

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

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

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Sunday, January 24, 2021

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants (5th c.). St. Gerásim, Bishop of Perm (1441). Martyr John of Kazan' (1529). Martyrs Babylas (Vavíla) of Sicily, and his two disciples: Timothy and Agapius (3rd c.). St. Macedonius, Hermit, of Syria (ca. 420). Uncovering of the relics of Saint Anastasios the Persian (7th c.). Ven. Dionysius of Olympus (16th c.). Ven. Philotheus, founder of Philotheou Monastery (Mt. Athos—10th c.). Bl. Xenia of St. Petersburg (19th c.).

Annual “Sanctity of Life Sunday” Commemoration in the Orthodox Church in America

Annual Commemoration of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia who Suffered under the Heavy Burden of Godless Atheism in the Twentieth Century

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/01/24>

Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg (Russia, 18th century)

Commemorated each year on January 24

Saint Xenia lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. She passed most of her life in Petersburg during the reigns of the empresses Elizabeth and Catherine II.

Xenia Grigorievna Petrova was the wife of an army officer, Major Andrew Petrov. After the wedding, the couple lived in Saint Petersburg. Saint Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, she did not look for it again. From that time forward, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the first Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband's clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as “Andrew Feodorovich.” She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were convinced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband's red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. She may have visited Saint Theodore of Sanaxar (February 19), who had been a military man himself. His life changed dramatically when a young officer died at a drinking party. Perhaps this officer was Saint Xenia's husband. In any case, she knew Saint Theodore and profited from his instructions.

Saint Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart's conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path.

When a new church was being built in the Smolensk cemetery, Saint Xenia brought bricks to the site. She did this in secret, during the night, so that no one would know.

Soon Saint Xenia's great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, "Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God." People regarded her visits to their homes or shops as a great blessing. Saint Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby's crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one's kiss would bring that child good fortune.

Saint Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of seventy-one. The exact date and circumstances of her death are not known, but it probably took place at the end of the eighteenth century. She was buried in the Smolensk cemetery.

By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave. Those who turn to Saint Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.

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

First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. Memory Eternal!

Newly Departed

Mitred Archbishop Eugene Pianovich	d. 01/02/2021
Archpriest Joseph Irvin—retired CT Deanery priest	d. 01/13/2021
Mary Zwanch—buried with family in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery	d. 01/19/2021
Anna Szepel—our fellow parishioner	d. 01/08/2021
Luke H.—son of Fr. Steven and Mat. Anne H.	d. 12/17/2020
Maryann Kendall—well-known lay person in the CT Deanery	d. 12/16/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Julia Biscoe	1/24/1944
Fotia Veshman	1/24/1939
Michael Susla	1/24/1963
William Glowa	1/25/1987
Olga Wrettick	1/25/2008
Dorothy Gryguch	1/26/1988
Theodore Duke	1/27/1997
Julia Pavelchak	1/27/1935
Steven Pohlod	1/27/1958
Maria Yakowitz	1/28/1949
Pauline Osuch	1/28/2001
June F. Pavelchak	1/28/2009
Matushka Sofia Fedoronko	1/30/1946
Samuel Wrettick	1/30/1987

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is COVID-19, and those working to alleviate their suffering.

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness
 Archpriest John—Fr. John H.'s uncle through marriage; cancer
 Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
 Dolores T.—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
 child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
 Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
 Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
 Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
 JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
 MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease
 Yelena "Lenna" M.—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
 Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
 Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
 Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer

Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
 James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; chronically unwell
 Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
 Rosie D.—ongoing health issues
 Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
 child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
 Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer
 Christopher—friend of Kathy M.; struggling with cancer
 Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
 Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
 child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
 Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
 Subdn. Joseph—recent issue with a painful hip joint
 Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
 Wayne—Donna O.'s father
 Vickie—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray
 Sam—Vickie's husband, struggling with multiple health issues
 Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray
 Jody—Jacob J.'s father; recovering from significant back surgery
 Helen—acquaintance of Helena G; in long-term care
 Candace—acquaintance of Helena G; in need of prayers
 Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recently injured in fall
 Joanne—acquaintance of the Hopkos; quite ill and in need of prayers
 Stephen—family member of a parishioner; quite ill and in need of prayers
 George K.—our fellow parishioner; quite unwell at this time
 Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease
 Wayne—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P
 Thomas M.—suffering with COVID-19; associated with the Waterbury Parish
 Marcia—wife of Thomas M.; associated with the Waterbury Parish
 Elaine H.—recovering from hip replacement surgery; our fellow parishioner

