

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

860.582.3631 • email: terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org • www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch



Sunday, April 26, 2020

"Thomas Sunday" – the First Sunday after Pascha

Also, April 26, annually, is the date of the Commemoration of, among others, the Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea (4th c.); Saint Stephen, Bishop of Perm (14th c.); and others, as well

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/04/26>

Notes from Fr. John: From Pascha to Pentecost (and beyond)

Brothers and Sisters: Christ is risen!

Most of us are familiar with the rhythm of liturgical life that leads us from the Pre-Lenten Sundays, through Great Lent and Holy Week, to Holy Pascha. Perhaps, however, we are less familiar with the equally rich period of sacred time that leads from the celebration of Holy Pascha on through to Pentecost and beyond.

Each of the eight Sundays following the Great and Holy Sunday of Pascha has its own special commemoration.

The First Sunday after Pascha is called Saint Thomas Sunday. Each year on that Sunday we remember Saint Thomas the Apostle, who first doubted the resurrection of Jesus and then, having personally witnessed a post-resurrection appearance of Christ, declared the resurrected Lord to be, "My Lord and my God." Through Thomas' doubt and Our Lord's gentle and loving response to that doubt, we are all given the gift of faith.

On the Second Sunday after Pascha, we remember the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women. These faithful women, despite their deep disappointment and grief at the death of Jesus, came in order to render honor to his corpse. Thus they discovered the empty tomb and, rewarded for their humility and love, are the first to receive the good news of the Resurrection.

On the Third Sunday after Pascha we hear the Gospel story of the Paralytic healed by Jesus after being ill for thirty-eight years (John 5:1-15). Jesus asks him that famous question, also addressed to each and every one of us, "Do you want to be healed?" Thus we are reminded that, in the end, the only source of true healing is our Lord Jesus Christ, who not only can heal us physically, but, far, far more importantly, can heal our souls and so make us worthy of salvation.

On the Fourth Sunday after Pascha we hear the Gospel story of the Samaritan Woman, the Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42). Jesus

tell her that “whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst,” reminding us all that our spiritual thirst, the deepest and most profound thirst that we have, is only quenched by spiritual union with God the Father, through God the Son, in God the Spirit.

On the Fifth Sunday after Pascha we hear the gospel story of the Blind Man (John 9:1-36), where Christ heals the man blind from birth. Jesus makes clay from his own spittle and from the dirt of the ground, and seemingly creates new eyes for the blind man. We are reminded that Christ is the Creator of All, the One through Whom and in Whom all is made. As we pray in the Nicene Creed, Jesus is the One “by [or through] Whom all things are made.” We pray on this Sunday that we will not be spiritually blind, but that we will see in Jesus of Nazareth the one who is the unique Savior of the world.

On the Sixth Sunday after Pascha, we remember the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. These holy men met in the year 325 AD at Nicea in the Byzantine Empire at the bidding of Saint Constantine the Emperor in order to address certain theological controversies concerning the person of Jesus Christ. The result of their work (and the subsequent Ecumenical Council, the Second, held in 381 AD at Constantinople) was the promulgation of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed that we Orthodox use liturgically to this day. This Creed, this Confession of Faith, this affirmation of what we believe, is absolutely central to the keeping and living of the Orthodox Christian Faith to this present day.

On the Seventh Sunday after Holy Pascha, fifty days after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Pentecost. On this day we commemorate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and,

in and through them, to the Church. On this day we especially remember the beginnings of Church life. Also, on this day we return to kneeling humbly and penitentially in prayer after having spent the whole Paschal season joyfully standing on our feet in prayer.

The two Sundays immediately following Pentecost are devoted to the commemoration of the saints. The first Sunday after Pentecost is All Saints Day, and the second Sunday after Pentecost is All Saints of North America Day. We return to normal time, outside of Paschal time, by remembering the holy and pious saints who sanctified time through their commitment to Christ and His Church. The model and classic saint is the martyr, the “witness,” who bears faithful and ideal witness to God through his or her ultimate sacrifice on this earth.

There are also several other commemorations during this holy season following Pascha, which occur on weekdays. Twenty-five days after Pascha, halfway to Pentecost, we celebrate Mid-Feast, which is a commemoration of God’s Wisdom. Forty days after Pascha, on Ascension Thursday, we commemorate the departure of the resurrected Christ from this earth to heaven. He leaves promising his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is given ten days later on Holy Pentecost. Also, it happens in our parish that our patronal feast day usually occurs in this festive period of post-Pascha, for every year on May 11 we commemorate Saints Cyril and Methodius.

