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 22, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*). Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363). Martyr Drosís, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Isaac, the Confessor Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.). Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos—1814).

Lives of the Saints - Orthodox Church in America

Services and Events, Upcoming

(This schedule is subject to change, please confirm the schedule at www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/schedule before coming to Church.)

Tuesday, March 24, 9:00 AM: Lenten Morning Prayers, with The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete. *Note: In most years this service takes place on the Fifth Thursday of Great Lent, but, this year, because of the way that the Feast of Annunciation (March 25, annually) falls on the Fifth Wednesday of Great Lent, this service is chanted on the Fifth Tuesday of Great Lent.*

Wednesday, March 25, The Feast of the Annunciation, 6:30 PM: Vespers with Divine Liturgy to mark the Feast of the Annunciation.

Friday, March 27, 7:00 PM: The Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON: Our annual **Spring Cleaning** of the Church (and, perhaps, even, the Church grounds, too), will take place on Saturday morning, March 28, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Please, if you are able, come help prepare the Church for Holy Week and Pascha.

Saturday, March 28, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 29, the Fifth Sunday in Great Lent, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour. **The Parish Sisterhood will meet after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on this Sunday.**

IN ANSONIA: Sunday, March 29, the Fifth Sunday in Great Lent, 4:00 PM: The annual Connecticut Deanery Holy Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, 26 Howard Ave., Ansonia, CT. His Grace Bishop Benedict, presiding.

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lenten Supper

Friday, April 3, 7:00 PM: Vespers to conclude Great Lent and to mark the Eve of Lazarus Saturday.

Saturday, Lazarus Saturday, April 4, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday, commemorating the occasion when Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from among the dead.

Saturday, April 4, Eve of Palm Sunday, 6:00 PM: Great Vespers and Litya, commemorating Palm Sunday, Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday, 9:15 AM: Festal Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday, followed by a Coffee Social Hour.

IN HARTFORD: Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday, 4:00 pm: CT Deanery Bridegroom Matins to begin Holy Week, All Saints Orthodox Church, 206 Scarborough St., Hartford, CT.

Great and Holy Monday, April 6, 7:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 7, 3:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins. (This service is scheduled earlier in the day than usual to allow those who cannot travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Thursday, commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

Great and Holy Thursday, April 9, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Great and Holy Thursday, commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

Great and Holy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Friday, with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Great and Holy Friday, April 10, 3:00 PM: Vespers commemorating the Death and Burial of Our Lord, with the Bringing out of the Winding Sheet (The "Plashchinitsa/Epitaphion")

Great and Holy Friday, April 10, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Saturday, with the Lamentations over the Tomb, and the Procession

Great and Holy Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy over the Tomb of Christ, with the Many Old Testament Readings, the Changing of the Liturgical Colors from Dark to Bright, and the First Proclamation of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead.

Great and Holy Saturday, April 11, 11:30 PM, leading into the Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 12: Pascha Midnight Services (Nocturns, Matins, and Divine Liturgy), with the Proclamation of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead – Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Bright Monday, April 13, 9:15 AM: Paschal Divine Liturgy, followed by a festive procession around the Church, and then by a Bring-and-Share Paschal Brunch.

Bright Wednesday, April 15, 8:00 AM: Paschal Matins (in a somewhat abbreviated form), followed by some Paschal fellowship (Coffee and Goodies) for those who would enjoy sharing such fellowship.

Saturday, April 18, Eve of Saint Thomas Sunday, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, April 19, the First Sunday after Pascha, Saint Thomas Sunday, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our customary Coffee Social Hour.

Sunday, April 19, the First Sunday after Pascha, Saint Thomas Sunday, 12:15 PM: The Annual Blessing of the Graves in the Terryville Parish Cemetery. (Weather permitting.)

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BLANKETS DRIVE

Brian's Angels, a homeless outreach organization that our parish supports in Bristol, CT, is looking for donations of blankets to help meet the needs of the people they serve. Please, consider donating blankets.

While it is our understanding that Brian's Angels will accept any blanket in good condition, it is universally acknowledged that the best blankets for this purpose are emergency or disaster relief style wool (or mostly wool) blankets, because wool maintains its insulating qualities even when wet, is generally durable, and is somewhat naturally fire resistant (it chars rather than melts).

If you are thinking of purchasing such wool/wool-blend blankets to donate, do an internet search for the phrases "wool emergency blanket" and "disaster relief wool blanket" and you will be provided with many options to choose from. You can even add the word "bulk" to your search and see options for buying such blankets in bulk, for which you might receive a discount per item, since you will be buying multiples of the same blanket.

We will be collecting the donated blankets in donation bins in the Narthex of our Church. Thank you for your prayerful and kind consideration of this appeal.

ANNUAL ONE STEWARDS APPEAL

Please, become a Steward of the Diocese of New England by providing a supportive donation!

