



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 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4. Sunday of Orthodoxy. The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. Martyr Urpasianus, of Nicomedia (ca. 295). St. Cæsarius, brother of St. Gregory the Theologian (ca. 369). Righteous Tarasius. The “ALBAZIN” Icon of the Mother of God (“THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH”—1666). Venerable Vitalius of Castronovo (10th c.).

[Lives of the Saints - Orthodox Church in America](#)

Services and Events, Upcoming

(This schedule is subject to change, please confirm the schedule at www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/schedule before coming to Church.)

Sunday, March 9, First Sunday in Great Lent, The Sunday of Orthodoxy, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord’s Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour. The Parish Sisterhood will have their March monthly meeting during the Coffee Social Hour.

MERIDEN, CT: Sunday, March 9, Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 4:00 PM: *On Sunday afternoon, March 9, at 4:00 PM, Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Meriden, CT. [Unfortunately, Fr. John H. has another commitment, and will not be able to attend this service.]*

Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a “Bring-and-Share” Lenten meal.

AGAIN IN MERIDEN, CT: Thursday, March 13, Eve of the Feast of Saint Benedict, 6:30 PM: *On Thursday evening, March 13, Eve of the Feast of Saint Benedict, at 6:30 PM, the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts will be celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Meriden, CT. His Grace Bishop Benedict, our diocesan bishop will preside (on the occasion of the Feast Day of His Grace's patron saint), and the responses will be sung by the Diocesan Choir, so it promises to be a beautiful service, of great solemnity.*

FR. JOHN OUT OF THE OFFICE: Fr. John will be out of the office all day long on Friday, March 14.

Saturday, March 15, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 16, Second Sunday in Great Lent, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord’s Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour.

CLINTON, CT: Sunday, March 16, Lenten Mission Vespers, 4:00 PM: *On Sunday afternoon, March 16, at 4:00 PM, Lenten Mission Vespers will be celebrated at Saint Alexis Orthodox Church, Clinton, CT.*

RESCHEDULED TO THIS DATE: Monday, March 17, 6:30 PM: Via Zoom, Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30 AM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts. (This service is being scheduled earlier in the day than usual so as to allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Saturday, March 22, 6:00 PM: Our weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins), with Bringing out of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross for Veneration.

Sunday, March 23, The Third Sunday in Great Lent, The Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour.

BRIDGEPORT, CT: Sunday, March 23, Lenten Mission Vespers, 4:00 PM: On Sunday afternoon, March 23, at 4:00 PM, Lenten Mission Vespers will be celebrated at Holy Ghost (Spirit) Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT.

Tuesday, March 25, The Feast of the Annunciation, 6:30 PM: Vespers with Divine Liturgy to mark the Feast of the Annunciation.

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lenten Supper.

Saturday, March 29, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 30, The Fourth Sunday in Great Lent, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour.

HERE IN THE TERRYVILLE PARISH: Sunday, March 30, The Fourth Sunday in Great Lent, 4:00 PM: Connecticut Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers, Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT.

Wednesday, April 2, 10:30 AM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts. (This service is being scheduled earlier in the day than usual so as to allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Thursday, April 3, 9:00 AM: Lenten Morning Prayers, with The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Friday, April 4, 7:00 PM: The Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday, April 5, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, April 6, the Fifth Sunday in Great Lent, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour.

IN ANSONIA: Sunday, April 6, the Fifth Sunday in Great Lent, 4:00 PM: The annual Connecticut Deanery Holy Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT. His Grace Bishop Benedict, presiding.

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lenten Supper

Friday, April 11, 7:00 PM: Vespers to conclude Great Lent and to mark the Eve of Lazarus Saturday.

Saturday, Lazarus Saturday, April 12, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday, commemorating the occasion when Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from among the dead.

Saturday, April 12, Eve of Palm Sunday, 6:00 PM: Great Vespers and Litya, commemorating Palm Sunday, Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, 9:15 AM: Festal Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday, followed by a Coffee Social Hour.

IN HARTFORD: Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, 4:00 pm: CT Deanery Bridegroom Matins to begin Holy Week, All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT.

Great and Holy Monday, April 14, 7:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 15, 3:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins. (This service is being scheduled earlier in the day than usual to allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Thursday, commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

Great and Holy Thursday, April 17, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Great and Holy Thursday, commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

Great and Holy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Friday, with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Great and Holy Friday, April 18, 3:00 PM: Vespers commemorating the Death and Burial of Our Lord, with the Bringing out of the Winding Sheet (The "Plashchinitsa/Epitaphion")

Great and Holy Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Saturday, with the Lamentations over the Tomb, and the Procession

Great and Holy Saturday, April 19, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy over the Tomb of Christ, with the Many Old Testament Readings, the Changing of the Liturgical Colors from Dark to Bright, and the First Proclamation of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead.

