

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 14, 2021

Zacchaeus Sunday

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470). Repose of St. Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs (869). Ven. Isaac, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—ca. 1190). The Twelve Greeks who built the Dormition Cathedral in the Lavra of the Kiev Caves (11th c.). Translation of the Relics of Martyrs Michael and his councilor, Theodore, of Chernigov (1578). Ven. Maron, Hermit, of Syria (4th c.). St. Abraham, Bishop of Charres, Mesopotamia (5th c.).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/02/14>

Notes from Fr. John: Valentine's Day – An Orthodox Perspective

There are two saints named Valentine in the Orthodox Christian calendar of saints. Neither one is commemorated on February 14!

Saint Valentine, Presbyter (Priest) of Rome, is commemorated each year on July 6, and Saint Valentine, Bishop of Terni (a city in central Italy) is commemorated each year on July 30.

According to the Church's tradition, both the Priest Valentine and the Bishop Valentine lived in the 3rd century in Italy, and both suffered martyrdom for Christ in about the year 270 AD, during the persecution of the Christian Church carried out by the Roman Emperor, Claudius II.

Until 1969, when the Roman Catholic Church eliminated him from their calendar of saints, a man named Valentine was commemorated as a saint on February 14. Probably that Valentine was the same Priest Valentine whom the Orthodox commemorate on July 6. (Valentine was removed from the Roman Catholic calendar of saints on the basis that it was difficult to place him in history in any way other than his presence in that calendar. One might argue that being listed in the calendar of saints is, in fact, a way of having one's memory preserved in history.)

According to the traditional account, the Priest Valentine of Rome upset the Emperor Claudius II by ignoring the imperial edict that denied men who had not yet completed their military service the privilege of marriage. Saint Valentine insisted on blessing the marriages of Christian couples who approached him for such a blessing, even when the man involved was a soldier who had not yet been discharged from military service. Valentine refused to compromise the sanctity of marriage to the will of the state, something that should edify and enlighten us to this day. As a result of his principled stand—because he loved the truth as it pertained to this important issue—Saint Valentine was arrested and killed by the unjust and immoral civil authorities.

When we celebrate "Valentine's Day" each year on February 14, we should remember that Saint Valentine was a defender of marriage and the sanctity of marriage. The love for which Valentine gave his life was the mutual love of one man and one woman, sanctified as an eternal commitment by the blessing of God in the Church's sacrament of marriage. This marital love and commitment is the love that ought to be celebrated each year on Saint Valentine's Day.

Holy Father, Saint Valentine, defender of the sanctity of marriage, pray to God for us!

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 John Chupeck	d. 2/10/2021
Archpriest Joseph Irvin—retired CT Deanery priest	d. 1/13/2021
Protodeacon John Eby—acquaintance of Fr. John H.	d. 2/3/2021
Thomas Matcheson—associated with the Waterbury Parish	d. 2/8/2021
child Leo—Fr. Andrew Tregubov's grandson	d. 2/5/2021
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 Szepele—our fellow parishioner	d. 1/08/2021

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

John Yuraschik	2/15/1979
John Muchka	2/15/1987
Maria Kaschak	2/15/2000
Theodore Shopay	2/16/1920
William Papach	2/17/1969
Matushka Pearl Markovich	2/17/1978
Adam Mihailoff	2/17/2001
Steven Suslenko	2/18/1960
Anna Wittick	2/19/1921
Vladimir Koltko	2/19/1961
Jacob Zarick	2/19/1970
Stephen Rosko	2/19/1986
Jeffrey Thomas Moore	2/19/2012
Roman Zhyr	2/20/1946
Anna Rosko	2/20/2017

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/hospice care
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
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.
Joan—dear and close friend of Carolyn P.; back surgery
Marcia—wife of newly departed Thomas M.
Antonio—brother-in-law of a parishioner; suffering with COVID-19
Joseph—prayed for at the request of Jeanne M.
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

New Mothers and Babies Newly Born of Them

Shelby (Sophia) G. and her newborn son, Andrew Robert

Expectant Mothers

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

Fr. James Parnell, Chaplain (MAJ)—deploying with the CT ARNG
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

David & Lucy Crosby 2/16

Birthdays

Melanie Osuch 2/16
George Klachany 2/20
Mark Orelup 2/20

Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov on Reading the Gospel (*Saint Ignatius, 1807–1867, was a prominent 19th century Russian monk and bishop. He is known for his straightforward and sober writing about Christian living.*)

“When reading the Gospel, try to fulfil its commandments and live it instead of being satisfied with the mere fruitless reading. This is the book of life, so read it with your life.”

“Opening the Holy Gospel, remember that you are preparing to read the book that will decide your eternal fate. It is by this book that we will be judged and, depending on what our earthly lives were in relation to it, we will inherit either eternal bliss or eternal torment.”

“Read the Gospel with utmost reverence and attention. Do not neglect any of its details; consider nothing in it of little importance. Every grain of it emits a ray of life. The neglect of life is death.”

News and Notes

Bible Study, via “Zoom” – Tuesday evening, February 16, 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.

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.)

Connecticut Army National Guard Unit to deploy – Fr. James Parnell is their Chaplain

Fr. James Parnell, Chaplain (Major), in the Army National Guard (ARNG), is Pastor of All Saints Church, Hartford. Beginning next week, Fr. James is being activated and deployed with his Connecticut ARNG Unit, the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), for one full calendar year. Initially, Fr. James and his unit will be training at a remote location, but eventually they will be deployed abroad.

During Fr. James’s absence, a three-priest ministry team has been assembled to meet the needs of the faithful parishioners at All Saints Church. Fr. John Hopko will administer the Parish. Fr. Sergius Halvorsen will preside at all the liturgical services. Fr. David Koles will meet needs for urgent and emergency pastoral care.

In his capacity as Temporary Administrator of All Saints Church, Hartford, Fr. John has already been participating in administrative meetings of the Parish and its Parish Council, and will continue to do so for the duration of Fr. James’s absence.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Zacchaeus, Sunday, February 14, 2021

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 4: 9-15)

My Son Timothy: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee, Sunday, February 21, 2021

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 3:10-15)

My Son Timothy: You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

