

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, May 3, 2020

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers – the Second Sunday after Pascha

Also, May 3, annually, is the date of the Commemoration of, among others, the Holy Myrrhbearing Women and the Noble Joseph; the Martyrs Timothy and Maura; the Venerable Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Far Caves Monastery, and Founder of Coenobitic Monasticism in Russia; and Saint Peter the Wonderworker, Bishop of Argos

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/05/03>

A Brief Account of the Life of Saint Theodosius of the Caves, Father of Monasticism in Russia (d. 1074)

Saint Theodosius of the Caves, was the Father of monasticism in Russia. He was born at Vasilevo, not far from Kiev. From his youth he felt an irresistible attraction for the ascetic life, and led an ascetic lifestyle while still in his parental home. He disdained childish games and attractions, and constantly went to church. He asked his parents to let him study the holy books, and through his ability and rare zeal, he quickly learned to read the books, so that everyone was amazed at his intellect.

When he was fourteen, he lost his father and remained under the supervision of his mother, a strict and domineering woman who loved her son very much. Many times she chastised her son for his yearning for asceticism, but he remained firmly committed to his path.

At the age of twenty-four, he secretly left his parents' home and Saint Anthony at the Kiev Caves Monastery blessed him to receive monastic tonsure with the name Theodosius. After four years his mother found him and with tearfully begged him to return home, but the saint persuaded her to remain in Kiev and to become a nun in the monastery of Saint Nicholas at the Askold cemetery.

Saint Theodosius toiled at the monastery more than others, and he often took upon himself some of the work of the other brethren. He carried water, chopped wood, ground up the grain, and carried the flour to each monk. On cold nights he uncovered his body and let it serve as

food for gnats and mosquitoes. His blood flowed, but the saint occupied himself with handicrafts, and sang Psalms. He came to church before anyone else and, standing in one place, he did not leave it until the end of services. He also listened to the readings with particular attention.

In 1054 Saint Theodosius was ordained a hieromonk, and in 1057 he was chosen igumen (abbot). The fame of his deeds attracted a number of monks to the monastery, at which he built a new church and cells, and he introduced cenobitic rule of the Studion monastery, a copy of which he commissioned at Constantinople.

As igumen, Saint Theodosius continued his arduous duties at the monastery. He usually ate only dry bread and cooked greens without oil, and spent his nights in prayer without sleep. The brethren often noticed this, although the saint tried to conceal his efforts from others.

No one saw when Saint Theodosius dozed lightly, and usually he rested while sitting. During Great Lent the saint withdrew into a cave near the monastery, where he struggled unseen by anyone. His attire was a coarse hairshirt worn next to his body. He looked so much like a beggar that it was impossible to recognize in this old man the renowned igumen, deeply respected by all who knew him.

Once, Saint Theodosius was returning from visiting the Great Prince Izyaslav. The coachman, not recognizing him, said gruffly, “You, monk, are always on holiday, but I am constantly at work. Take my place, and let me ride in the carriage.” The holy elder meekly complied and drove the servant. Seeing how nobles along the way bowed to the monk driving the horses, the servant took fright, but the holy ascetic calmed him, and gave him a meal at the monastery. Trusting in God’s help, the saint did not keep a large supply of food at the monastery, and therefore the brethren were in want of their daily bread. Through his prayers, however, unknown benefactors appeared at the monastery and furnished the necessities for the brethren.

The Great Princes, especially Izyaslav, loved to listen to the spiritual discourses of Saint Theodosius. The saint was not afraid to denounce the mighty of this world. Those unjustly condemned always found a defender in him, and judges would review matters at the request of

the igumen. He was particularly concerned for the destitute. He built a special courtyard for them at the monastery where anyone in need could receive food and drink. Sensing the approach of death, Saint Theodosius peacefully fell asleep in the Lord in the year 1074. He was buried in a cave which he dug, where he secluded himself during fasting periods.

The relics of the ascetic were found incorrupt, and he was glorified as a saint in 1108. Of the written works of Saint Theodosius six discourses, two letters to Great Prince Izyaslav, and a prayer for all Christians have survived to our time.

The full Life of Saint Theodosius was written by Saint Nestor the Chronicler (October 27), a disciple of the great Abba, only thirty years after his repose, and it was always one of the favorite readings of the Russian nation. Saint Theodosius is also commemorated on September 2 and 28.

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

Deborah—aunt of Erin K., the Food Pantry, Executive Director	d. 4/30/2020
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!

Maria Shular	5/3/1920
John Ribak	5/4/1947
James Dougay	5/4/1942
Maria Salenko	5/4/1950
Julia White	5/5/1945
Vasili Bochno	5/5/1932
Afton Muchka	5/6/1963
Theodore Duke	5/8/1948
Eva Leba	5/8/1966
Anna Senetcen	5/8/2005
Sophroni Bayd	5/9/1933
Metro Bilycia	5/9/1954
Mary Shotack	5/9/1980

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.—recently very unwell, and hospitalized
 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
 Daryne—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

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 Szepeł—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

Michael—C. Palleria’s cousin; suffering with cancer

Rosie Dubnansky—recent health issues

John “Jack” K.—recently unwell

Mark—Mark Orelup’s father; in his mid-90s, and unwell of late

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

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

NONE AT THIS TIME

News and Notes

Terryville 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!

Please, pray especially for those of our parishioners who are living in long-term care facilities: As we now know, all too sadly, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has had devastating effects when it has infected residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes and assisted-living facilities. (In general, coronavirus infection is most dangerous to the elderly. At the time of this writing, 2339 persons had died due to COVID-19 in Connecticut, and, of those, 1357 were persons over the age of 80.) Some of our Terryville and Waterbury parishioners are resident in such facilities, and we ask that everyone, please, keep these members of our parishes in your most fervent prayers. May Our Merciful God send sheltering angels to keep them safe! Lord, have mercy!

The Diocese of New England has begun preliminary discussions about steps to be taken to re-open our parishes: The Diocese of New England, responding to the recent Pastoral Letter from the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, has begun preliminary discussions about steps to be taken towards the reopening of our parishes here in Connecticut and elsewhere in New England. Fr. John will soon be sharing information about this matter with the members and friends of our parish. For some current and pertinent information, please see the article at this link on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America: <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-issues-pastoral-letter-and-directives>.

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. 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 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 Jesus 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 Joses 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.