

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, January 13, 2019

33rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8

*After-feast and the Sunday after
the Theophany of Our Lord*

January 13, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade (4th c.), St. Hilary of Poitiers (4th c.), and the Venerable Eleazar of Anzersk Island, Solovki (17th c.)

Schedule of Services

- 1/13 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
(With Fr. Sergius Halvorsen presiding in Fr. John's place. See note in bulletin, for details.)
- 1/14 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting (*rescheduled*)
- 1/16 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/19 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/20 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
(Fr. John will be departing immediately following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in order to travel to the Waterbury Parish, where he will preside there at the rescheduled Annual General Meeting of the Parish.)
- 1/23 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/26 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 1/27 Sunday**
Commemoration of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors who suffered under Totalitarianism in the 20th Century
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 1/30 Wednesday**
Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/1 Friday**
Eve of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord
6:15 PM – Vespers with Divine Liturgy
- 2/2 Saturday**
Feast of the Meeting of the Lord
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Monthly Choir Rehearsal
- 2/3 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 2/6 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

Welcome, Fr. Sergius (and Timothy)!

About Fr. Sergius Halvorsen: We welcome Archpriest Sergius Halvorsen to our parish on Sunday morning, January 13. On January 13, Fr. Sergius is substituting for our pastor, Fr. John Hopko, who is away.

The V. Rev. Dr. Sergius Halvorsen, Ph.D., is Director of the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVS) and, also, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at SVS. Fr. Sergius received his M.Div. from SVS in 1996, and completed his doctoral dissertation (Ph.D) at Drew University in 2002. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1999 and to the priesthood in 2004. Fr. Sergius is an accomplished liturgical musician. He was director of the 1995 SVS Octet singing group, and has contributed to a number of recordings of liturgical music. Fr. Sergius has also been, for many years, part of the pastoral staff at the Annual New England Diocesan Youth Rally. Fr. Sergius currently lives in New Haven, CT. He and his wife, Dina, have three children (including Timothy—see the following note).

About Timothy Halvorsen: Last summer Tim Halvorsen spent time as an Orthodox Christian missionary and youth worker in Albania. Many of us will remember that our Parish helped raise money to meet the costs of that trip. This weekend, on Sunday, January 13, Tim will be with us and will share with us about that trip, which our Parish helped fund. This time of sharing will take place during the Coffee Social Hour following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, January 13.

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

His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Western Kenya d. 1/4/2019
Sonya Petroff—Marilou's sister and our fellow parishioner d. 1/4/2019

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

John Naymchik	1/13/1932
Alexander Skalaban	1/13/1960
Michael Sarachun	1/13/1967
Michael Nimchek	1/13/1972
Makari Kaplonetz	1/14/1939
Clement Tikhon	1/14/1945
Ignaty Kucirka	1/14/1958
Joseph Tkach	1/19/1922
John Liba	1/19/1922
Michael Glowa	1/19/1933

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

Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering terribly in illness
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
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
William "Bill" Markovich—unwell and in need of prayerful support
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease

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JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Anna Szepel—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Nina Gorbachev—former parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; 2nd phase non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; awaiting the possibility of a lung transplant
Arthur James "A.J." Brauer—Food Pantry volunteer; recent heart surgery
Glen Sheets—Jennifer Wegh's uncle; severe heart related issues
Carol Johnson—still unwell and in need of our prayerful support
Beverly Kuzmich—had surgery on January 3rd to stabilize broken wrist

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko—shut-in at home
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

Those traveling and soon to be traveling

Fr. John, Macrina and Lucy Hopko
Protodeacon Paul, Patricia and Michael Nimchek
Laura Koski—leaving this week for a 17-day trip to India

Those from among us serving on active duty 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
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now in Afghanistan

Birthdays

Larisa Kowaleski—Julie and Joel's daughter	1/15
Emery Andrew Wegh	1/16

The Solovetsky Monastery, the Solovki Archipelago, the White Sea

In the far Russian north, in the middle of the White Sea, not far south of the Arctic Circle, there is an archipelago of six major islands (and many more small islands), which all together are called the Solovki. The islands are notable for being dotted with hundreds of lakes and ponds. In earliest times, the islands were known especially for their salt deposits. In the Russian language the word *sol'* means salt and the islands are named for that vital mineral. Salt mining was a profitable activity on the islands, along with logging, trapping, and fishing.

In the 15th century monks arrived seeking solitude there, in the far north. Eventually, a monastery was founded, named Solovetsky Monastery after the archipelago itself. The founders of the Monastery are now canonized saints of the Church: Saints Sabbatius, Herman and Zosimus. The primary church of the Monastery was dedicated to the Feast of Our Lord's Transfiguration, as is often the case in Orthodox Christian monasteries, as the goal of Christian monastic life is to be transformed by the transfiguring grace of God.

