

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 17, 2019

1st Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 1

The Sunday of Orthodoxy: The Annual Commemoration of the Restoration of the Holy Icons to the Church in the year 843 A.D.

On March 17, annually, we commemorate Saint Alexis, Man of God (4th c.) and Saint Patrick of Ireland (5th c.)

NEXT WEEKEND!

Lenten Mission Vespers Sunday, March 24, 4:00 PM

We are the hosts!

Next Sunday, March 24, the Second Sunday evening in Great Lent, and the Eve of the Feast of the Holy Annunciation, our parish is taking its turn to host one of the Lenten Mission Services in the Connecticut Deanery.

Clergy and Faithful from other Orthodox parishes in our area will be joining us that afternoon beginning at 4:00 PM for Vespers in the Church, followed by Christian fellowship at a Lenten “Soup, Bread and Desserts” Reception in our Church Basement Social Hall.

There is a sign-up list posted in the Social Hall now, asking for contributions to that event. Thank you, in advance, for your help with and participation in this event.

Schedule of Services

- 3/17 Sunday**
First Sunday in Great Lent
The Sunday of Orthodoxy
Feast of Saint Patrick of Ireland
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Lenten Mission Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT
- 3/20 Wednesday**
6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share” Supper
- 3/22 Friday**
7:00 PM – Lenten Vespers with Memorial Prayers for the Faithful Departed
- 3/23 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 3/24 Sunday**
Second Sunday in Great Lent
Commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Lenten Mission Vespers for the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation here at Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT **(Our Parish!!!)**
- 3/25 Monday**
Feast of the Annunciation
6:15 PM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- 3/27 Wednesday**
6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share” Supper
- 3/29 Friday**
7:00 PM – Lenten Vespers with Memorial Prayers for the Faithful Departed
- 3/30 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

Especially this week, we remember the victims of the awful mass shootings in New Zealand. This kind of immoral, unconscionable, and reprehensible terroristic violence must be unconditionally condemned by Orthodox Christians. Lord have mercy! Peace be to all!

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

Newly Departed

Samya Rose Stumo—Ethiopian air disaster victim	d. 3/10/19
Tessie Felburt—Waterbury parishioner	d. 2/12/19
Thomas Shakun—Matushka Cindy Voytovich's father	d. 2/9/19
Janice Olear—Waterbury parishioner, daughter of Peter Olear	d. 2/9/19

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Lyba Duke	3/23/1925
John Muchka	3/23/1970

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

His Eminence Archbishop Nikon—some recent health issues
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in perilous illness
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
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
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
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Carol Johnson—still in need of our prayerful support
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall
Nina Gorbachev—has now suffered a stroke; very unwell
Anna Szepel—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner
John—Fr. John's nephew; undergoing testing in response to recent illness
Tanya Beach—suffered a brain hemorrhage on February 13

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko—shut-in at home
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

Travelers, and those who will be traveling

Helena Guba—March 21 to March 31

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

Joel Orelup—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, now in Afghanistan

Birthdays

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

Samya Rose Stumo – Memory Eternal!

Samya Rose Stumo, just 24 years old, whose family are members of All Saints of North America Orthodox Church, Salisbury, CT, perished together with 156 other persons, when Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 tragically crashed on March 10, 2019. Samya was baptized 24 years ago by Fr. John Kreta, Pastor of All Saints of North America Orthodox Church, not long after Fr. John was ordained to the holy priesthood. Fr. John Hopko, our Pastor, will be representing our parish at Samya's funeral service on Saturday, March 23. Memory Eternal!

Annual ONE Stewards Appeal

ONE (Orthodox New England) Stewards is a group within the Diocese of New England that contributes 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

We welcome the Confirmation Class from Terryville Congregational Church – Welcome!: This Sunday morning, March 17, we warmly welcome among us the Confirmation Class from Terryville Congregational Church, together with some of their teachers and parents. May God bless their journey of Faith with a commitment to know and live in function of the Truth, which is Our Lord Jesus Christ, He Who Is Truth.

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.” 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 19. 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.

CT Deanery Lenten Mission Services: During Great Lent this year we will again have Sunday afternoon/evening Lenten Mission services here in the Connecticut Deanery of the Diocese of New England. The schedule is:

- Sunday, March 17, the Sunday of Orthodoxy: Vespers, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- ***Sunday, March 24, the Second Sunday of Great Lent: Vespers, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT, at 4:00 PM.***
- Sunday, March 31, the Third Sunday of Lent: Vespers, Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- Sunday, April 7, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Vespers, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- Sunday, April 14, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT, at 4:00 PM
- Sunday, April 21, Palm Sunday: Bridegroom Matins, All Saints Church, Hartford, CT, at 4:00 PM.

Parish Spring Cleaning, Saturday morning, April 6: We will have a Church Spring Cleaning Session on Saturday morning, April 6, beginning at 9:00 AM. Please note this occasion in your calendar and plan to participate. Many hands make the work quick and easy! Let’s work together to beautify our Church for Holy Pascha! Thank you!

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 Internet website. We will, also, send out an email to the Parish email group and post an announcement on the Parish website. Finally, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information. ***(NOTE: If you need to have your email address added to the Parish email group, please contact Fr. John.)***

Saint Patrick of Ireland in His Own Words – An Excerpt from his autobiographical work, his “Confessio”

...there is no other God, nor will there ever be, nor was there ever, except God the Father. He is the one who was not begotten, the one without a beginning, the one from whom all beginnings come, the one who holds all things in being – this is our teaching. And his son, Jesus Christ, whom we testify has always been, since before the beginning of this age, with the father in a spiritual way. He was begotten in an indescribable way before every beginning. Everything we can see, and everything beyond our sight, was made through him. He became a human being; and, having overcome death, was welcomed to the heavens to the Father. The Father gave him all power over every being, both heavenly and earthly and beneath the earth. Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ, in whom we believe and whom we await to come back to us in the near future, is Lord and God. He is judge of the living and of the dead; he rewards every person according to their deeds. He has generously poured on us the Holy Spirit, the gift and promise of immortality, who makes believers and those who listen to be children of God and co-heirs with Christ. This is the one we acknowledge and adore – one God in a trinity of the sacred name.

Readings from Holy Scripture

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."

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!"