

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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Schedule of Services

- 2/16 Sunday**
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
 9:15 – Divine Liturgy
 2:00 PM – The Wedding of Lucy Hopko and David Crosby
- 2/19 Wednesday**
NO Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/22 Saturday**
Pre-Lenten Memorial Saturday
 5:30 PM – General Memorial Service remembering all the Faithful Departed
 6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by the Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 2/23 Sunday**
Sunday of the Last Judgment & Meat-fare Sunday
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
followed by the Annual Meat-fare Sunday Charitable Brunch
- 2/26 Wednesday**
 8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 2/29 Saturday**
 6:00 PM – Vigil
followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 3/1 Sunday**
Forgiveness Sunday & Cheese-fare Sunday
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 11:45 AM – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers with Rite of Forgiveness to begin Great Lent
- 3/2 Monday—*First Day of Great Lent***
 7:00 PM – Compline with the Reading of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
- 3/3 Tuesday—*Second Day of Great Lent***
 7:00 PM – Compline with the Reading of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
- 3/4 Wednesday—*Third Day of Great Lent***
 6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share” Supper

Sunday, February 16, 2020

The 35th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

February 16, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Martyr Pamphylus and His Companions, and Saint Nikolai, Archbishop of Japan

Lovers and Loved

By Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko

An excerpt from Fr. Thomas’s article, “Imago Dei [Image of God]: The Basis of Our Worth,” which appears in AGAIN magazine, Volume 10, Number 2, June 1987.

If we humans are made in God’s image, according to His likeness, we are created to be loved by God, and so ourselves to become lovers, loving with the very love with which God—who is Love—loves us. This is our calling as human beings. When Christ comes to the world and pours His Divine love, the love of His Father, into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), we are empowered to love with His very own love.

Jesus Christ not only gives the commandment to love, He manifests what love really is. He actualizes it perfectly in His own human life. And He gives the power of this love to His disciples in the gift of the Spirit.

....

Christ’s “new commandment” is not simply that we are to love, but that we are to love one another, as He declared, “as I have loved you” (John 13:34). This is the radical new part: that we are to love everyone, including our worst enemies, as Christ Himself has loved us. And how does He love us? Completely, wholly, perfectly, absolutely, boundlessly, without reservation or condition.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, disease, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

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

Newly Departed

Matushka Olga Kudrikoff—widow of a former priest in our diocese d. 2/7/2020
Kristal—prayed for at the request of Frank Guba d. 2/7/2020
Despina—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray d. 1/30/2020
Steven—Barbara Simard's son d. 1/24/2020
Mat. Elizabeth Bacon—Fr. John Bacon's wife d. 1/15/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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 T. Moore 2/19/2012
Roman Zhyr 2/20/1946
Anna Rosko 2/20/2017
Andrew Letitia 2/21/1952
Akim Dubnansky 2/21/1968
Eva Pavelchak 2/21/1992
John Hriceniak 2/21/2010
Eva Mihailoff 2/21/2016
Sophia Ivanchuk 2/22/1929
Alexei Gys 2/22/1937
Nellie Koltko 2/22/1998

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 Paul L.—broken hip, suffered in fall
Archpriest John B.—recovering from severely broken ankle
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—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 Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—facing serious health challenges at this time
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya Beach—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Helen—friend of Anna Marie Boruch; suffering in illness
Mark—a profound diabetic for whom we have been asked to pray
Heather—an acquaintance of C. Palleria; battling significant health challenges
Crystal—Heather's twin sister; also battling significant health challenges
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer
Anna—friend of Patty Nimchek; has requested our prayers
Mary—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Simone—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Anna Szepele—recently increasingly unwell; please keep Anna in your prayers
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support
James B.—husband of a Waterbury Parishioner; very unwell at this time
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; health, recently becoming more acute

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Expectant Mothers

Amanda and the child to be born of her—Amanda is an acquaintance of C. Palleria
Marina and the child to be born of her—Marina is one of Fr. John's many nieces
Maryna and the child to be born of her—Maryna & Amar are expecting a child in May

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

John "Jack" Kriniske—now traveling abroad
All those traveling to and from Lucy and David's wedding this weekend

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

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot
Alexander—relative of C. Palleria's; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

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

Lent is coming!

Choir Rehearsals in Preparation for the Lenten and Paschal Seasons: We will have weekly Choir Rehearsals just before Great Lent and during Great Lent, in order to prepare ourselves for our many liturgical services during the Lenten and Paschal seasons. The first of these weekly rehearsals will take place on Saturday evening, February 29. In advance, we thank our Choir for their efforts on our behalf. God bless you, dear Choir members!

