

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 31, 2021

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John, and with them Martyrs Athanasia and her daughters: Theoctiste, Theodotia, and Eudoxia, at Canopus in Egypt (311). Ven. Nikita of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Novgorod (1108). Martyrs Victorinus, Victor, Nicephorus, Claudius, Diodorus, Serapion, and Papias, of Egypt (251). Martyr Tryphainē at Cyzicus. Saint Arsenios of Paros (1877). Saint Julius of Aegina (330).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/01/31>

About the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

By Fr. Thomas Hopko ([Hyperlink to this article](#), and more, online at www.oca.org.)

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Lk 2:22-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2:26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vespers service:

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel (Lk 2:29-32).

At this time as well Simeon predicted that Jesus would be the "sign which is spoken against" and that he would cause "the fall and the rising of many in Israel." He also foretold Mary's sufferings because of her son (Lk 22:34-35). Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God "she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

In the service of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon's hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

Receive him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive him as a babe now obeying the Law. For he it is of whom the Law and the Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come let us adore him! (A Hymn from Vespers for the Feast)

Let the door of heaven open today, for the Eternal Word of the Father, without giving up his divinity, has been incarnate of the Virgin in time. And as a babe of forty days he is voluntarily brought by his mother to the Temple, according to the Law. And the elder Simeon takes him in his arms and cries out: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord, who has come to save the human race -- glory to Thee! (A Hymn from Vespers for the Feast)

The Vespers and Matins of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord are filled with hymns on this theme. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated with the lines from the canticle of Mary forming the Prokeimenon ("Responsorial Psalm") before the reading of the Epistle and the words of Simeon being the verses for the Alleluia after the Epistle. The Gospel readings tell of the meeting, while the Old Testament readings at Vespers refer to the Law of the purification in Leviticus, the vision of Isaiah in the Temple of the Thrice-Holy Lord, and the gift of faith to the Egyptians prophesied by Isaiah when the light of the Lord shall be a "revelation to the Gentiles" (Lk 2:32).

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

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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

Archimandrite Alexander (Cutler)—monk and priest	d. 1/26/2021
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar	d. 1/20/2021
Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich	d. 1/02/2021
Archpriest Joseph Irvin—retired CT Deanery priest	d. 1/13/2021
Sharon—niece of Mat. Ann S.; recent victim of cancer	d. 1/25/2021
Mary Zwanch—buried with family in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery	d. 1/19/2021
Anna Szepeł—our fellow parishioner	d. 1/08/2021

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Anna Kowaleski	2/1/1991
Stella Adams	2/1/2008
Zachary Lyga	2/2/1954
John Sarofin	2/3/1999
John Stashenko	2/5/1949
Julia Wazorko	2/5/1960
Nadejda Markovich	2/5/1965
Evheny Mattson	2/6/1952
Paul Preslopsky	2/6/1987

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
Daryne—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
Sue—acquaintance of the Hopkos; unwell and requiring prayers
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, now in PA with family
Joanne—acquaintance of the Hopkos; slow recovery from recent illness
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
Cheryl—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P.
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
Antonio—brother-in-law of a parishioner; suffering with COVID-19
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

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Patricia "Patty" Nimchek	2/3
Julia Massicotte—Lenna's daughter	2/4

This Week: Feast of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Online Services, this week, for the Feast of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, February 1-2: This week, we celebrate the Feast of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, commemorating events that are narrated in Chapter 2 of the Gospel according to Saint Luke. That story in the Gospel tells us about how Our Lord Jesus's parents brought him to the Temple at Jerusalem as a young child in order to dedicate Him to God's service. We will commemorate this Feast with the following online worship services, convened via video teleconference (Zoom):

- **Festal Vespers:** Monday evening, February 1, at 7:00 PM, via Zoom
- **Festal Prayer Service ("Molieben"):** Tuesday morning, February 2, at 8:00 AM, via Zoom

Please, watch your email inboxes for the necessary Zoom links so that you can join the online services. The links will be sent out on Monday, not too far in advance.

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 accordance with Your Holy Will, for You are Our God, we are Your people, we are all the work of Your Hands, and we call on Your Glorious Name: O Lord, hear us, and have mercy!**

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 online gathering for worship and prayer, Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Watch your email inbox for details.

Annual Giving Statements: This past week, the official Annual Giving Statements (Records of Donations) for Year 2020 were sent out to all donors. Please, watch for these in the mail, and review them thoroughly upon arrival. Any questions or concerns about them should be addressed to Fr. John. Please, do not hesitate to contact Fr. John, if necessary. Thank you.

New Vacuum Cleaner Required: We need a new vacuum cleaner at Church. If you are willing to donate one, or meet the financial costs of the Parish purchasing a new vacuum cleaner, please, contact, Fr. John, at your convenience.

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.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 34th Sunday after Pentecost, this year Sunday, January 31

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Col. 3:12-16)

Brothers and Sisters: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matthew 25:14-30)

The Lord spoke this parable: "For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'



From The Sayings of the Desert Fathers: A certain old man dwelt in the desert, and his dwelling place, his cell, was far from water, about seven miles; and once when the old man was going to draw water, he wearied and said to himself, "What need is there for me to endure this toil? I shall come and live near the water." And saying this, the old man turned about and saw someone following him and counting his footprints: and the old man questioned the other, saying, "Who are you?" And the other said, "I am the angel of the Lord, and I am sent to count your footprints and give you your reward." And when the old man heard him, the old man's heart was made resolute, and himself more ready, and he set his dwelling place still farther from that water.