

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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Sunday, March 4, 2018

The 2nd Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 6

Commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas

Commemoration of Venerable Gerasimus of the Jordan

Our Parish Schedule for Sunday, March 4

Our parish is hosting the Lenten Mission Vespers service for the Connecticut Deanery this Sunday afternoon, March 4, beginning at 4:00 PM.

Please make every effort to be present for this event, to help fulfill the requirements of Christian hospitality. People are coming to visit our Church home. We must be present to receive them!

In view of this event, we will NOT have our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour this Sunday morning, March 4, following the conclusion of the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. This adjustment to our usual schedule will allow us time to set up for the afternoon Vespers and, also, time to go home for a little while, to rest before returning to Church later in the afternoon in order to host those who will be visiting us for the Lenten Mission Vespers.

Thank you so much, in advance, for your cooperation and enthusiastic participation in this schedule.

Reminder: The clocks "spring ahead" on Sunday, March 11!

Schedule of Services

**3/4 Sunday—2nd Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas**

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Lenten Mission Vespers, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

3/5 Monday

7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting

3/7 Wednesday

6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten "Bring-and-Share" Supper

3/8 Thursday

In the Waterbury Parish!

6:15 PM – Lenten Vespers

--Fr. John H., presiding

3/9 Friday

7:00 PM – Memorial Vespers

3/10 Saturday

6:00 PM – Vigil, with the Bringing out of the Holy Cross for Veneration
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

**3/11 Sunday—3rd Sunday of Great Lent
Veneration of the Holy Cross**

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Mission Vespers

Hosted by St. John the Baptist Church, Mill Hill, Bridgeport, CT

3/14 Wednesday

6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten "Bring-and-Share" Supper

3/15 Thursday

In the Waterbury Parish!

6:15 PM – Lenten Vespers

--Fr. John H., presiding

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

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

Newly Departed

Michael ("Mickey")—a friend of Marilou Petroff	d. 2/18/18
Matushka Barbara Kucynda	d. 2/16/18
Mildred Stack—parishioner in Waterbury Parish	d. 2/16/18
Mark—co-worker of M. Hopko	d. 2/7/18
William Stanescki—parishioner in the Waterbury Parish	d. 1/27/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Helen Kowaleski	3/4/1997
Andrew Tczap	3/6/1946
Mary Oleshko	3/6/1984
Amelia Hriceniak	3/6/1998
Louis Senetcen	3/8/1990
Mary Hitchcock	3/8/2011
Maria Braga	3/9/1927
Julia Glowa	3/9/1952
Stephen Kowal	3/9/1968
Catherine Kowal	3/10/1988
Anne Yurascik	3/10/2010

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

Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures
Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Archpriest Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's brother; chronic illness
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin

Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
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; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; still in need of prayers for health
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Bachloan—friend of Jeanne Moore; recent open heart surgery
Sophie (Sonia) Ozerov—Fr. John's great-aunt; broken pelvis
Jerry Grasso—Jayne Grasso's husband; unwell and in need of prayers
Mark Sovyrda—Ann's son; suffering severely with chronic and acute back pain
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Michael Liverman—Waterbury Parish member; recently unwell
Steve Panasuk—our fellow parishioner; recently unwell
Annalee Wenslow—Beverly Kuzmich's sister; unwell recently

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Abigail and the twins she is carrying—M. and K. Orelup's daughter and grandchildren
Matushka Brenda (Barbara) and the child to be born of her

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
[NOTE: Joel is now serving a six-month-long deployment overseas]
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Travelers, those soon to be traveling, and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until spring 2018
Peter and Chezelle Serev

Birthdays

Macrina Hopko	3/4
James Watras	3/7
Stefan Koski	3/7

Annual ONE Stewards Appeal

March is ONE Stewards month!

ONE (Orthodox New England) Stewards is a group within the Diocese of New England who contribute money to the Diocese for the purpose of supporting outreach (and "in-reach") ministries in the Diocese beyond what the annual budget of the Diocese is able to support.

These ministries include charitable grants, scholarships and youth programs. One of the specific programs supported is our annual Diocesan Youth Rally, of which our own Fr. John Hopko is presently the Director.

Historically, our parish membership has a wonderful record of ONE Stewards membership. Many members of our parish have been annual supporting members of ONE Stewards for many consecutive years.

