

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

860.582.3631 • email: terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com
www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org • www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Third Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 7

The Third Sunday in Great Lent: The Annual Lenten Veneration of the Holy Cross

March 22, annually, is the commemoration of, among others,
 Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra, and the Venerable Isaac of the Dalmation Monastery

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/03/22>

The true Christian life is built on grace

By Abbot Tryphon. Abbot of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon, Washington

Many people sail through their life thinking happiness is something they have created for themselves. Good fortune, and success in work and play, is something they've brought about, either through struggle, or by pure luck. Yet when they experience difficult times, or loss of the things that brought them comfort, they despair.

Sometimes it takes the loss of this established order, to enlighten our darkened hearts to the reality that only happiness that is of an eternal nature will never be lost. For such a man, there is nothing that can take away from the comfort and security he experiences that are of a faith based nature. This is because God's grace fills his very essence with such peace, nothing, even loss of worldly comforts, can bring about despair.

How can we possibly despair when we know that the God we worship in Trinity, and Who has created us and our world, is become our Co-suffering Saviour, and has showered us with such an abundance of grace, that no hardship that comes our way can detract from the peace and joy that we have experienced in our life in Christ.

Compared to this grace filled life, all else is but folly. Grace has liberated us from all the temporal nature of earthly happiness, and has taken up residence in our heart, from which springs forth the healing that transforms us. This grace makes us whole, and our sickness disappears as though it never was.

(Abbot Tryphon [pronounced "Tree-fohn"] is the Abbot of All-Merciful Saviour Orthodox Christian Monastery, Vashon, Washington. He is a popular Orthodox Christian writer and speaker. One place to encounter Abbot Tryphon is at his blog located at <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/>.)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disease, disaster, 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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Lyba Duke 3/23/1925
John Muchka 3/23/1970
Theodore Mychniow 3/24/1956
Anna LaRoche 3/24/1998
Myron (Miroslav) Toropilo 3/24/2002
Joanna Cefaratti 3/25/2012
Maria Hubchik 3/26/1946
Nicholas Maichak 3/26/1961
Martha Grabchuk 3/26/1965
Arlene Osuch 3/27/2011
Theodore Kozar 3/28/1936
Michael Kandybaik 3/28/1961

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
Darylne—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 Szepele—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 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
Alexander—relative of C. Palleria's; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

J. Nicholas "Nick" Osuch 3/24
Vera Wegh 3/28

"[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*

www.oca.org

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.

The Lenten Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24). (<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/03/22/14-3rd-sunday-of-great-lent-veneration-of-the-cross>)

News and Notes

Parish Physically Closed due to COVID-19: In view of the present concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, our parish is physically closed. However, we are spiritually alive, well, and active! *As we stay apart physically, we must grow together spiritually.* Please visit our parish website (www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org) and the website of the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org) to find a myriad of resources for study, prayer, and praise in these challenging times. If you would like, Fr. John would be glad to speak with you by telephone at 860-582-3631. This too shall pass. Christ is victorious!

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 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."