

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 14, 2021

Forgiveness Sunday

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE — Tone 7. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Ven. Benedict of Nursia (543). St. Theognostus, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Russia (1353). Rt. Blv. Great Prince Rostilav (Michael), Prince of Kiev and Smolensk (1167). St. Euschemon the Confessor, Bishop of Lampsacus (9th c.). The “FEODOROVSKAYA” Icon of the Mother of God.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/03/14>

Our Parish is presently **CLOSED** for all **in-person** activities

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Our Parish is presently **CLOSED** for all in-person activities because a person who was in Church last Sunday, March 7, was diagnosed with COVID-19 later in the week. The person in question felt fine on Sunday, March 7, became ill on Tuesday, March 9, and tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, March 10.

This person is doing well, though a member of their extended family (someone who does not attend our Church) is, also, now ill. Please, keep this family in your prayers, among all those who are suffering due to COVID-19.

We hope and pray that after we have observed a 10 to 14 day period of watchfulness, as required by our Parish’s present health safety protocols (which are stricter than those required by the State of Connecticut), that we will be able to re-open our Parish for in-person activities, including the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, March 21.

Please, check, further on in this bulletin, for online, “virtual”, opportunities for common worship. We will be having several services this week, including **Forgiveness Vespers, via ZOOM, on Sunday evening, March 14, beginning at 7:00 PM.** Watch your email inbox for details, or contact me to learn more.

We thank everyone for their support and their patience. May God bless us and help us.

With love in Christ,

Gratefully,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

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!*

Iakov Krivoy	3/14/1949
Michael Shular	3/14/1979
Ella Ascolese	3/15/2010
Vasili Gerasimchyk	3/16/1944
Susan Skovran	3/17/1954
Mary Wrettick	3/17/1958
Konstantin Pohlod	3/18/1965
Stephen Andrash	3/18/1988
Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko	3/18/2015
Anna Longo	3/19/1986
Irene Bobinsky	3/20/1953
Eva Muchka	3/20/1958
William "Bill" Pohlod	3/20/2009

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
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
Sarah—a young woman for whom we have been asked to pray (D.B.)
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

NONE THIS WEEK

Notes from Fr. John: A Lenten Commitment

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Yes, it is an odd time, still. For one whole year already, we have been dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. We hope and pray that this difficult time might pass.

Nevertheless, this year, as last year, we are asked to make the Lenten journey during a global pandemic. We must not lose heart. We must remain faithful. We must fulfill the three-part call of Lent, which is to pray, to fast (that is, to live with renewed discipline), and to love.

The most important of these things is the call to love, which begins with forgiveness. The central phrase of the central prayer of our Faith (The Lord's Prayer) tells us to forgive those who have sinned against us. During this Lent let us make the first priority of our Lenten journey to be at peace with every other person. If there is a relationship to be repaired in our life, let us work hard to repair it. Life is too short to waste time being at odds with any other person. Let us love one another.

Forgive me, a sinner.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

News and Notes

Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete, ONLINE: During the first four days of Great Lent it is traditional to gather for worship in the evening, and to pray the Great Penitential Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. Saint Andrew was an 8th-century bishop, theologian, preacher, and hymnographer. **In our Parish, we shall be gathering, online, in a “virtual” setting, via video teleconference (“Zoom”), to pray portions of the Canon of Saint Andrew on Monday evening, March 15, the first evening in Great Lent.** The necessary ZOOM link will be distributed using the Parish email group list, by which we usually communicate such things. Please watch for that link in your email inbox, or contact Fr. John for more details.

General Memorial Service (“Panikhida”), ONLINE: During Great Lent, we make a special effort to remember and pray for those who have departed this life, especially on each Friday evening and Saturday morning. Our usual custom here in our Parish (when not navigating our way through a public health crisis, such as we are presently enduring) is to serve Vespers on Friday evenings during Great Lent, and to include at the end of those Vespers services a brief memorial service for the departed (often called the “With the Souls” service, since it begins with the singing of the hymn for the departed that begins with the phrase “With the souls of the righteous departed, give rest, O Lord, to souls of your servants...”). **This Great Lent, in our Parish, we will be gathering on Friday evenings, online, in a “virtual” setting, via video teleconference (“Zoom”), to memorialize and pray for the departed.** The necessary ZOOM link will be distributed using the Parish email group list, by which we usually communicate such things. Please watch for that link in your email inbox, or contact Fr. John for more details.

NO Bible Study this week, the first week of Great Lent: This week, since it is the first week of Great Lent, we will not have a Bible Study session. Bible Study will return soon. Check next week's bulletin for an update.

NO Wednesday Morning Matins Services during Great Lent: During Great Lent, since we are planning to have Wednesday *evening* services, we will not be having Wednesday *morning* services.

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 Forgiveness, which is 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."

Scripture Readings for the 1st Sunday of Great Lent, which is also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 11:24-26, 11:31-12:2)

Brothers and Sisters: By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn. 1:43-51)

At that time Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Beth-saida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."