednesday**
8:00 AM Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 6/3 Saturday**
Eve of Holy Pentecost
Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service Commemorating All Departed Faithful
6:00 PM – Festal Vigil
- 6/4 Sunday**
Feast of Holy Pentecost
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy, followed immediately by the Service with the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers

Sunday, May 21, 2017

The 6th Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of the Blind Man

May 21, annually, is the commemoration of Saints Constantine and Helen

News and Notes

Sunday, May 21 – Fr. John leaving immediately after the Divine Liturgy: On Sunday morning, May 21, Fr. John will be departing from Terryville right after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. He will be heading over to the Waterbury Parish, where he will be chairing a Special Meeting of that Parish, where he is the Pastoral Administrator, assigned as such by our Archbishop. Please pray for the success of that meeting, which has the purpose of addressing some very difficult issues facing the Waterbury Parish.

Wednesday, Thursday, May 24-25 – The Leave-taking of Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord: It is our parish's custom to mark the Leave-taking of Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord with the celebration of Vespers with Divine Liturgy on the Eve of Ascension. This year that service will take place on Wednesday, May 24, beginning at 6:15 PM. Before Vespers begins that evening, right at the beginning of the service, we sing the Paschal hymns and verses for one last time. Ascension takes place on the 40th day after the celebration of Pascha, and commemorates the day when Jesus was taken up into heaven forty days after his resurrection from the dead. We read about this event in Chapter One of the Book of the Acts of the Holy Apostles. We should all make an effort to be present for this significant liturgical observance of an important moment in the Church's annual calendar.

Friday, Saturday, May 26-27 – Fr. John away from Terryville: Fr. John will be away from Terryville on Friday, May 26, and most of Saturday, May 27, participating in the consecration of the new Altar Table at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, Salem, Massachusetts.

Monday, June 5 – June Meeting of the Parish Council: The June Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, June 5, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday-Friday, June 7-9: Fr. John will be away from Terryville on a personal trip from early Wednesday morning, June 7, until late on Friday evening, June 9.

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

Priest William George—young priest, tragically killed in car accident d. 5/5/17
Allison—friend of Peter Serev d. 5/10/17
Lynda—the mother of Marina Leonidas's Pastor d. 5/13/17
Robert Faria—former member of parish d. 5/17/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Archpriest John Markovich 5/24/1989
Irina Cherkasevich 5/24/1992
Olga Sobestanovich 5/26/1931
Vassily Murin 5/27/1915
Steven Shewchuk 5/27/1983
Nicholas Andrash 5/27/1985
Helen "Nellie" Biscoe 5/27/1995

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
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
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

William "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
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
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Lucretia—friend of Jeanne Moore; broken leg
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
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
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer
child Maver—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family; serious medical condition
Dianna—Jennifer Wegh's mother; suffered an apparent stroke with complications
Robert "Bob" Faria—former member of parish; extremely unwell
John Cordone—Thomas Hopko's grandfather-in-law; now in hospice
John Kuzmich—suffering from lung cancer
Louine "Anna" King—suffering from lung cancer
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother, presently unwell

Shut-ins and those in Nursing Homes

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

New Mother and Child

Sarah and the son, Elias, born of her—L. King's granddaughter and her baby

Expectant Mother

Juliana and the child to be born of her—Juliana Dresko Veek and her baby
Olga and the child to be born of her—Olga Fedorczyk and her baby
Rachel and the child to be born of her—Rachel Kopcha Goulet 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
Tatyana Bristol—traveling to Russia, May 4 to July 19, visiting family
John "Jack" Kriniske—traveling to Alaska, May 11 to May 21

Anniversaries of Marriage

Elena & James Watras 5/22/1974
Salvatore & Cynthia (Belonick) Giuliano 5/23/2004

Birthdays

Deborah Wegh 5/25

More News and Notes

Thank you! Thomas Hopko and his new wife, Alexis, would like to thank everyone who wished them well for their wedding with kind greetings, well wishes, cards, gifts, and prayerful presence. They look forward to hosting a Sunday Coffee Social Hour soon, here in the Terryville Parish, so as to have the opportunity to share their joy and express their gratitude. Thomas and Alexis were married last Sunday afternoon, May 14, at All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford.