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

Alex—John D.'s brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
 Dolores—Bob M.'s mother, resident in long-term eldercare

Expectant Mothers

Shelby (Sophia) G. and the child to be born of her
 Katherine and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife

Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us

All those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
 Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
 Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer and pilot
 Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad
 Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army
 Ian H.—Fr. David K.'s son-in-law; overseas deployment, U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

Bill & Joan Markovich 1/28

Birthdays

Joan Markovich 1/28
 Jeanne Moore 1/28
 Claudia Senetcen 1/30

News and Notes

Prayers Requested: Several of our fellow parishioners are facing personal challenges at this time that they prefer to keep private and confidential, for a variety of understandable reasons. Nevertheless, we must keep these persons in prayer. Please, include in your prayers this petition: **Dear Lord, remember all those in any sort of need or distress, and pour out your rich mercy and consolation upon them. Meet their true needs, and bless them in ways that are in accord with Your Holy Will, for You are Our God, and we are the work of Your Hands, and we call on Your Glorious Name: Lord, hear us, and have mercy!**

Memory Eternal! Mary Zwanch—who was born into the Zwanch Family, who were once members in Waterbury, and many of whose family members are buried in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery—died on January 19, 2021. On Saturday morning January 23, I presided at Mary's burial in the family plot in the Parish Cemetery. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was limited to family members and close friends. Please, keep the newly departed Mary in your prayers, together with those who mourn her loss. Here is a link to Mary's [obituary](#). Memory Eternal!

Bible Study, via “Zoom” – Tuesday evening, January 26, beginning at 7:00 PM: We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This week, on Tuesday evening, we will be continuing our reading and discussion of the First Letter to the Corinthians. Each week is an event unto itself, so, please, even if you haven't joined us before, feel free to join us this week, or at any time in the future.

Bible Study Companion Book: If you are interested in reading a book that will serve as a companion to the efforts we are presently making in Bible Study, this book may be a resource for you: *First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart*. This book is written by Fr. Lawrence Farley, who is a priest in British Columbia, Canada, in a parish of the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Canada. It is published by Conciliar Press, Chesterton, Indiana (<https://store.ancientfaith.com/biblical-studies/>). Fr. Lawrence has written a whole series of accessible commentaries on parts of the Bible. In particular, his commentaries are written to be appreciated by and be useful to Orthodox Christian lay people.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services, via “Zoom”, at 8:00 a.m.: Due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 here in our area, we are limiting in-person activities at the Church. This means that, for now, we are suspending our in-person Wednesday morning Matins services. We have replaced that in-person service with an on-line gathering for worship and prayer, Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Watch your email inbox for details.

Support from the Parish: If you require financial or pastoral support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity. **Don't be shy: If you need help, please, do contact Fr. John.**

Donations to the Parish: Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation “button” (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) 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%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

January 24 (this Sunday!) is Sanctity of Life Sunday

[This article is reprinted here from the official website of the Orthodox Church in America, www.oca.org.]

January 24, 2021 will be observed as Sanctity of Life Sunday in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. The clergy and faithful are encouraged to utilize the [special liturgical petitions and prayers](#) for the occasion. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has also [released a message](#) marking the day.

Sanctity of Life Sunday serves to mark the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Orthodox Christians from across the country will proclaim the sanctity of God's precious gift of life and remember the millions of victims that abortion has claimed and continues to claim.

The bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have always strongly supported and participated in the annual March for Life held in Washington, D.C. However, due to the ongoing global health crisis, this year His Beatitude will lead a virtual March for Life event which will be live-streamed on Thursday, January 28 beginning at 7:30 pm ET on oca.org/live and via the OCA's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. The live-stream will feature a prayer service led by Metropolitan Tikhon, followed by reflections by His Beatitude. The main address will be given by Dr. Ana Iltis of Wake Forest University, a leading Orthodox Christian bioethicist. The broadcast will also highlight Orthodox organizations that support women in crisis pregnancies.

In preparation for Sanctity of Life Sunday, the faithful are encouraged to [explore the numerous reflections, articles, texts, liturgical services available online](#).

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 33rd Sunday after Pentecost, this year Sunday, January 24

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Col. 3:4-11)

Brothers and Sisters: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of god is coming. In these you once walked, when you live in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there can neither be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free an, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Luke 18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