May God grant us to keep this holy post-Paschal season of the year with attention at least equal to, if not surpassing, the attention that we gave to the time leading up to Pascha. Our tradition is rich and edifying, we should know it and uphold it.

With love in the risen Lord, *Fr. John*

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence!

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

First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

Anastasia "Nell" Briguglio—member of the Waterbury Parish d. 4/14/2020
Judy—Waterbury parishioner Forrest Hanson's cousin d. 4/13/2020
Beverly Kuzmich—member of the Terryville Parish d. 3/27/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Joseph Naymchik 4/22/1929
Helen Kowaleski 4/22/1979
Richard Kowaleski 4/22/2000
John Bayda 4/23/1954
Anthony Tkach 4/23/1961
Diane Wrettick 4/23/1979
Nadejda Loshoski 4/24/1966
Joanna Pawelchak 4/24/1979
Aftan Pastyrnak 4/25/1978
John Maichack 4/26/1997
Louis "Lou" Kopcha 4/26/2013
Maria Komansky 4/27/1925
Theodore Hrabsky 4/27/1939
Konstantine Yatsenick 4/27/1961
Eva Yacknick 4/30/1960
Protodeacon Simeon "Sam" Kopcha 4/30/2010
Wassa Sobestanovich 5/1/1989
Mitred Archpriest Andrew Kuharsky 5/1/1972
Mitred Archpriest Konstantine Kaminsky 5/1/1984
Jacob Kyriluk 5/2/1939
Olga Klachany 5/2/2014

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is COVID-19, and those working to alleviate their suffering.

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Archpriest Paul L.—broken hip, suffered in fall
Archpriest John B.—recovering from severely broken ankle
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
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; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya Beach—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Mark—a profound diabetic for whom we have been asked to pray
Heather—an acquaintance of C. Palleria; battling significant health challenges
Crystal—Heather's twin sister; also battling significant health challenges
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer
Anna—friend of Patty Nimchek; has requested our prayers
Mary—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Simone—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Anna Szepel—recently increasingly unwell; please keep Anna in your prayers
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; very unwell at this time
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
Vincent—relapse of cancer; relative through marriage of P. Oraschewsky

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother, who is not feeling well, of late
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Expectant Mothers

Amanda and the child to be born of her—Amanda is an acquaintance of C. Palleria
Marina and the child to be born of her—Marina is one of Fr. John's many nieces
Maryna and the child to be born of her—Maryna & Amar are expecting a child in May
Diana and the child to be born of her—Joel and Julie Kowaleski's daughter-in-law

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

John "Jack" Kriniske
Mark and Elias Orelup—who have traveled to take care of elderly relatives

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
Alexander—relative of C. Palleria's; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE AT THIS TIME

Birthdays

Gregory Wegh 4/25
Frank "Fyodor" Guba 4/25
Laura Koski 4/26
Julie Kowaleski 4/26
Natalie Wingate 4/27
Sarah (Senetcen) Gaulin 4/27
Christopher Osuch 4/27

News and Notes

Parish Physically Closed due to COVID-19: In view of the present concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, our parish remains physically closed. However, we are spiritually alive, well, and active! *As we stay apart physically, we must grow together spiritually.* Please visit our parish website (www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org) and the website of the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org) to find a myriad of resources for study, prayer, and praise in these challenging times. If you would like, Fr. John would be glad to speak with you by telephone at 860-582-3631. This too shall pass. Christ is victorious!

Cemetery Blessings: It is usual and customary for Orthodox Christians to bless the graves of our departed loved ones during the period of time following Holy Pascha. In many parishes those blessings are accomplished on Thomas Sunday. This year, however, due to the restrictions placed upon us by our ecclesiastical and civil authorities during this COVID-19 crisis, we are not able to gather in large groups at this time. Therefore, we are postponing the annual

blessings of the graves, until such time as we are permitted to gather and accomplish such blessings safely and in obedience to those who are leading us at this time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sacramental Confession: Each and every Christian should participate regularly in the saving Sacrament of Holy Confession. However, in view of the present concerns about the transmission of the coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, we are placing a “pause for now” on the routine hearing of confessions. *However, if in the meantime, you have a need to discuss any pastoral matter, or a strong desire to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Confession, please contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience, and proper and appropriate arrangements will be made.* (NOTE: This “pause for now” is not a “dispensation.” If we are in a condition of serious or rebellious sin, we must participate in the Sacrament of Confession, with no delay, and we must contact Fr. John to make an appointment for that Sacrament to take place.)

Donations to the Parish OR Support from the Parish: Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. (Or, if you require financial support, because you are in crisis, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance you require!) Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation “button” is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

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.