

# 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 14, 2019

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 5

*The Fifth Sunday in Great Lent:*

*Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt*

On April 14, annually, we commemorate, among others, Saint Martin the Confessor

### **Schedule of Services**

- 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
- 4/21 Sunday**  
***Palm Sunday***  
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy  
 4:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins to Begin the Great and Holy Week of Our Lord’s Passion  
 All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT
- 4/22 Great and Holy Monday**  
 7:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins
- 4/23 Great and Holy Tuesday**  
 7:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins
- 4/24 Great and Holy Wednesday**  
 7:00 PM – Matins of Holy Thursday, commemoration the Last Supper
- 4/25 Great and Holy Thursday**  
 10:00 AM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy (“Vesperal Divine Liturgy”) commemorating the Last Supper  
 7:00 PM – Matins of Holy Thursday, with the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels

### NOTES FROM FR. JOHN

#### **Fight Sin, Develop Virtue, Depend on God**

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Christ is in our midst!

As we commemorate the great repentant sinner, Saint Mary of Egypt, a striking example of the power of repentance, let us commit ourselves to fight sin, develop virtue, and depend on God.

Sin is a powerful force in our life. We are born into a world that is, factually speaking, full of sin; full of sinners rebelling against God. Inevitably, we find ourselves drawn into the trap of sinning, and the condition of sinfulness. This inevitability is the content of our fallen nature. It is what is called in the Church “original sin.”

In the face of this daunting reality, what does God ask from us? He asks us two things: First, that we would hate our sins, that we would fight them with every resource at our disposal, and that we would seek, instead of sin, to develop Christian virtue, within ourselves and on behalf of others. Second, He asks us to take refuge in His saving grace, in His forgiving and redeeming love poured out upon us. This love is shown forth most perfectly in our Lord Jesus Christ’s perfect identification with us when, now fully human as well as fully divine, He gives up His life for us, willingly, on the Holy and Redeeming Cross.

A Prayer: Lord, guide us along the narrow and difficult path of repentance, from a place of sin to a place of virtue—a place of virtue made possible and achievable by Your power and Your love. Amen.

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***

Carol Johnson—our fellow parishioner	d. 4/8/2019
Betty—Fr. John Eissman's mother	d. 4/6/2019
Richard Westerberg—Fr. Michael's brother	d. 4/3/2019
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!***

Maria Sholtis	4/14/1941
Archpriest John Semanitsky	4/14/1963
Nikita Panasuk	4/14/1966
Mildred Shafstruck	4/14/1969
Jason Pikul	4/15/1947
Daniel Lyga	4/15/1972
Olga Toropilo	4/16/1927
Vasili Hmelpi	4/16/1937
Michael Nimchek	4/16/2001
Rosalia Macibora	4/17/1965
Samuel Glowa	4/17/1971
Gregory Fill	4/18/1918
Gregory Nikolaichik	4/18/1950
Andrew Fedak	4/18/1969
Harry N. Banziruk	4/19/2007
Frank Kiriluk	4/20/1990

## **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  
Darylne—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  
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall  
Nina Gorbachev—has now suffered a stroke; very unwell  
Anna Szepel—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner  
Yelena Massicotte—facing some health challenges at this time  
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage; laboring 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***

Macrina and Lucy Hopko, with David Crosby  
Kristen Austin

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

Joel Orelop—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***

Alex Wegh—George and Jennifer's son 4/18

## **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. 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.

# NEWS AND NOTES

**MEMORY ETERNAL!** Carol Johnson, our fellow parishioner, died this past Monday, April 8, 2019. Carol had been struggling with serious medical challenges for some time now. Her funeral took place on Saturday morning, April 13. Please keep Carol, and all those who mourn her loss, in your prayers. Memory Eternal!

**Lenten Confessions – One week left!** 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 have participated in the Sacrament of Confession during the Lenten season.

**CT Deanery Lenten Mission Services:** During Great Lent this year we have been having Sunday afternoon Lenten Mission services here in the Connecticut Deanery. The remainder of the schedule is:

- 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.

**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!

**May 4 – Bright Saturday Liturgy in the Waterbury Parish Chapel:** On Saturday, May 4, beginning at 9:30 AM, we will serve a Paschal Divine Liturgy in the Waterbury Parish Chapel. At the conclusion of this Liturgy, we will serve a Thanksgiving Prayer Service, including commemoration of the founders, benefactors and contributors, at the exterior front steps of the Parish Temple, which is now being prepared for dismantling.

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## 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, Holy Friday, Holy 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, we will celebrate the Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday. As is the parish’s custom for Thomas Sunday, weather and ground conditions permitting, we will bless the graves in the parish cemetery that day beginning at 12:15 PM.

# Readings from Holy Scripture

*Scripture Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, which is Sunday on which, each year, we commemorate the memory of St. Mary of Egypt*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 9:11-14)**

Brothers and Sisters: When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

## **The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark (Mk. 10:32-45)**

At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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## *Holy Week Services in our Parish*

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