Over the centuries from its founding, the Monastery flourished, despite its remote location. At its peak, there were over 350 monks in the Monastery and in the surrounding "sketes," with some of the sketes being located on the neighboring islands. (A skete is a small, often isolated, communal monastic community, usually dependent on a large, well-established monastery.) A huge, ornate complex of buildings was constructed, and the Solovetsky Monastery became an important place of pilgrimage for Russian...

(This article, "The Solovetsky Monastery," continues on the fourth and last page of this bulletin)

NEWS AND NOTES

THIS WEEKEND – Fr. John is away Saturday through Monday, January 12-14: Fr. John is away from Terryville from Saturday, January 12, through Monday, January 14. He is traveling with family members to the Albany, NY, area, to participate this weekend in the marriage of Shelby (Sophia) Duchow to Paul Giokas, which is taking place at Saint Basil's Orthodox Church, Watervliet, NY, on Sunday afternoon, January 13. Shelby is a former member of our parish, having been received into the fullness of the Orthodox Faith here in Terryville in August 2011. Shelby is, also, a past member of our Diocesan Youth Rally staff. Shelby is now a second-year student at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY WHILE FR. JOHN IS AWAY: In case of a true pastoral emergency, absolutely requiring the ministry of a priest, during Fr. John's time away, please contact Fr. David Koles at 860-573-0013, and, also, leave a message on the Terryville Parish House voicemail, which can be reached at 860-582-3631. Thank you.

Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday, January 14, 2018, 7:00 PM: The Year 2019 Parish Council will meet for the first time on Monday, January 14, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM. (This is the rescheduled meeting that had originally been meant to take place a week earlier, but which had to be postponed due to the funeral arrangements for Sonya Petroff. Memory Eternal!)

Sunday, January 20—rescheduled Annual General Meeting in the Waterbury Parish: On Sunday, January 20, Fr. John will be departing immediately following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy here in the Terryville Parish in order to travel to the Waterbury Parish, where he will preside there at the rescheduled Annual General Meeting of that Parish. Please pray for the goodness, worthiness, and success of that meeting. Thank you.

2019 Pledge Forms: We thank all those who have filled out and returned their Year 2018 pledge forms. We respectfully ask those who have not yet turned in a pledge form to do so, please. If you need a pledge packet, please see Fr. John.

House Blessings are Ongoing: We are engaged in the annual House Blessing season now. If you have not yet scheduled Father John to bless your home, and you would like him to do so, please contact him at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Fr. John needs help with a project—are you the right person to provide assistance? The Parish Council has authorized the installation of a Simplisafe (www.simplisafe.com) Alarm and Security System in our Church Building. Fr. John requires assistance in designing, ordering, installing, and administering this system. Are you the right person to help him with this task? If so, please, contact him at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

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. We will, also, send out an email to the Parish email group and post an announcement on the Parish website. Finally, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information. (*NOTE: If you need to have your email address added to the Parish email group, please contact Fr. John.*)

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation “button” is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. 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.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday after the Feast of the Theophany, this year January 13

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."

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...Orthodox Christians.

Tragically, at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, in the early 20th century, Solovetsky Monastery was suppressed as a religious site, and was transformed, awfully, into one of the worst prison camps ("gulags") in the Soviet Union. Thousands of political and religious prisoners were imprisoned there, and many of them were executed or died as a result of their imprisonment. (One such man was a one of Fr. John's great-great uncles. That man's name was George Osorgin, and he was shot and killed at Solovki on October 29, 1929. George Osorgin's crimes were that he was a strong supporter of the overthrown Russian monarchy and, also, a fervent and pious Orthodox Christian believer.)

One amazing sight at the Solovki today, on Anzersk Island, is a particular birch tree. The Solovki archipelago is known for its gnarled and crooked birches, sometimes said to be "dancing." However, this particular birch tree is perfectly straight, and from the perfectly vertical trunk grow two perfectly horizontal large branches, exactly opposite of one another. This tree forms a beautiful cross, and grows in a place where many victims of the Soviet oppression and persecution are said to be buried. In a very real way, this remarkable tree is a burial cross, provided by God Himself, which marks the graves of martyrs.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the Solovetsky Monastery was revived, and now monastic life has been ongoing there for nearly thirty years. It is possible once again to go on pilgrimage to the Monastery, and, in some sense, the ground is now particularly holy, sanctified by the sufferings of all those who suffered there for the Faith during the time when the site was a God-less prison. May all the saints of the Solovki—both the ascetic monastics of old and the holy new martyrs, intercede for us before the throne of God. Lord, have mercy!