

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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Schedule of Services

- 4/7 Sunday**
Fourth Sunday in Great Lent
Commemoration of
Saint John of the Ladder
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM – Mission Vespers
for the Fourth Sunday in Great Lent
Saints Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT
- 4/10 Wednesday**
6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified
Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share”
Supper
- 4/11 Thursday**
9:00 AM – Lenten Morning Prayers with the
Chanting of the entire Great Canon of Saint
Andrew of Crete
- 4/12 Friday**
7:00 PM – Chanting of the Akathist Hymn in
honor of the Mother of God
- 4/13 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 4/14 Sunday**
Fifth Sunday in Great Lent
Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM – Service of Holy Unction
Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT
- 4/17 Wednesday**
6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified
Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share”
Supper
- 4/19 Friday**
Eve of Lazarus Saturday
NO SERVICE IN OUR PARISH
Youth Gathering at All Saints Orthodox Church,
Hartford, CT, that evening, with Vespers
beginning at 6:30 PM (in Hartford!)
- 4/20 Saturday**
Lazarus Saturday
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil of Palm Sunday,
with blessing of Palm Branches

Sunday, April 7, 2019

4th Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 4

The Fourth Sunday in Great Lent: Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder

On April 7, annually, we commemorate,
among others, Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow,
Enlightener of North America

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN

Great Lent: Only Two Weeks Left!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Christ is in our midst!

There are only two weeks left in Great Lent. Perhaps, during the past four weeks we have made great and sincere efforts to keep the Fast, to repent of our sins, and to amend our way of life to bring it into greater obedience to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Or, perhaps, we have sadly neglected Great Lent, and have not made any serious effort to make an earnest and dynamic journey through the Lenten season.

Whatever our circumstances, let us make a forceful commitment at this time to live out the last two weeks of this holy season with a proper effort to keep the fast, and to make the most of the opportunity that is Great Lent.

Let’s focus on the most important things—things of eternal value. Let’s look at our lives carefully and see what’s there that needs to be set aside, as we travel these last few weeks to the celebration of Holy Pascha. And, let’s give greater and more sincere attention to the pillars of Christian life—prayer, love and charitable concern for others (especially the needy), and disciplined living that includes fasting.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

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

Newly Departed

Matushka Julia Petranin—wife of Fr. Jozef Petranin d. 3/17/19
Samya Rose Stumo—Ethiopian air disaster victim d. 3/10/19

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Michael Toropilo 4/7/1944
Alexander Grezuk 4/8/1952
Steven Wazoroko 4/8/1958
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
Nicholas Shafstruck 4/13/1957
Metro Kowalesky 4/13/1964

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—recent health issues
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in serious 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 friend 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 Szepele—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner
Yelena Massicotte—facing some health challenges at this time
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage; progressing in rehabilitation
Sheila—friend of Donna Osuch; facing serious health challenges

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—just out of the hospital after recent health troubles
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

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

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

Jack Kriniske—returning from Florida this coming week
Peter Hopko

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

NONE THIS WEEK!

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (literally, John "of the Ladder")

Commemorated on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

St. John of the Ladder (c. 579-649 AD) was the abbot of the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mt. Sinai in the southern Sinai Peninsula. During his lifetime he wrote a famous "handbook" for monastics (that is, monks and nuns) entitled "The Ladder of Divine Ascent," (which is why he is called "of the Ladder.")

In that book St. John compares the spiritual life of a person to the process of climbing a ladder, step by step. Indeed, in St. John's book the thirty chapters—each of which refer to another step in the process of a person's growth and development as a Christian—are called "steps." The first three deal with learning how not to be attached to the passing material things of this world. The next four steps deal with developing certain fundamental virtues. Steps 8 through 23 deal with overcoming the so-called "passions." Passion is a word that in St. John's vocabulary (and the Church's vocabulary, too) indicates certain sins to which we are passionately attached or in which we passionately engage to the detriment of our development as Christians. Steps 24, 25, and 26 deal with the development of the "higher virtues" and the final four steps deal with the attainment of union with God through stillness, prayer, dispassion and love.

While this book, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent," is written primarily for monks and nuns, for fourteen centuries people "in the world" (that's St. John's phrase for people living outside of the monastic life—all of us in our parish!) have been reading St. John's book with profit. Indeed, people still read it today.

As far as we know, only in Step 1 of "The Ladder" does St. John directly engage in advising those living "in the world." This is what he says:

"Do whatever good you may. Speak evil of no one. Rob no one. Tell no lie. Despise no one and carry no hate. Do not separate yourself from the church assemblies. [In St. John's vocabulary "church assemblies" means the weekly, Sunday morning celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, the Holy Eucharist.] Show compassion to the needy. Do not be a cause of scandal to anyone. Stay away from the bed of another, and be satisfied with what your own spouses can provide you. If you do all this, you will not be far from the kingdom of heaven."

NEWS AND NOTES

Lenten Confessions – We are two-thirds of the way through 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.” If you have not already done so, please contact Fr. John now to make your Confession appointment. 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 during the Lenten season.

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.

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

- 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.

Thank you! Thanks are extended to all those who participated in the Parish Spring Cleaning on Saturday morning, April 6. Much good and necessary work was accomplished.

Youth Retreat for Youth AND their Parents – Friday, April 19: On Friday evening, April 19, All Saints Church, Hartford, CT, is sponsoring another in the continuing series of “Rally-after-Rally” Youth events that we have been having here in Connecticut. The event will be a retreat for youth AND their parents, led by Fr. Sergius Halvorsen. Fr. Sergius will be focusing on the Book of Jonah. The event will begin at 6:30 PM, with the celebration of Vespers (for the Eve of Lazarus Saturday) and continue through to 9:30 PM. A light Lenten dinner will be provided after Vespers. If you are planning to attend this event, please, let Fr. John know. Thank you!

Pertaining to Pascha

- **Volunteers Required:** We need a volunteer (or volunteers) to come to the Church early in Holy Week (Monday or Tuesday) to iron all the black and white covers for use in the Church later in the week for Holy Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Holy 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.)
- **Thomas Sunday Blessing of Graves:** On Sunday, May 5, weather and ground conditions permitting, we will celebrate the Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday. As is the parish’s custom for Thomas Sunday, we will bless the graves in the parish cemetery that day beginning at 12:15 PM.

Readings from Holy Scripture

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."

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Holy Week Services in our Parish

April 22 Great and Holy Monday	April 23 Great and Holy Tuesday	April 24 Great and Holy Wednesday	April 25 Great and Holy Thursday	April 26 Great and Holy Friday	April 27 Great and Holy Saturday	April 28 Holy Pascha, The Feast of Feasts
			<i>10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Commemoration of the Last Supper</i>	<i>3:00 PM Vespers with Rite of Entombment</i>	<i>10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy</i>	<i>12:00 Noon The Vespers of Pascha</i>
<i>7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins</i>	<i>7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins of Holy Thursday</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins with 12 Gospels</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins with Procession</i>	<i>11:30 PM Nocturns followed by the Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha</i>	