The best way to make a donation is to go to this website and click on the "Donate" button:

https://dneoca.org/stewardsofnewengland

Another way to make a donation is to write out a check made out to The Diocese of New England, and specify that it is for the Stewards of the Diocese of New England. Then, give that check to Protodeacon Paul Nimchek who is collecting those donations in our Parish.

Stewards of the Diocese of New England (formerly ONE Stewards), supports Youth Activities, Missions, Seminary Scholarships, and Charitable Work in the Diocese of New England. When you become a Steward of the Diocese of New England you are providing funding for these kinds of programs in the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of New England.

For many of us, a favorite cause is to make a donation via Stewards of the OCA earmarked for support of the Annual Diocesan Youth Rally.

Youth Rally is a wonderful program of the Diocese that provides a weeklong, residential, immersive, Orthodox Christian camp experience, led by talented and devout Orthodox Christian clergy and adult leaders, for children between the ages of 10 and 17 in the Diocese of New England. It takes place annually in the month of August. (From 2004 through 2018, Fr. John was the Youth Rally Rector and Director, every summer; and for many summers a number of our parishioners, including Melanie Osuch, Lucy Crosby, and Macrina Hopko, served as Rally Staff in various capacities.)

Youth Rally is an expensive program, but a fruitful program (literally fruitful in some cases--men and women who have met at Youth Rally have later married and had families!). It costs several hundred dollars per camper to hold Youth Rally, so a generous donation to the Stewards of the Diocese of New England can really, really help.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request to become a Steward of the Diocese of New England. God bless you!

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

Vacuuming the Church: We ask that volunteers vacuum the Narthex (entrance area), Nave (main worship space), and Kliros (Choir area) of our Church building each Sunday, ***right after the conclusion of the Sunday morning services***. The doing of this uncomplicated, yet needful, task would be a great help. Please consider being this volunteer on at least some occasions. Thank you.

Please, consider hosting Coffee Hour! We need Coffee Hour hosts going forward in the calendar. Please, consider hosting Coffee Hour. Thank you!

SCHEDULING NOTE:

Bishop's Annual Visit, Sunday, May 11: Our diocesan bishop, His Grace the Right Reverend Benedict, Bishop of Hartford and New England, will be visiting with us on Sunday morning, May 10, the day before the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius (our Parish's patron saints), which always falls each year on May 11.

Lenten Confessions – We are into the last few weeks of Great Lent

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 make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, that is, by Friday, April 3.

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.

Parish Sisterhood

The Parish Sisterhood will meet after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 29, to discuss some upcoming events.

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PARISH PRAYER LIST

Again we pray for all victims of accident, disease, disaster, difficulty, warfare, and acts of terror and senseless violence throughout the world—both those who have died and those who have suffered and yet still live. We especially pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, hear us and have mercy!

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

Newly Departed

His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia of Georgia	d. 3/17/26
Bishop Seraphim, retired Bishop of Sendai	d. 2/7/26
Audrey—A.J.'s mother	d. 2/27/26

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
Beverly Kuzmich	3/27/2020
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

