

## 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 11, 2018

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 7

Lenten Veneration of the Precious and Holy Cross  
Commemoration of St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem

### ***Schedule of Services***

**3/11 Sunday—3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**3/17 Saturday**

9:00 AM – Annual Spring Cleaning  
of the Church

6:00 PM – Vigil, followed by Choir Rehearsal

**3/18 Sunday—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent**  
***Commemoration of St. John Climacus***  
***(“Of the Ladder”)***

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Mission Vespers

Hosted by Holy Trinity Church,  
New Britain, CT

**3/21 Wednesday**

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

**3/22 Thursday**

9:00 AM – Lenten Morning Prayers, with The  
Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

**3/23 Friday**

***In the Waterbury Parish!***

6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified  
Gifts. Fr. John H. will preside at Liturgy.

### **Death as Victory**

*By Metropolitan Kallistos Ware*

*An excerpt from his excellent book, **The Orthodox Way***

Christ’s death upon the Cross is not a failure which was somehow put right afterwards by his Resurrection. In itself the death upon the Cross is a victory. The victory of what? There can be only one answer: *the victory of suffering love*. “Love is strong as death...many waters cannot quench love” (Song of Songs 8:6-7). The Cross shows us a love that is as strong as death, a love that is even stronger.

St John introduces his account of the Last Supper and the Passion with these words: “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (13:1). “To the end” – the Greek says *eis telos*, meaning “to the last”, “to the uttermost”. And this word *telos* is taken up later in the final cry uttered by Christ on the Cross: “It is finished”, *tetelestai* (John 19:30). This is to be understood, not as a cry of resignation or despair, but as a cry of victory: It is completed, it is accomplished, it is fulfilled....

Because of love he offered himself as a sacrifice, choosing at Gethsemane to go voluntarily to His Passion: “I lay down my life for my sheep... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself.” (John 10:15, 18)....

*Loving humility is an incredible force:* Whenever we give up anything or suffer anything, not with a sense of rebellious bitterness, but willingly and out of love, this makes us not weaker, but stronger.... The power of God is shown, not so much in His creation of the world or in any of His miracles, but rather in the fact that out of love God has “emptied Himself” (Phil.2:7), has poured Himself out in generous self-giving, by His own free choice consenting to suffer and to die.... God is never so strong as when he is most weak.

# 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***

Julia Speraw—parishioner in the Waterbury Parish	d. 3/7/18
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

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

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
Vasilii Gerasimchyk	3/16/1944
Susan Skovran	3/17/1954
Mary Wrettick	3/17/1958

## **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 [“Yaht-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, now improving in health  
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. Orelop’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 Orelop—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  
John “Jack” Kriniske

### ***Birthdays***

Nicholas Granoth

3/11

## 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*

**Lenten Confessions – We are already halfway 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 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 (must!) 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 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 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.

**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>.)

**THANK YOU!** Thanks are expressed to all those who helped host the Lenten Mission Vespers Service in our Parish this past Sunday, March 4. We especially thank the Choir, who sang the service. We also send out special thanks to all those who helped with reception after the Vespers, by providing food and by helping with the set-up and clean-up. Thanks to all, and may God bless you for your generous assistance.

**CANCELLATION! The March Monthly CT Deanery Youth Gathering has been cancelled:** The March Monthly CT Deanery Youth Gathering that had been scheduled for Friday, March 16, has been CANCELLED. The next such gathering will now take place on Bright Friday, in the evening, April 13.

**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!

**Help with Completing Tax Returns:** The United Way of West Central CT, serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Plymouth, is once again offering free tax preparation through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In order to qualify, an individual’s (or family’s) household income must be less than \$54,000.00. 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 \$66,000.00. MyFreeTaxes ([www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com)) is a secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online.

**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 website. We will also place a notice on our Parish website. Also, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information.

# Readings from Holy Scripture

*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."

*Scripture Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, on which we commemorate especially the memory of St. John of the Ladder*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 6:13-20)**

Brothers and Sisters: when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

## **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mk. 9:17-31)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."