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 2: Our celebration of Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, the annual commemoration of Our Lord's victory over sin and death, falls this year on Sunday, April 19. This means that Great Lent will soon be upon us, in less than a month's time, beginning on Monday, March 2. We should begin planning now, well in advance, for how we will make our annual Lenten journey this year. We should be thinking and praying about our Lenten disciplines and Paschal priorities, committing ourselves fully to honoring the Fast and celebrating the Feast. May God strengthen us to plan for and then to keep Great Lent in an appropriate and honorable way, and to make a beautiful and spiritually profitable journey to the celebration of Holy Pascha.

HELP SUPPLY OUR COFFEE SOCIAL HOURS! Every Sunday, at Church, after Liturgy, we enjoy fellowship time—our weekly Coffee Social Hour. Presently, we require the following items for use for those events: Coffee (Regular and Decaffeinated—Medium Roast, Ground); Paper Plates, in various sizes; Paper Napkins; Sugar Packets; Facial Tissue ("Kleenex"). Please, consider purchasing and donating some of these items for use at our Coffee Social Hours.

News and Notes

THIS WEEKEND! A Parish Wedding, Sunday, February 16: David Crosby and Lucy Hopko will be married here in our Parish on this Sunday afternoon, February 16. We congratulate Lucy and David, and pray that they will enjoy many, many blessed and fruitful years together. May God richly bless them, so that, in turn, they may meet the needs of others. Many Years!

Fr. John will be in and out of the office until late in the day on Tuesday, February 18: As both father-of-bridal and presiding-celebrant for the upcoming Hopko/Crosby wedding, Fr. John will have pastoral and family duties from the time you read this notice on February 15 or 16, until very late in the day on Tuesday, February 18. He will be in and out of the office on those days. Thus, in the case of a true pastoral emergency requiring the ministry of an Orthodox priest—if you can't reach Fr. John—reach out, please, to Fr. David Koles at 860-573-0013. (Alternatively, you may also contact any priest of one of the parishes of the Diocese of New England's Connecticut Deanery. You may also reach out to our parish deacon, Protodeacon Paul Nimchek at 860-489-3220.) Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Meat-Fare Sunday Charitable AND Celebratory Brunch, February 23: On Sunday, February 23, following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will have a Meat-fare Sunday Charitable Brunch, hosted by Paul Senetcen and Friends. (This event has now become a welcome and well-established annual happening in our parish.) All proceeds from this year's Brunch will, once again, benefit the Plymouth Community Food Pantry. Also, that morning, we will have a chance to congratulate Lucy Hopko (by then, God-willing, Mrs. Lucy Crosby) and David Crosby, and continue to celebrate with them the occasion of their marriage, which will have taken place a week earlier, on February 16.

Help with Completing Tax Returns: The United Way of West Central CT, serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Plymouth/Terryville, is once again offering free tax preparation through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In order to qualify, a household's income must be less than \$56,000.00. Appointments are required, and may be set up by telephoning (860) 356-2000. Also, the United Way has partnered with H&R Block to bring MyFreeTaxes to households with incomes of less than \$69,000.00. MyFreeTaxes (www.myfreetaxes.com) is a secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online.

The "Penguin Plunge": A Special Olympics Fundraiser, March 8: On Sunday, March 8, Paul and Claudia Senetcen's daughter, Sarah Gaulin, together with her husband Justin, will once again be participating in a fundraiser for Special Olympics Connecticut. Sarah and Justin are now accepting sponsorships for taking a plunge in the wintry waters of Long Island Sound at Ocean Beach Park, New London, CT. To sponsor Sarah and Justin in their "Penguin Plunge" you may mail a check payable to "Connecticut Special Olympics" to Sarah at her home address: Sarah Gaulin, 15 Virginia Road, Oakdale, CT 06370-1554. You may also contribute on-line at <https://www.soct.org/>, in the section of that website dedicated to the New London, CT, Penguin Plunge. (If giving on-line, select Ways to Give, Penguin Plunge, Shoreline Plunge, and then scroll down the page and enter "Sarah Gaulin" under Name of Participant; or access this link: <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/2395024>.) Please consider giving Sarah and Justin your support through a sponsorship donation. Thank you for your consideration!

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.)

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 web-site. 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.*)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Reading from the 1st Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

Brothers and Sisters: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"