

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, March 7, 2021

Sunday of the Last Judgment

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – Tone 6. Sunday of the Last Judgment. The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus (4th c.). Ven. Paul the Simple, disciple of Ven. Anthony the Great (4th c.). St. Paul the Confessor, Bishop of Plousias in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Emilian of Rome. Icon of the Mother of God, “SURETY OF SINNERS” in Odrina (Orlovsk—1843) and Moscow (1848).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/03/07>

Saint John Chrysostom – On Fasting

I have said these [preceding] things, not that we may speak critically about fasting, but that we might honor fasting; for honoring fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices; since the person who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from certain foods, is a person who, in fact, disparages and belittles the practice of fasting.

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works! Is it said by what kind of works?

If you see a poor man, take pity on him! If you see an enemy, be reconciled to him! If you see a friend gaining honor, do not envy him! If you see a good-looking woman, pass her by!

For let not only the mouth fast, but also the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands, and all the parts of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being uncontaminated by looting and greed. Let the feet fast, by ceasing from running to the unlawful spectacles. [Here Saint John is referring to the gladiatorial combats, animal fights, public executions of criminals, etc., that took place publically in the Roman Empire. These days, we do not have exactly those things, but there are, nonetheless, plenty of things that we should avoid participating in or fixing our eyes upon. – Editor]

Let the eyes fast, being taught never to fix themselves in stares directed at good-looking faces, or to busy themselves with strange beauties. For looking is the food of the eyes, but if this looking be of a sort that is unlawful or forbidden, it damages the fast, and upsets the whole safety of the soul; however, if it is lawful and safe, it adorns fasting. For it would be absurd behavior to abstain from lawful food because of the fast, but to contact that which is forbidden with the eyes. Do you not eat flesh? Feed not upon lewd things by means of the eyes.

Let the ear fast, too. The fasting of the ear consists in refusing to receive evil words and lies. You shall not receive a false report, it says.

Let the mouth, also, fast from disgraceful speeches and criticizing. For what does it profit us if we abstain from fish and fowl, and yet chew on and consume our brethren? The evil speaker eats the flesh of his brother, and bites the body of his neighbor. Because of this the Apostle Paul utters this severe saying, “But, if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you are not consumed by one another.” (Galatians 5:15)

*Note: This passage is taken from Saint John Chrysostom’s **Third Homily on the Statues**. Specifically, it is excerpted from the English-language translation of this homily printed in the collection of Saint John Chrysostom’s sermons in the [Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers](#) series. That series was published in the late 19th century and is available in many places online. We have considerably edited this quoted passage, adjusting the translation so that it can be better understood by the contemporary American reader.)*

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

Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak—former OCA Chancellor	d. 2/5/2021
Archpriest John Tkachuk—Fr. John's uncle through marriage	d. 2/19/2021
Archpriest John Chupeck	d. 2/10/2021
Protodeacon John Eby—acquaintance of Fr. John H.	d. 2/3/2021
Reader Stephen Bradford—once of the Willimantic Parish	d. 2/21/2021
Byron—uncle of a friend of the Parish	d. 2/26/2021
Job—victim of a freak accident; at request of Fr. John H.	d. 2/23/2021
Walter—uncle of a friend of the Parish	d. 2/20/2021
Kate—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a tragic passing at a young age	d. 2/18/2021
George Giba—of the Waterbury Parish; once the Waterbury "sexton"	d. 2/17/2021
Thomas Matcheson—associated with the Waterbury Parish	d. 2/8/2021
child Leo—Fr. Andrew Tregubov's grandson	d. 2/5/2021

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Louis Senecten	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
Joseph Kostyk	3/12/1939
Anastasia Fedak	3/12/1976
Harry Duke	3/12/1977
Joseph Kurdeka	3/13/1972
John Broda	3/13/1972
Stefan Osuch	3/13/1998

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
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
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; unwell at this time
Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers
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
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering some health problems
Wayne—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P.; upcoming surgery
Thomas—fighting cancer; father of a friend of the Parish

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

Katherine and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife and her child

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

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

James "Jim" Watras	3/7
Stefan Koski	3/7
Nicholas Granoth	3/11

Reminder: The clocks "spring ahead" on Sunday, March 14, as Daylight Savings Time begins!

A Little Something on Time: Saint Paul tells us, in Ephesians 5:16, "[make] the best use of the time, because the days are evil." These words are not simply a warning not to waste time, as we might think. Rather, these words remind us that the time that we are given on this earth, which is fleeting and passing, is to be used in the best possible way, in the sense of *prioritization*. Saint Paul does not want us to waste the opportunity that we have to step away from the brokenness of this world, and to take advantage of the opportunity—the moment, the time—that we have, right here and now, to embrace the Gospel of Our Lord and allow it to be powerful in our lives. Seize the moment. Receive the Gospel. Live the Gospel.

Notes from Fr. John – About Parish Council Meetings

(As it happens, we have a Parish Council Meeting this coming Tuesday evening, March 9, at 6:30 PM)

Dear Members of the Terryville and Waterbury Parishes:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Please, be reminded that we have a Terryville Parish Council Meeting this coming Tuesday evening, March 9, beginning at 6:30 PM. It will be convened via video teleconference (Zoom).

(NOTE: The necessary Zoom link will be sent out to all meeting participants on Tuesday, close to the meeting time. I have been told that it is helpful if these links are sent out not too far in advance.)

I would like to remind everyone that Parish Council meetings are open to any member-in-good-standing, though, of course, only presently serving members have voting privileges. However, if you wish to attend, or have a matter that you would like to see added to the agenda, please, let me know. Thank you.

Also, at this time, as a privilege being extended while we are working towards formal consolidation of our two parishes, any person still technically a member in the Waterbury Parish, but now functioning as a member in the Terryville Parish, is invited to attend the Terryville Parish Council meeting or submit agenda items, too. Again, voting privileges are reserved for elected members of the Council.

If you have any questions or concerns, please, contact me by return of email, or send me a text or make a voice call to my cell phone, which is 860-944-3486.

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

News and Notes

Vacuum Cleaner Donated: Recently, we made an appeal asking for the donation of a new vacuum cleaner. Kindly, our fellow parishioner, Carolyn Palleria, has donated a new vacuum cleaner to the Church. We thank Carolyn for her generosity. Thanks, Carolyn! May God bless you and yours.

Bible Study, via “Zoom” – Wednesday evening, March 10, beginning at 7:00 PM: This week, on Wednesday evening (moved from Tuesday evening, due to the Parish Council meeting taking place in that Tuesday time slot), we will be continuing our reading and discussion of the First Letter to the Corinthians. (Most recently, we left off at 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.) 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.

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 Sunday of the Last Judgment, also called Meat-fare Sunday

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 8:8-9:2)

Brothers and Sisters: Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Mt. 25:31-46)

The Lord said to his disciples: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Forgiveness, also called Cheese-fare Sunday

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 13:11-14:4)

Brothers and Sisters: Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Mt. 6:14-21)

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."