

## 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, February 7, 2021

**35<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.**

**Afterfeast of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.**

St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4th c.).

Ven. Luke of Hellas (ca. 946). The 1,003 Martyrs of Nicomedia (303).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/07>

## Notes from Fr. John: Our Journey to Holy Pascha

Each year we travel through the same series of commemorations in order to reach Holy Pascha. This year, we begin that journey next Sunday, February 14, with the Sunday of Zacchaeus. Let's remind ourselves about that journey.

We begin our journey to Holy Pascha every year with a series of Pre-Lenten Sundays: The Sunday of Zacchaeus, the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, the Sunday of the Last Judgment (also called "Meat-fare," because it is the last day on which we eat meat until Holy Pascha), and Forgiveness Sunday (also called "Cheese-fare," because it is the last day on which we eat cheese and other dairy products until Holy Pascha).

Technically speaking, Zacchaeus Sunday is not one of the Pre-Lenten Sundays. Nevertheless, since Zacchaeus Sunday is always the Sunday before the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, which is the first official Pre-Lenten Sunday, we usually start counting the Sundays until Pascha on Zacchaeus Sunday, which is always the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Holy Pascha.

Great Lent starts on the day after Forgiveness Sunday, the Monday that is often called "Clean Monday." During Great Lent there are six, five-day long, Monday-to-Friday weeks, and five, two-day long, weekends. If we multiply six by five we reach thirty days (thus, accounting for the weekdays), and if we add in the five weekends, that is another ten days. Ten days added to thirty days makes forty days in total, and, thus, we arrive at the forty days of Great Lent.

In the Bible the passage of forty days signifies the passage of a period of time sufficient to test a person or people, or to accomplish a task. Just to give two examples, we find that Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai when receiving the Ten Commandments (Book of Exodus, Chapters 24 and 34), and Our Lord Jesus Christ, at the beginning of his ministry, spent forty days and nights fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 4).

Each of the five Sundays in Great Lent has its own special commemoration. The first Sunday in Great Lent is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, on which we celebrate the holy icons. On the second Sunday of Lent we commemorate the esteemed fourteenth century bishop, Saint Gregory Palamas. On the third Sunday in Great Lent we observe the Lenten Veneration of the Holy Cross. On the fourth Sunday in Great Lent we commemorate the great sixth century monastic writer, Saint John of The Ladder. (Saint John is called...

*[This article continues at the bottom of page 4 of this bulletin]*

# 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
Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak—former OCA Chancellor	d. 2/5/2021
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar	d. 1/20/2021
Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich	d. 1/2/2021
Archpriest Joseph Irvin—retired CT Deanery priest	d. 1/13/2021
Protodeacon John Eby—acquaintance of Fr. John H. child Leo—Fr. Andrew Tregubov's grandson	d. 2/3/2021
Sharon—niece of Mat. Ann S.; recent victim of cancer	d. 2/5/2021
Mary Zwanch—buried with family in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery	d. 1/25/2021
Anna Szepel—our fellow parishioner	d. 1/19/2021
	d. 1/08/2021

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

Francis Biscoe	2/8/1978
Mary Abbotts	2/8/1998
William Lyga	2/9/1985
Joseph Bystry	2/11/1975
Nicholas Koltko	2/11/1994
John Itar	2/12/1937
Elias Prystash	2/12/1965
Doris Witik Raineault	2/12/2007
Vladimir Lukyantsev	2/12/2015
Stephen Sarafynik	2/13/1940
Mary Rewak	2/13/1983

## **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  
Darylne—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  
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers  
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.; 82<sup>nd</sup> 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***

Joel & Julie Kowaleski 2/12

### ***Birthdays***

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek 2/7  
Lucy (Hopko) Crosby 2/8

## **Saint John Chrysostom tells us why we should read the Bible:**

“Let us give thorough attention to the study of Scripture. For in the tumult of life the study of Scripture will save you from suffering, such as experienced by those who are buffeted by stormy waves. The sea rages, but you sail on with calm weather; for you have the study of the Scriptures for your pilot; this is the cable which the trials of life does not break apart. Let our soul weigh anchor [that is, draw up the anchor on its cable, and start sailing] in the reading of Scripture. For the study of Scripture is safe water without waves, a tower that is unshakeable, a glory that cannot be defeated, a joy that does not fade away. In reading Scripture, the soul is relieved from harm, and enjoys much calm and peace.”