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. 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.

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: “Re-entry”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is risen!

How hard it must have been for Moses to come down from Mount Sinai where he directly experienced God, and then return to life at the foot of the mountain! How hard it must have been for the Disciples to experience Our Lord’s Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and then return to life at the foot of that mountain! Sometimes the hardest moments in life come right after experiencing something wonderful, something beautiful, something joyful.

What happens sometimes is that we experience something truly wonderful and joyful, something truly special and precious, and then we are faced with returning to that which is seemingly mundane, tiresome, often difficult, and, on occasion, apparently futile or meaningless. An example of such a moment might be when we return to “normal time” after some “special time” in our life, such as a wonderful voyage or a special family event. In these moments of what might be termed “re-entry”, we are deeply challenged. Sometimes, in the face of this challenge, we fail and fall into sin.

The sins that we commit in these moments are often sins “of the flesh”, because we are trying to comfort ourselves in an uncomfortable time. These are sins that often have deep roots in an unholy marriage of childishness and worldliness, and are often characterized by desire for physical comforts and pleasures. Faced with the difficulties of everyday life—everyday life that is so often characterized by the requirement to fulfill tedious and uninspiring tasks—we give in to excess, sloth, anger, carnality, lust, procrastination, and coarse, immature and irrelevant actions. We do this instead of humbling ourselves before God and asking Him to strengthen us and, even, to help us carry and endure that which we find burdensome. Sometimes, we also give in to pride and think ourselves better than the station or place in life where God has put us. While attempting to “self-medicate” and make ourselves feel better (in the moment, without real or lasting effect) with things such as excessive sleep, food, drink, medication, leisure and sensuality, we also allow ourselves to entertain useless and unreal thoughts about how things would be “better” if only this or that circumstance or relationship was different. Sometimes, in this sinful condition, we even dare complain against God and our

earthly family, friends and loved ones, as if they are somehow responsible for our troubles. And, all too often, at the same time we are wallowing, not only in prideful, sinful self-pity, but also in unattractive listlessness and torpor, which serve to feed our unholy and, even, perverse negativity.

What is the solution? First, it is to understand that the special moments in life, the grace-filled moments, are not meant to be, and cannot be, in this fallen world, the complete content of our life. Rather those moments are given to us as foretastes of the life which it come—eternal life with God, in His Heavenly Kingdom, where all that is unholy will be banished, and all that is good, true, and beautiful will reign. These moments are also given to us to strengthen us for the work that we are called to do in this world—a world that is deeply troubled by sin and sadness. Indeed, when meditating on what Peter, James, and John experienced when witnessing Christ’s Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, the Church says (in the liturgical hymns of that great feast) that the Disciples were given this special experience so that, later on, when things became difficult, frightening, and confusing, they might have the Transfiguration experience as a lens through which to contemplate, understand and steadfastly live through present difficulties and challenges.

Second, we must remember that an important, central aspect of the Christian life is the calling that we all share to transform all that which is banal and insipid into that which is somehow extraordinary. Just as Our Lord Jesus Christ at the Wedding in Cana of Galilee turned water into wine, so too, by the power and content of our Christian life and faith, we can transform day-to-day life into something attractive and edifying. We do this by carrying out every task we take on as if it were the most important and, indeed, only task that we are ever to do on this earth. We transform every undertaking by love, care, concern and attention to detail. We respect the capacity to work that God has given us by treating even the most mundane earthly task as sacramental, as an act of praise and worship. Indeed, this is the work of God’s people—to fulfill our Lord’s injunction to be faithful over little and, thus, to be placed, one day, over much (Matthew 25:23, Luke 16:10). It is possible to make every day a day that is special, joyful, and, by the grace of God, deeply and profoundly blessed. “I can do all things, through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, called the Sunday of the Blind Man

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 16:16-34)

At that time, going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were

praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn 9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our

son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.