



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, April 6, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. St Mary of Egypt. St. Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople (582). St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Moravia and Enlightener of the Slavs (885). St. Platonis of Nisibis, Syria (Syria—308). 120 Martyrs of Persia (344-347). Martyrs Jeremiah and Presbyter Archilias (3rd c.). Ven. Gregory the Byzantine (1308). Monastic Martyr Gennadios of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos—1818).

[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.)

IN ANSONIA: Sunday, April 6, the Fifth Sunday in Great Lent, 4:00 PM: The annual Connecticut Deanery Holy Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT. His Grace Bishop Benedict, presiding.

Monday, April 7, 6:30 PM, Terryville Parish Council Meeting: Our Terryville Parish Council will hold its April monthly meeting on Monday evening, April 7, via ZOOM video conference beginning at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 PM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lenten Supper

Friday, April 11, 7:00 PM: Vespers to conclude Great Lent and to mark the Eve of Lazarus Saturday.

Saturday, Lazarus Saturday, April 12, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Lazarus Saturday, commemorating the occasion when Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from among the dead.

Saturday, April 12, Eve of Palm Sunday, 6:00 PM: Great Vespers and Litya, commemorating Palm Sunday, Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, 9:15 AM: Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Palm Sunday, followed by a Coffee Social Hour.

IN HARTFORD: Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, 4:00 pm: CT Deanery Bridegroom Matins to begin Holy Week, All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT.

Great and Holy Monday, April 14, 7:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 15, 3:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins. (This service is scheduled earlier in the day than usual to allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 16, 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 17, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, Great and Holy Thursday, commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

Great and Holy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Friday, with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Great and Holy Friday, April 18, 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 18, 7:00 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Saturday, with the Lamentations over the Tomb, and the Procession

Great and Holy Saturday, April 19, 10:00 AM: Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, 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 19, 11:30 PM, leading into the Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 20: Pascha Midnight Services (Nocturns, Matins, and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom), with the Proclamation of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead: Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Bright Monday, April 21, 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 23, 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 26, Eve of Saint Thomas Sunday, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, April 27, 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 27, the First Sunday after Pascha, Saint Thomas Sunday, 12:15 PM: The Annual Blessing of the Graves in the Terryville Parish Cemetery.

Monday, April 28 through Thursday, May 1, Carpet Cleaning Project at Church: The carpets in our Church building, both upstairs in the worship space and downstairs in the social space, will be cleaned on Tuesday, April 29 and April 30. We will have a preparation evening for that on Monday evening, April 28, and a follow-up day on Thursday, May 1. So, on these days we will not have other events at Church, other than the carpet cleaning activities.

Saturday, May 3, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins). **Sunday, May 4, 9:15 AM:** Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our customary Coffee Social Hour. *On this day we hold a Paschal Egg Hunt for the Parish children.*

Wednesday, May 7, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers), as is our custom on most Wednesday mornings outside of Great Lent. (*Our Matins is not the full service, as might usually be served in a monastery, but, rather, is modified for Parish use.*)

Saturday, May 10, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

VISIT OF HIS GRACE, BISHOP BENEDICT: Sunday, May 11, Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, 9:15 AM: Hierarchical (Bishop's) Divine Liturgy, followed by a Brunch organized by the Parish Sisterhood. On this day, with His Grace Bishop Benedict being present, we will honor Protodeacon Paul Nimchek on the occasion of his 45th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Diaconate, the precise day of which is May 31.

LOOKING AHEAD further into 2025:

- Tuesday, May 20: Fr. John will be out of the office all day long.
- Saturday, May 31, is the 45th anniversary of Protodeacon Paul N.'s ordination to the holy diaconate, and the 45th anniversary of the formal Consecration of our Parish Temple.
- Sunday, June 1: Parish Picnic following Divine Liturgy, with a special celebration of Deacon Paul and Patty Nimchek on the occasion of Deacon Paul's anniversary of ordination.
- Friday, June 13, to Tuesday, June 17: Fr. John will be on vacation and out of the office.
- Sunday, June 29, is the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and the 25th Anniversary of Fr. John's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. (Fr. John was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in May 1993, 32 years ago.)
- Sunday evening, July 13 through Saturday, July 19, Fr. John and Parish Lay Delegate Deb W. will be in Phoenix, Arizona, representing our Parish at the triennial (once-every-three-years) All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America.
- Friday, August 1, is the 25th anniversary of Fr. John's assignment as Pastor of our Terryville Parish.

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“I have consciousness of my sinfulness, but I live with hope. It is bad to despair, because someone who despairs becomes embittered and loses his willingness and strength. Someone who has hope, on the contrary, advances forward.”

– *A saying of Saint Porphyrios of the Skete (Small Monastery) of Kafsokalyvia on Mount Athos (d. 1991, canonized a saint in 2015)*

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

Mit. Archpriest Daniel Skvir d. 3/23/25
Mat. Mary Shafran d. 4/1/25
Mat. Sophie Daniels—an acquaintance of Fr. John H. d. 3/29/25
George Z.—Son of priest in the Greek Orthodox Cath. in Hartford; cancer d. 3/15/25
Zachary Lyga d. 3/9/25
Nicholas Bobrovsky—a lay man who did much in our Diocese d. 3/4/25
Cheryl—a Food Pantry volunteer d. 3/4/25
Emily—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a victim of cancer d. 2/29/25

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Michael Toropilo 4/7/1944
Alexander Grezuk 4/8/1952
Steven Wazorko 4/8/1958
Carol Johnson 4/8/2019
Symeon Prokomen 4/9/1932
Fadei Sarochinsky 4/9/1957
Nestor Kott-Helson 4/11/1952
Theofan Pavelchak 4/12/1931
Anthony Ostapchuk 4/12/1946

