

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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Schedule of Services

- 4/15 Thomas Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
12:15 PM – Annual Blessing of Graves in the Parish Cemetery
- 4/16 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 4/18 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 4/21 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 4/22 Sunday**
Holy Myrrh-bearers
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 4/25 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 4/28 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 4/29 Sunday**
The Paralytic
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/1 Tuesday**
Eve of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost
7:00 PM Vespers for the Middle of the Feast
- 5/2 Wednesday**
Feast of Mid-Pentecost
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/5 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/6 Sunday**
The Samaritan Woman
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/7 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 5/9 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/10 Thursday**
Eve of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius
6:15 PM – Vespers with Divine Liturgy
- 5/11 Friday**
The Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius
8:00 AM – Service of Prayer to our Patron Saints

Sunday, April 15, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Pascha – Thomas Sunday

Also, April 15, annually, is the date of the Commemoration of the Apostles from among the 70: Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus

Saint Thomas Sunday: Antipascha

Every day during the week of Easter, called Bright Week by the Church, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The Easter baptismal procession is repeated daily. The royal gates of the sanctuary remain open. The joy of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom of eternal life continue to abound. Then, at the end of the week, on Saturday evening, the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days” (Jn 20.26).

It is important to note that the number eight has symbolic significance in both Jewish and Christian spiritual tradition. It signifies more than completion and fullness; it signifies the Kingdom of God and the life of the world to come since seven is the number of earthly time. The sabbath, the seventh day, is the blessed day of rest in this world, the final day of the week. The “first day of the week,” the day “after Sabbath”; stressed in all of the gospels as the day of Christ’s Resurrection (Mk 16.1, Mt 28.1, Lk 24.1, Jn 20.1, 19), is therefore also “the eighth day,” the day beyond the confines of this world, the day which stands for the life of the world to come, the day of the eternal rest of the Kingdom of God (see Heb 4).

The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. It is therefore called the Antipascha, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

In the Church services the stress is on the Apostle Thomas’ vision of Christ, and the significance of the day comes to us in the words of the gospel:

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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

Archpriest John Nehrebecki	d. 4/7/18
Mary Ann Macko—Fr. John's aunt	d. 4/4/18
Melanie (Zapotocky) Loose—Fr. John's great-aunt	d. 3/22/18
Julia Speraw—parishioner in the Waterbury Parish	d. 3/7/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Gregory Kaschak	4/21/1927
Leon Gurlewski	4/21/1983
Thomas Raineault	4/21/2002
Sonia Rozyk	4/21/2007

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

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
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures

Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Archpriest Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's brother; chronic illness
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
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
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Bachloan—friend of Jeanne Moore; recent open heart surgery
Jerry Grasso—Jayne Grasso's husband; unwell and in need of prayers
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Steve Panasuk—our fellow parishioner; recently unwell

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Abigail and the twins she is carrying—M. and K. Orelup's daughter and grandchildren

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Birthdays

Alex Wegh 4/18/91

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Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20.27–29).

We have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched His risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life (1 Jn 1.1–4), and so we believe.

At each of the daily services until Ascension Day we sing the Easter Troparion. At each of the Sunday services beginning with Antipascha, we sing the Easter canon and hymns, and repeat the celebration of the "first day of the week" on which Christ rose from the dead. At all of the liturgies the epistle readings are taken from the Book of Acts telling us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. All of the gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Saint John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for those who are newly-baptized into the new life of the Kingdom of God through death and new birth in Christ, in the name of the Holy Trinity. The reason for this opinion is that all of the "signs"—as the miracles in Saint John's Gospel are called—deal with sacramental themes involving water: wine and bread. Thus, each of the Sundays after Thomas Sunday with the exception of the third, is dedicated to the memory of one of these "signs."

[This article is taken from the "Orthodox Faith" series written by Father Thomas Hopko and available on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America at <https://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/>]

News and Notes

April Meeting of the Parish Council: The April Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, April 16, beginning at 7:00 PM.

No water on tap in the Parish Cemetery: Presently we do not have water on tap in the Parish Cemetery. That service should be restored sometime this coming week. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Fr. John to depart right after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 22, and on Sunday, April 29: Both on Sunday, April 22, and on Sunday, April 29, Fr. John will be departing Terryville right after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in order to attend events in the Waterbury Parish. On Sunday, April 22, Fr. John is chairing a special meeting in the Waterbury Parish, and, on Sunday, April 29, he will be blessing the Waterbury Parish Cemetery.

Graduates: If you or a member of your family is graduating this spring, please let us know, so that we might share the news with our Parish Family, and offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius: We will mark the Feast of our heavenly patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius, with the celebration of Vespers with the Divine Liturgy beginning at 6:15 PM on Thursday evening, May 10, the Eve of the Feast.

LOOKING AHEAD: Youth Rally, August 13-18, 2018: The Year 2018 Annual Diocesan Youth Rally will take place August 13-18, 2018. Youth Rally is open to all Diocesan Youth who have finished 5th grade and who have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday. Volunteer Adult Staff Members are required to make this event possible. Staff Members will arrive a day early, on Sunday evening, August 12, and stay the entire week. For further information, please contact Fr. John, who will once again this summer serve as Youth Rally Director and Rector.

Needs of the Food Pantry: On an almost constant basis, for the purpose of distribution to its clients, the Plymouth Community Food Pantry needs personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, hair brushes, etc. Also, the Food Pantry just about always requires donations of condiments and spices, such as ketchup, mustard, vinegar, cooking oil, BBQ sauce, pickle relish, table salt, black pepper, onion and garlic powder, dried herbs, etc. You can drop off your donations in the basket in the Narthex of our Church, or in the big green bin located by the exit staircase in the Church Basement Social Hall. Every time any of us goes grocery shopping, it would be appropriate and worthy of a blessing for us to purchase some items for donation to the Food Pantry.



Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday of Pascha, called St. Thomas Sunday

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 5:12-20)

At that time, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn. 20:19-31)

At that time, on the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday of Pascha, called the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

At that time, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mk. 15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back--it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.