

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

5/20 Sunday
The Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

5/23 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

Note: *The funeral of Steven Panasuk will take place on Friday evening and Saturday morning, May 25 and 26, exact scheduling to be announced. Memory Eternal!*

5/26 Saturday
Eve of Holy Pentecost
Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service
Commemorating All Departed Faithful
6:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya

5/27 Sunday
Feast of Holy Pentecost
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy, followed immediately by the Service with the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers

5/30 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

6/2 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil

6/3 Sunday
Feast of All Saints
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

6/4 Monday
First Day of the Apostles' Fast
7:00 PM – Monthly Parish Council Meeting

6/6 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

6/9 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil

6/10 Sunday
Feast of All Saints of America
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

6/13 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

6/14 Thursday
7:00 PM – Daily Vespers

Sunday, May 20, 2018

***The Sunday between
the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost***

Post-Feast of the Feast of Ascension

**Commemoration of the Fathers of
the First Ecumenical Council**

Also, May 20, annually, is the date of the commemoration of the Martyr Thalelaeus, a young man studying to be a doctor, who suffered for Christ in the 3rd century AD

The First Ecumenical Council – 325 AD

The First Ecumenical Council was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the year 325 AD. (We remember this Emperor today as Saint Constantine the Great.) This Council was the first effort to gather together as many Christian bishops as possible, from all of Christendom, to address certain issues facing the Christian Church. It was made possible by the fact that the Emperor himself had accepted the Christian Faith as his own, and so, at least for a time, the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire had ceased. Many of the participants in the First Ecumenical Council were Christian persons who had previously suffered greatly for Christ, during persecutions that were enforced by some of the Emperor Constantine's predecessors.

The most famous of the Council's accomplishments was the promulgation of the first half of what we today refer to as "The Creed." We recite the Creed at every Divine Liturgy that we celebrate in the Church, recalling and retelling the central tenets of our Orthodox Christian Faith. The second half of the Creed was composed and promulgated at the Second Ecumenical Council in 381 AD.

Another of the First Council's accomplishments was to establish a common date on which all Christians would celebrate Holy Pascha. Sadly, since that time, due to splits in the Church, Christians no longer all keep Pascha on the same day each year. Nevertheless, through the witness of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, we see that such a common celebration is the desire of the Church.

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

Steven Panasuk—our fellow parishioner d. 5/18/18
Calvin—an acquaintance of Ann Sovyrda d. 5/10/18
John Olear—member of the Waterbury Parish d. 5/6/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Olga Gabor 5/20/1939
Archpriest John Markovich 5/24/1989
Irina Cherkasevich 5/24/1992
Olga Sobestanovich 5/26/1931

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
Carol Johnson—unwell this past week and need of prayers

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

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

Mothers and the Children newly born of them

Abigail and her newly born twin daughters, Ava Mary and Mia Lynn—born 4/27

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

Those traveling, soon to be traveling, and apart from us

Anniversaries of Marriage

Elena & James Watras 5/22
Salvatore & Cynthia (Belonick) Giuliano 5/23

Birthdays

Deborah Wegh 5/25

News and Notes

Steven Panasuk – Memory Eternal! Our fellow parishioner, Steven Panasuk, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 18, 2018, after a long and arduous final illness, and many health challenges in recent years. His funeral has been scheduled for Friday evening, May 26, and Saturday morning, May 27, with the details of scheduling, etc., still to be finalized. Steve's obituary will soon be posted on the website of the Scott Funeral Home of Terryville. Also, we will share those details via our Parish email mailing list as soon as they are determined. In addition, Steve's obituary will probably appear in our local area newspapers one day early next week. Memory Eternal!

Sunday, May 27, The Feast of Holy Pentecost: Please be reminded that next weekend, on Sunday, May 27, the Feast of Holy Pentecost, we will serve the Service with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost immediately following the conclusion of the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. Pentecost is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church Year, and commemorates the occasion when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Christ's Apostles fifty days after His Resurrection from the dead.

The Saints Peter and Paul (The Apostles') Fast: The Apostles' Fast takes place each year from the Monday after All Saints Day (this year, Monday, June 4) until the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29. This year, during the Apostles' Fast we will be adding some Thursday evening services to the schedule, with a view to maintaining those additions going forward, so that we will have fuller worship during the week in our Church. The regularly scheduled Wednesday morning Matins (Morning Prayer) services have become very precious to those who regularly attend them, and we are looking to expand our offering of weekday services to include services in the evenings.

More News and Notes

Thursday Evening Services: As mentioned in the previous note about the Apostles' Fast, and now emphasized here, we will be adding some Thursday night services during the Apostles' Fast. Unfortunately, Fr. John has a preexisting commitment on Thursday, June 7, so we will not have a service that evening, but we will have Daily Vespers on Thursday evenings, June 14 and 21. Also, we will celebrate Vespers with Divine Liturgy on Thursday evening, June 28, the Eve of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

Sunday, June 10 – Special Presentation during the Social Hour: During the Coffee Social Hour that follows the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 10, we will have a special presentation by Timothy Halvorsen, a young man known to us, especially, through his participation in the Diocesan Youth Rally. Tim, who is one of Father Sergius and Dina Halvorsen's children, will be going on a mission trip to Albania this coming summer, and has asked to come and speak to us about that trip. Also, we will be raising funds that day to assist Tim in meeting the costs of his journey. Tim's trip is sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). In Albania, Tim will be spending time working at the Orthodox Home of Hope Orphanage, Durres, Albania, and after that, he may also work and contribute to a church-sponsored camp for boys. The Home of Hope is an official ministry of the Orthodox Church in Albania.

Sunday, June 10 – Pilgrimage to All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, Connecticut: On Sunday, June 10, which, this year, is the Feast of All Saints of North America, we have an opportunity, once again, to make a pilgrimage to pray before and venerate the relics of nine of the saints of North America. At 4:00 PM on that Sunday afternoon, at All Saints of North America Church, 313 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, CT, the Akathist Service to the Saints of North America will be celebrated before the relics of nine of the saints of North America. At the conclusion of that service we will have the opportunity to venerate the relics of those saints and to be anointed with holy oil. The nine saints—small portions of whose relics are enshrined at All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury—are Saint Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska; Saint Innocent, Apostle to America; Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America; Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre and Minneapolis; Saint Raphael of Brooklyn; Saint Nicolai of Zicha, Saint John of San Francisco; the Holy New Martyr Saint Vasily Martysz, the Archpriest and Military Chaplain; and Saint Sebastian of Jackson. You may access and read accounts of the lives of all these saints at the Lives of Saints section of the Orthodox Church in America website: <https://oca.org/saints/lives>.

Choir Workshop, Saturday, June 16: On Saturday, June 16, in the afternoon, our Choir will be participating in a Choir Workshop to be led by Robin Freeman, Director of Music, at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. The exact schedule and agenda of this event will be shared when they are finalized.

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, September 9, 2018 – Visit of the Archbishop: On Sunday, September 9, 2018, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, will be visiting our parish. Please put this date firmly in your calendar of events, and plan to participate when our diocesan hierarch is here with us.

The Feast of Pentecost – This year, Sunday, May 27, 2018

Next weekend we will celebrate the Feast of Holy Pentecost. The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Let us all make an effort to be present, and to celebrate Holy Pentecost, praying for a renewal of the Holy Spirit's blessings upon us, the Church of Christ.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday between the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost, on which we commemorate the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 20:16-18, 28-36)

At that time, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the

disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn 17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made. "I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; for I have given them the words which

thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.