Every year at about this time ONE Stewards conducts its annual membership appeal. Please consider supporting this program. Donations may be made by writing a check made out to "ONE Stewards—Diocese of New England" and then sending it to ONE Stewards, PO BOX 1182, Torrington, CT 06790-1182. Alternatively, you may simply give your ONE Stewards donation directly to our own Deacon Paul Nimchek, who coordinates ONE Stewards on behalf of the Diocese.

News and Notes

All invited! March Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday, March 5: The March Meeting of the Parish Council, taking place beginning at 7:00 PM on Monday evening, March 5, will be a special, one-topic meeting, open to all members of the parish. The topic will be, once again, the issue of Church Growth and Development. We have met before about this topic, and even made certain tentative initiatives in its pursuit. Now, we want to address this issue again, looking at other directions in which we might proceed. Please, participate in this meeting!

Lenten Confessions – Make your appointment now! (We are already one-third of the way through Great Lent!) Each and every Christian ought to (must!) participate in the saving Sacrament of Holy Confession during the Lenten season, as part of his or her own “Lenten journey.” Please contact Fr. John now to make your Confession appointment, even if you want your appointment to take place later on during Lent. Please make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, that is, by Friday, March 31. By the time we reach Holy Week and Pascha, every member of the Parish should have participated in the Sacrament of Confession in the Lenten season.

2018 Terryville/Plymouth Lenten Luncheons on Tuesdays at Noon during Great Lent: This year the Clergy Association of Terryville/Plymouth is again sponsoring a series of “Lenten Luncheons.” The Luncheons are taking place at 12:00 Noon on Tuesdays over the course of the weeks of Great Lent. The suggested donation for the Luncheons is \$5.00 apiece, and participants are also encouraged to bring donations for the Plymouth Community Food Pantry. At each Luncheon, the host community will provide a short informational or devotional program. The remaining schedule of Luncheons is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 6: Saint Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Parish (at the Lyceum)
- Tuesday, March 13: Terryville Congregational Church
- Tuesday, March 20: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

CT Deanery Lenten Mission Services: During Great Lent this year we are again having Sunday afternoon/evening Lenten Mission services here in the Connecticut Deanery of the Diocese of New England. The remaining schedule of services is:

- *Sunday, March 4, the Second Sunday of Great Lent: Vespers, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, at 4:00 PM.*
- Sunday, March 11, the Third Sunday of Lent: Vespers, St. John the Baptist Church, Mill Hill, Bridgeport, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- Sunday, March 18, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Vespers, Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- Sunday, March 25, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT, at 4:00 PM
- Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday: Bridegroom Matins, All Saints Church, Hartford, CT, at 4:00 PM.

Another Lenten Retreat! Saturday, March 10, Salisbury, CT: On Saturday, March 10, there will be a Lenten Retreat at All Saints of America Orthodox Church, 313 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, CT, 06068, entitled “Broken in the World and Made Whole in Christ.” The presenter will be Fr. Alexander Rentel, a professor at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary. The retreat will begin with registration and pre-retreat fellowship at 12:30 PM, and end with Vespers at 5:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served, but no meals. This is a FREE retreat, but pre-registration is required. To pre-register you may send an email to mevelyn@snet.net or telephone 860-824-1340.

Presentation about Hospital Chaplaincy: On Sunday, March 11, during or just after the Coffee Social Hour, our fellow parishioner, Tatiana Bouteneff, will be giving a presentation about her work as a hospital chaplain. Tania is a hospital chaplain at Hartford Hospital. She was formally commissioned as a hospital chaplain by the Orthodox Church in America in 2015. Tania will be sharing with us about her journey to chaplaincy, what the role of a hospital chaplain is and is not, and about what she has experienced and learned being an Orthodox Christian working as a chaplain in a setting where most of those to whom she is ministering are not Orthodox Christians. (For further information about institutional chaplaincy in the Orthodox Church in America please see this link: <https://oca.org/about/boards-offices-commissions/institutional-chaplaincies>.)

Parish Spring Cleaning, Saturday morning, March 17, 9:00 AM: We will have our annual Church Spring Cleaning Session on Saturday morning, March 17, beginning at 9:00 AM. Please note this occasion in your calendar and plan to participate. Many hands make the work quick and easy! Thank you!

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. Also, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Great Lent, on which we commemorate especially the memory of St. Gregory Palamas

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 1:10-2:3)

Brothers and Sisters: [Of the Son, God says:] "Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mark 2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Scripture Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent, which is Sunday of the Lenten Veneration of the Cross

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 4:14-5:6)

Brothers and Sisters: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark (Mk. 8:43-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."