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 Alexander of the Diocese of the South
Archimandrite Seraphim—Abbot of Holy Cross Monastery in W.Va.
Archpriest Vladimir A.—serious illness
Archpriest Vladimir H.—unwell
Archpriest Vasily G.—unwell
Subdeacon John Paul—ongoing health problems
Mother Karitina—nun, an acquaintance of Fr. John H.; battling cancer
Matushka Ann Sh.—at request of Lynn H.
Bill (“Vasilios”) L.—relative of the Sovyrda Family; more unwell, please pray fervently
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS); at home
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Katie and Aubrey—a mother & daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Michael “Mike” L.—ongoing health issues
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Thomas—Patty N.’s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.’s father
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
Louis—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing breast cancer
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 health challenges
Robert Jos.—dealing with health issues
Elizabeth—suffered acute and chronic health issues; friend of Helena G.
Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., suffering in illness
Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.
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
Brittany—relative of Pdn. Paul; young woman facing cancer
Reader Matthew—friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; in need of prayers
Daniel—son of a friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; struggling
Joan—grief and chronic illness; req. of Helena G.

Paul S.—health issues
Holly—an acquaintance of Peter H.; unwell and in need of prayers
Laura—friend of Lenna M.; battling brain cancer
Larissa—daughter of Fr. Michael and Nadia K.; we have been asked to pray for her
Elizabeth S.—mother of an acquaintance of Fr. John’s; battling cancer
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
Irina—Ksenia’s mother; battling cancer
Alex—Ksenia’s husband; recent illness
Tatyana—Ksenia’s mother-in-law; recent health issues leading to job loss
Jacob—family member of Lynn H.; some health issues
Faith—David C.’s cousin; facing health challenges due to a chronic illness
Bob B.—friend of Melanie O.; battling cancer
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
Michael N.—facing health challenges; our devoted and beloved Choir Director
John—Cynthia B.’s uncle—unwell and in need of prayers
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.—recently unwell; our fellow parishioner
Fernando—Matthew A.’s grandfather; declining health
Audrey—A.J.’s mother; unwell and in need of prayers
child Matthias—an infant who has now endured two open heart surgeries
child Noelle—Bob M.’s granddaughter; recently unwell with some chronic issues
child Nicholas—at request of Dennis K.; suffering with illness
child Rafael—child born at 26 weeks of gestation; at request of friends of Hopkos
Christine—at request of Elaine H.; blindness cause by aneurysms
Jill—friend of Elaine H.; recovering from surgery
Timothy—relative of Joan M.; surgery
Nancy B.—our fellow parishioner; recovery from yet another surgery
Mary V.—acquaintance of Lucy C. and Peter H.; suffering in illness
Barbara—Cynthia B.’s cousin; mourning loss of stepson
Andrea—friend of Helena G.; mourning loss of her daughter
Joanne—acquaintance of Helena G.; mourning passing of her husband
Mark—an acquaintance of the Orelups; critically ill
Ramon—parishioner Lewis H.’s grandfather; seriously ill
Lewis—parishioner Lewis H.’s father; unwell, but improving

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

Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges and now widowed
Claudia B.—Macrina H.’s mother
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, now living in residential care

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Emilia and the child to be born of her
Bianca and the child to be born of her—family member of Lynn H.’s
Katherine and the child to be born of her—relative of Fr. John and family
Jenna and child to be born of her—friend of Lucy C.
Meredith and the child to be born of her—relative of Fr. John and family
Christy and the child to be born of her—Fr. Moses Locke’s wife

Wedding Anniversaries

None this week

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

John (Jack) K.—away in Florida

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman (“medic”)
Ian—Fr. David and Melanie’s son-in-law; U.S. Army reservist called up for training
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps pilot
Zachary W.—Fr. Zachary W.’s son; U.S. Air Force pilot
John S.—Fr. John’s nephew; a U.S. Navy ROTC midshipman

Birthdays

child Jon Theologos H. 4/5



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!

Pussy Willows: Pussy Willows may now be in the proper stage of development to be cut and prepared for Palm Sunday. If you have any pussy willows that you wish to cut and then donate to the Church, please see Fr. John.

Pertaining to Pascha

Paschal Appeals: Please give generously to our Parish's General Paschal Appeal and to the Easter (Paschal) Flower Offering. We always have lovely flowers in the Church for Pascha and our contributions help cover the cost of these beautiful additions to our Paschal worship. Your support of these two appeals is deeply appreciated.

Blessing of Paschal Baskets: The Blessing of Paschal Baskets will take place at the conclusion of the Paschal Midnight Services in the Church Basement Social Hall, after which time the Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal will take place in the same location.

Paschal Agape Meal: The Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal, which will happen after the Paschal Midnight Divine Liturgy, will take place in the Church Basement Social Hall, immediately following the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets. We will not have a general food table, but will be eating from and sharing the contents of our family Paschal Baskets, while enjoying each other's company. If you are planning to stay for this meal, please bring everything you need with you—your own plates, cups, and cutlery, your own beverages and condiments, etc. (P.S. The word "agape," pronounced "ah-GAH-pay," means "love" in the Greek language and is the traditional word used to describe this Paschal meal.)

Saint Mary of Egypt

Our venerable mother Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of prostitution. She lived during the sixth century and reposed in a remarkable manner in 522 AD. The Church celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1. Also, she is commemorated on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, the fifth Sunday in Great Lent. Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve to the city of Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, though she often refused money from the men she had relations with, instead living by begging and spinning flax. One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled, for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church's portico, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her. After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, Mary fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she

overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things. Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan. Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery, and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When, a year later, Zosima returned, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery. +

Scripture Readings, etc.

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>

The End! Glory be to God!

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