H.E. Archbishop Benjamin of the Diocese of the West (Retired)
H.E. Archbishop Alexander of the Diocese of the South
Archpriest Seraphim G.—former Terryville pastor, injured in fall (ribs/collarbone)
Archpriest Vladimir A.—serious, chronic illness
Archpriest Vladimir H.—unwell
Archpriest David K.—recovering after knee joint replacement surgery
Archpriest Patrick B.— complications after knee joint replacement surgery
Protopresbyter John K.—an acquaintance of the Hopkos; Greek Orthodox priest
Priest Moses—another recent medical procedure
Subdeacon John Paul—ongoing health problems
Matushka Ann Sh.—at request of Lynn H.
Bill ("Vasilios") L.—relative of the Sovyrda Family; unwell, please pray fervently
Michael N.— recipient of a kidney transplant; our devoted, beloved Choir Director
Nancy B.—our fellow parishioner; dealing with very difficult chronic illness
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Margaret—sister-in-law of Carolyn P.; health issues
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering serious and worrisome health problems
Yvonne K.—a person we have been asked to pray for; multiple myeloma
Mark—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); critically ill
Domenic—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Nicholas—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; health issues
Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.'s family member; health issues
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; serious health challenges
Michael "Mike" A.—battling many, many health challenges
Robert Jos.—dealing with health issues
Diane—daughter of friends of Forrest and Elaine H., suffering in illness
Sonya K.—former W'bury parishioner, health issues
Jeffrey—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Patrick—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Jesse—John G.'s brother; injured in accident
Nila—John G.'s aunt; facing challenges
Brittany—relative of Pdn. Paul; young woman facing cancer
Joan—grief and chronic illness; req. of Helena G.
Candace—mourning the loss of her newly departed husband David; req. of Helena G.
Timothy—Olena's husband; undergoing treatment for a serious illness
Lisa—friend of Helena G.; suffering in illness
Ksenia—our fellow parishioner; recent surgery and further issues thereafter
Alex—Ksenia's husband; recent illness
Tatyana—Ksenia's mother-in-law; recent health issues leading to job loss
Faith—David C.'s cousin; facing health challenges due to a chronic illness
Nolan—friend of Corey F.; unwell and in need of prayers
Jacqueline—a woman for whom we have be asked to pray for general well-being
Amy—a woman for whom we have be asked to pray for general well-being
Leo M.—Parishioner Lynn H.'s father; unwell and in need of prayers
Ingrid—battling cancer; friend of Nina and John D.
Terry—battling cancer; friend of Nina and John D.
Victor—family member of Nina and John D.; suffering in illness
Alex—family member of Nina and John D.; suffering in illness
Louine K.—various health challenges; our fellow parishioner
Heather—at the request of Louine K.; facing challenges
Christine—at request of Elaine H.; blindness cause by aneurysms
Jill—friend of Elaine H.; recovering from surgery
Timothy—relative of Joan M.; surgery
Andrea—friend of Helena G.; mourning loss of her daughter
Joanne—acquaintance of Helena G.; mourning passing of her husband
Nikola—friend of Jacob J,; very unwell and in need of prayers
Gregory—Bob M.'s son; underwent surgery on 7/22, follow-up therapies
Chitra—Melanie B.'s mother; surgery on 7/22, followed by complications
Alexandra—Fr. John's sister; suffers Neurofibromatosis type II, a chronic disease
Boris—a participant in our Parish Bible Study; battling illness
Raymond—Fr. John's brother-in-law; some health issues
Tabitha H.—recovering from knee surgery, which took place on 2/11
John—undergoing cancer treatment; relative of Lenna M.
Cameron—a person for who we have been asked to pray, facing a challenging diagnosis
Iris—at request of Hopkos; for joy, peace, and tranquility
Barbara—friend of Jack K.; unwell and in need of prayers
Lynn H.—our fellow parishioner; underwent shoulder joint surgery, 1/13
Jeanne M.—our fellow parishioner; hip joint replacement surgery on 2/10
Srdjan—a man we have been asked to pray for; recovering from stroke
Barbara K.—our fellow parishioner; suffered a fractured pelvis in fall on 2/12
Petra Joy—at request of Barbara K.; Petra is suffering a recurrence of cancer
James—husband of Barbara K., seriously unwell and in need of prayers
David—Paul S.'s brother, unwell and in need of prayers
Joseph—at request of Hopko Family; a young man in need of prayers
Macrina H.—recovering from surgery
child Sophia—recovering from submersion accident; child of former parishioner
child Emerson—at request of Valbona H.; an infant with hearing difficulties

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

Tanya B.—suffering long-term effects of brain hemorrhage
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges
Claudia B.—Macrina H.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare
Dolores M.—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare
Roberta K.—a Waterbury parishioner living in long-term care
Forrest H.—our fellow parishioner; resident in long-term eldercare
John—Cynthia B.'s uncle

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Kelly and the children (twins) to be born of her—Lenna M.'s niece
Shelby and the child to be born of her—Karry and Mark O.'s daughter-in-law

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

Todd S., on an extended trip abroad
John (Jack) K., away from us during the winter months

Those from among us serving or training to serve in the Armed Forces

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic"); Mark and Karry O.'s son
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Weston—son of a friend of Lenna M; National Guardsman, deployed abroad
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps tiltrotor pilot
Zachary W.—Fr. Zachary W.'s son; U.S. Air Force fighter pilot
John S.—Fr. John H.'s nephew; Ensign, U.S. Navy
Matthew S.—Fr. John's nephew (John S.'s brother); ROTC cadet, U.S. Army

Birthdays this coming week

Nicholas Osuch	3/24
Vera Wegh	3/28

Pussywillows for Palm Sunday

In preparation for Palm Sunday, please, if you have access to pussywillows, harvest some branches for blessing and distribution on that feast day. Yes, we will also be blessing and distributing palm fronds on that day, but we do like to also bless pussywillows on that feast, as is traditional among many Eastern European Christians. For this purpose, the willow branches are distributed in the "fuzzy" stage, when the furry catkins (as they are called) are intact, before the branches come into leaf.

Learn more about the Orthodox Faith

Follow this link, to be taken to a section of the official Orthodox Church in America website at which you can access the Daily Scripture Readings, the Lives of the Saints arranged day-to-day throughout the year, catechetical (instructional) material about the Orthodox Faith, and section featuring Questions and Answers about the Orthodox Faith:

https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy

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The End

Glory be to God, for all things!