Great and Holy Saturday, April 19, 11:30 PM, leading into the Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 20: Pascha Midnight Services (Nocturns, Matins, and Divine Liturgy), with the Proclamation of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead – Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

LOOKING AHEAD further into 2025:

- Sunday afternoon/evening, March 30, our Terryville Parish will host the clergy and faithful of the CT Deanery for a Lenten Mission Vespers Service
- Saturday, April 12, is Lazarus Saturday.
- Sunday, April 13, is Palm Sunday.
- Friday, April 18, is Great and Holy (Good) Friday.
- Saturday, April 19, is Great and Holy Saturday.
- Sunday, April 20, is Holy Pascha.
- Sunday, May 11, is the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and His Grace, Bishop Benedict will be visiting and presiding.
- Saturday, May 31, is the 45th anniversary of Protodeacon Paul N.'s ordination to the holy diaconate, and the 45th anniversary of the formal Consecration of our Parish Temple.
- Sunday, June 29, is the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and the 25th Anniversary of Fr. John's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. (Fr. John was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in May 1993.)
- Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18, Fr. John and Parish Lay Delegate Deb W. will be in Phoenix, Arizona, representing our Parish at the triennial (once-every-three-years) All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America.
- Friday, August 1, is the 25th anniversary of Fr. John's assignment as Pastor of our Terryville Parish.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Again we pray for all victims of accident, disease, disaster, difficulty, warfare, and acts of terror and senseless violence throughout the world—both those who have died and those who have suffered and yet still live. We especially pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, hear us and have mercy!

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

Newly Departed

Nicholas Bobrovsky—a lay man who did much in our Diocese d. 3/4/25
Cheryl—a Food Pantry volunteer d. 3/4/25
Emily—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a victim of cancer d. 2/29/25
Daniel—relative, through marriage of Cynthia B. d. 2/1/25
Aleksandra—perished in 1/29/25, Wash., DC, air accident, with many others
child Olivia—perished with her mother Aleksandra (above) and others on 1/29

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
William (Bill, Vasily) Markovich 3/11/2023
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
Iakov Krivoy 3/14/1949
Michael Shular 3/14/1979
Ella Ascolese 3/15/2010

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

H.E. Archbishop Alexander of the Diocese of the South
Archpriest Vladimir A—serious illness
Subdeacon John Paul—ongoing health problems
Mother Karitina—nun, an acquaintance of Fr. John H.; battling cancer
Matushka Ann Sh.—at request of Lynn H.
Bill ("Vasilios") L.—relative of the Sovyrda Family; more unwell, please pray fervently
Aaron H. – Fr. Steven H.'s son; recurring and ongoing health issues
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS); at home
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Katie and Aubrey—a mother & daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.'s father
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering serious and worrisome health problems
Yvonne K.—a person we have been asked to pray for; multiple myeloma
Mark—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); critically ill
Domenic—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Louis—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; health issues
Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.'s family member; health issues
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; serious health challenges
Michael "Mike" A.—battling health challenges
Robert Jos.—dealing with health issues
Elizabeth—suffered acute and chronic health issues; friend of Helena G.
Rosemary—member in the New Britain Parish; long-term health challenges
Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., suffering in illness
Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.
Sonya K.—former W'bury parishioner, health issues
Jeffrey—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Patrick—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Brittany—relative of Pdn. Paul; young woman facing cancer
Reader Matthew—friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; in need of prayers
Daniel—son of a friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; struggling

Joan—grief and chronic illness; req. of Helena G.
Paul S.—health issues
Holly—an acquaintance of Peter H.; unwell and in need of prayers
Laura—friend of Lenna M.; battling brain cancer
Amber—Louine K.'s granddaughter-in-law.
Larissa—daughter of Fr. Michael and Nadia K.; we have been asked to pray for her
Elizabeth S.—mother of an acquaintance of Fr. John's; battling cancer
George—Fr. George Z.'s son; seriously ill
Timothy—Olena's husband; undergoing treatment for a serious illness
Michael—at the request of Nina and John D.; unwell and in need of prayers
Lisa—friend of Helena G.; suffering in illness
Ksenia—our fellow parishioner; recent surgery and further issues thereafter
Irina—Ksenia's mother; battling cancer
Alex—Ksenia's husband; recent illness
Tatyana—Ksenia's mother-in-law; recent health issues leading to job loss
Jacob—family member of Lynn H.; some health issues
Faith—David C.'s cousin; facing health challenges
Bob B.—friend of Melanie O.; battling cancer
Nolan—friend of Corey F.; unwell and in need of prayers
Jacqueline—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray for general well-being
Amy—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray for general well-being
Michael N.—facing health challenges; our devoted and beloved Choir Director
John—Cynthia B.'s uncle—unwell and in need of prayers
Leo M.—Parishioner Lynn H.'s father; unwell and in need of prayers
Claudia—Macrina H.'s mother; recovering from broken hip
Ingrid—battling cancer; friend of Nina and John D.
Terry—battling cancer; friend of Nina and John D.
Louine K.—recently unwell; our fellow parishioner
Fernando—Matthew A.'s grandfather; declining health
Audrey—A.J.'s mother; unwell and in need of prayers
Bob P.—Louine K.'s son-in-law; recovering from an injury suffered in a fall
Matthew A—seriously injured fingers which required surgical care
child Matthias—an infant who is unwell that we have been asked to pray for
child Noelle—Bob M.'s granddaughter; recently unwell with some chronic issues
child Nicholas—at request of Dennis K.; suffering with illness
Christine—at request of Elaine H.; blindness cause by aneurysms
Jill—friend of Elaine H.; recovering from surgery
Timothy—relative of Joan M.; surgery
Nika D.—John and Nina D.'s daughter; some recent health challenges
Nancy B.—our fellow parishioner; preparing to undergo another surgery
Mary V.—acquaintance of Lucy C. and Peter H.; suffering in illness
Lubomir—Leo K.'s grandfather; surgery
Sarah—friend of Nina and John D.; suffering in illness
Barbara—Cynthia B.'s cousin; mourning loss of stepson
Joanne—acquaintance of Helena G.; mourning passing of her husband
Lewis—parishioner Lewis H.'s father; quite unwell