**A Comment from Fr. John:** We should all read from the Bible every day. If you find the Bible as a whole overwhelming, intimidating, and hard to understand, then begin humbly. Read a little bit from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and a Psalm or two, each day. Do this with a prayerful spirit of openness, and without any expectations. Just encounter the text and allow it to “work” on you.

# News and Notes

## Summary of Events this Coming Week (see specific “Notes” below, for details):

- Tuesday evening – Bible Study, via Zoom
- Wednesday morning – Matins, via Zoom
- Wednesday evening – Parish Council Meeting, via Zoom

**Bible Study, via “Zoom” – Tuesday evening, February 9, 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.:** Each Wednesday morning we serve Matins (Morning Prayers) as an online service via video teleconference. Watch your email inbox for details, including the necessary ZOOM link to join the online service.

**February Meeting of the Parish Council, Wednesday, February 10, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM:** The Parish Council will hold its February Monthly Meeting this coming week on Wednesday evening, February 10, beginning at 6:30 PM. This meeting will take place via video teleconference (Zoom). Parish Council members are asked to watch their email boxes for the message that will convey to them the necessary link and other information needed for the meeting. If any person wishes to attend this Parish Council meeting as an observer, or wishes to add some item to the agenda, they are asked to contact Fr. John, at their earliest convenience.

**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 35th Sunday after Pentecost, this year Sunday, February 7*

## **The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:15-17)**

My son, Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 15:21-28)**

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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*[This article, "Our Journey to Pascha," continues here from page 1 of this bulletin]*

... "of The Ladder," because he wrote a book of instruction for monks and other pious Christian people entitled "The Ladder of Divine Ascent.") On the fifth Sunday of Great Lent we commemorate the quintessential repentant sinner, Saint Mary of Egypt.

Great Lent ends on a Friday, forty days after it began on Clean Monday. Then we celebrate what some call "Palm Weekend." On the Saturday of that weekend we remember the Raising of Lazarus, as recounted in Chapter 11 of the Gospel of John. On the Sunday of that weekend we commemorate Our Lord's Triumphal Entrance into Jerusalem, which is called "Palm Sunday," because he is greeted by people carrying palm branches, which symbolize victory—in this case, specifically, the victory over death that occurred when Our Lord raised up Lazarus, even after Lazarus was dead for four days.

After our Palm Sunday commemorations, we enter the Great and Holy Week of Our Lord's Passion. (Here the word "passion" is used as conveying one of its older, archaic meanings, which is "suffering." Our Lord's Passion is the suffering he endured for us and our salvation.) On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, the husband who lays down his life so that his bride might live. ("Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." wrote the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians [Ephesians 5:25].) On Great and Holy Thursday we commemorate Our Lord Jesus's Last Supper with His Disciples, and remember how, after that supper, he was arrested. On Great and Holy Friday, we solemnly commemorate Our Lord's Trial, His Humiliation, His Crucifixion, and His Life-Giving Death. On Great and Holy Saturday, we remember the day that the Lord spent, silenced by death, in His Tomb. Although silent in the Tomb, His most-pure flesh cold and lifeless, Our Lord was never more powerful. For, in uniting Himself to us in death, Our Lord Jesus brings His perfect, everlasting, and undying love into death, and, thus, tramples down death by death. Death cannot hold Him captive. ("But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." [Acts 2:24].) Finally, of course, we celebrate the Sunday of the Great and Holy Pascha—the passage from death to life of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Conqueror of Death.

So, let us prepare ourselves for this wonderful annual journey, the path we walk with Our Lord to and through His Cross, from the place where Death reigns, to the place where Life will always and forever reign. O Lord, guide us and help us.