

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 15, 2020

Second Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 6

The Second Sunday in Great Lent: The Annual Commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas

March 15, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Martyr Agapius and the Seven with Him (4th c. AD), and the Martyr Nicander (d. 302 AD)

OUR PARISH HAS SUSPENDED SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE TIME BEING

Saturday morning, March 14, 2020

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I remind you all that our parish is closed over this weekend, March 14-15, out of a super-abundance of caution. **Please, read this whole letter for important information, following up on my previous letter, conveyed earlier this week.**

We are closed this weekend because last Sunday, March 8, there was a person present for the Divine Liturgy with us who was in direct, regular, daily contact with the child who is COVID-19 Case #5, here in Connecticut. (She is that child's schoolteacher. Thankfully, that child is doing well, in apparent recovery.) This person, our fellow parishioner, was also in Church for services on Wednesday evening, March 4. She has been sick this past week, with relatively mild symptoms consistent with some sort of viral infection, but, praise be to God, only to the degree that she has had to stay home, recovering.

Nevertheless, we (those of us who were in Church last Sunday with this person) were exposed to whatever it is making our fellow parishioner unwell. (What is making her unwell may or may not be the so-called "coronavirus"—we don't know, and will not know, as the authorities have declined to test her for coronavirus.) Whatever is ailing our sister-in-Christ, since we were exposed to her last Sunday and the Wednesday before that, that illness might be now be "brewing" within us. **Thus, out of respect for others, and out of a super-abundance of caution, I would respectfully ask, if you were here for the Divine Liturgy last Sunday morning, that you would stay home over the weekend, and not attend services in any other Church.**

The other parishes and parishioners of the Connecticut Deanery know that we are closed, and why we are closed. Therefore, they will appreciate and be grateful for our self-sacrificial practice of "social distancing" this weekend. I myself will be praying at home over this weekend, the second weekend in Great Lent. In a follow-up email, I will be providing you with resources to do so, as well.

I should, also, let you know that the common cold that I had earlier this week (which made necessary the cancellation of our Wednesday evening services) has resolved itself, and I now feel fine.

I myself find being separated from the Church and the Church's divine services this weekend deeply painful. I hope that this brief separation will cause us all to return with greater love and gratitude for the great gift to us that is the Holy Church.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

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

Newly Departed

Raymond Misura—a member of the Waterbury Parish	d. 3/13/2020
Eleanor Boruch—Reader Joseph's mother	d. 3/4/2020
Matushka Olga Kudrikoff—widow of a former priest in our diocese	d. 2/7/2020
Kristal—prayed for at the request of Frank Guba	d. 2/7/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Mildred Glowa	3/21/1997

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

Archpriest Paul L.—broken hip, suffered in fall
Archpriest John B.—recovering from severely broken ankle
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—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 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; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya Beach—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Mark—a profound diabetic for whom we have been asked to pray
Heather—an acquaintance of C. Palleria; battling significant health challenges
Crystal—Heather's twin sister; also battling significant health challenges
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer
Anna—friend of Patty Nimchek; has requested our prayers
Mary—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Simone—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Anna Szepel—recently increasingly unwell; please keep Anna in your prayers
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support
James B.—husband of a Waterbury Parishioner; very unwell at this time

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Expectant Mothers

Amanda and the child to be born of her—Amanda is an acquaintance of C. Palleria
Marina and the child to be born of her—Marina is one of Fr. John's many nieces
Maryna and the child to be born of her—Maryna & Amar are expecting a child in May
Diana and the child to be born of her—Joel and Julie Kowaleski's daughter-in-law

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

John "Jack" Kriniske
Stefan Koski

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelop—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot
Alexander—relative of C. Palleria's; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Maria Oraschewsky	3/21
Cynthia Belonick-Giuliano	3/21

"[At this time, we] should be mindful of our stewardship commitments to our parishes, but also increase our charitable giving so that those who fall ill might not also fall into debt and hardship, because of lost wages."

– *The Holy Synod of Bishops, in their statement on the present COVID-19 crisis*

[\(Click here to read full statement\)](#)

A Prayer for These Times

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon us, Your people gathered in Your Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who loves mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send Your angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify Your most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

News and Notes

CANCELLED: Monday, March 16, Terryville Parish Council Meeting: The already once-rescheduled March monthly meeting of the Terryville Parish Council, which had been slated to take place this Monday evening, March 16, is cancelled. This is due to concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, and because the Mayor of Plymouth (Terryville) has asked that we limit such gatherings, here in town. We will regroup soon, when the way forward becomes clearer. This coming week, Fr. John will be distributing to the Parish Council, via electronic means, three items: First, the minutes of our February meeting, second, the February financial report, and third, a Pastor's Report about ongoing matters in the Parish.

CT Deanery Lenten Mission Services: March services CANCELLED: We usually have Sunday afternoon services in the Connecticut Deanery during Great Lent. However, in view of the present concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, those services have been cancelled from now through the end of March, at which time a reassessment will take place.

Lenten Confessions: 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." However, in view of the present concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, we are placing a "pause for now" on the routine hearing of confessions. *However, if in the meantime, you have a need to discuss any pastoral matter, or a strong desire to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Confession, please contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience, and proper and appropriate arrangements will be made.* (NOTE: This "pause for now" is not a "dispensation." If we are in a condition of serious or rebellious sin, we must participate in the Sacrament of Confession, with no delay, and we must contact Fr. John to make an appointment for that Sacrament to take place.)

Annual ONE Stewards Appeal: 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. 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. (NOTE: *This year's ONE Stewards appeal is in memory of His Eminence Archbishop NIKON (Memory Eternal!). A retrospective slide show featuring photos of His Eminence may be viewed on our Diocesan website at www.dneoca.org.*)

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation "button" 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% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (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 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."