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

Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges and now widowed
Dolores M.—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare
Roberta K.—a Waterbury parishioner living in long-term care
Forrest H.—our fellow parishioner, now living in residential care

Mother and Newly Born Child

Alexis and the daughter newly born of her

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Emilia and the child to be born of her

Wedding Anniversaries

None this week

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

Ksenia—traveling abroad to see her mother
John (Jack) K. – away in Florida
Deborah and Emery W.—traveling

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Ian—Fr. David and Melanie's son-in-law; U.S. Army reservist called up for training
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps pilot
Zachary W.—Fr. Zachary W.'s son; U.S. Air Force pilot
John S.—Fr. John's nephew; a U.S. Navy ROTC midshipman

Birthdays

None this week

Notes on Parish Life

Vacuuming the Church: We ask that volunteers vacuum the Narthex (entrance area), Nave (main worship space), and Kliros (Choir area) of our Church building each Sunday, *right after the conclusion of the Sunday morning services*. The doing of this uncomplicated, yet needful, task would be a great help. Please consider being this volunteer on at least some occasions. Thank you.

Please, consider hosting Coffee Hour! We need Coffee Hour hosts going forward in the calendar. Please, consider hosting Coffee Hour. Thank you!

Lenten Confessions Make your appointment now!

Each and every Christian should 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, April 11.

By the time we reach Holy Week and Pascha, every member of the Parish should (must!) have participated in the Sacrament of Confession in the Lenten season.

Preparation for the Reception of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Most correctly described, the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is a solemn Lenten Vespers (evening) service celebrated at the end of a day of strict Lenten abstinence at which we receive, as the first food of the day, the divine and life-giving food that is the broken Body and spilled Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ—the food that satisfies our deepest need for meaningful life in communion with God, our Heavenly Father. (NOTE: This year, we will be serving several Divine Liturgies of the Presanctified Gifts in the late morning, in which case we are expected to fast from midnight onwards through the morning, until we receive Holy Communion as the first food of the day. We are serving this service in the morning on several occasions in order to make this service accessible to some who are unable to travel at night.)

The following paragraph is excerpted from the Introduction to the order of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts as prepared and printed by the Department of Religious Education of the Orthodox Church in America:

“The evening reception of Communion at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is fulfilled after a day of prayer and fasting, with the total abstinence from food and drink at least from the early morning hours of the day. Some consider the taking of even light, Lenten food on the morning of the Presanctified Liturgy as a “lessening” of the discipline. Those who have fasted a whole working day in preparation for the evening participation in the Holy Sacraments, however, know the great difficulty of the effort, as well as the very special spiritual fruits it brings from God.”

In view of this teaching, each of us needs to make a prayerful and pious decision concerning how we ourselves are going to prepare for the reception of Holy Communion during the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. The minimum fast for a healthy adult preparing to receive Holy Communion at the evening celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts should be complete abstinence from all food and drink (and, if you smoke, from tobacco!) from 12:00 noon. (This parallels the usual practice for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday mornings, which we prepare for by attending Saturday evening Vigil, keeping the rest of the evening free from inappropriate activity, reading our pre-communion prayers, and completely fasting from food and drink from 12:00 midnight until the time we receive Holy Communion in the morning.) Others—children, seniors, those with medical issues, etc.—should fast before the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts as they are able.

In every case, serious and significant effort must be made in this fasting as we prepare to receive Holy Communion. Whatever the specifics of the manner in which we personally prepare for the reception of Holy Communion, we must not be heedless and simply come forward to receive the Holy Eucharist without forethought or preparation—preparation which includes fasting. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please see Fr. John.

Lenten Mission Vespers, Sunday afternoon, March 30:

Looking ahead, we will be hosting the Deanery for a Vespers service on Sunday March 30th. The Parish Sisterhood will organize a soup, bread, and dessert Lenten meal for those who attend. A sign up for that is now available.

Scripture Readings, etc.

Follow this link, to be taken to a section of the official Orthodox Church in America website at which you can access the Daily Scripture Readings, the Lives of the Saints arranged day-to-day throughout the year, catechetical (instructional) material about the Orthodox Faith, and section featuring Questions and Answers about the Orthodox Faith:

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy>

The End! Glory be to God!

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