

## 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](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com)

[www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org) • [www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch)



## Sunday, June 28, 2020

### *The Third Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2*

June 28, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others: The holy and wonderworking Unmercenarys, the Martyrs Cyrus and John (d. 311 AD); the Venerable Xenophon, Abbot of Robeika, Novgorod (d. 1262 AD); the Venerable Sergius and Herman, Wonderworkers of Valaam (14th c. AD); Saint Paul, Physician of Corinth (7th c. AD); The New Martyr Deacon Basil (Sitnikov) of Dalmatov, murdered by the atheistic Bolsheviks (d. June 28, 1918); and the Holy Martyr Pappias (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD)

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/06/28>

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## Our Parish's Process of Re-opening

In view of the present concerns about the transmission of the novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, our parish is only serving limited services.

Presently, we are limited to celebrating Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, with no more than 25 persons present, all of whom have pre-registered for attendance, and who are committed to observing the required health safety protocols. **For details about these Sunday morning Divine Liturgies and the necessary pre-registration, please, see the letter printed on page 3 of this bulletin.**

Also, we are continuing to permit, by appointment, visits to the Church building (temple) by individuals or small groups who presently constitute a “social bubble.” These visits, by appointment with and hosted by our Pastor, Fr. John Hopko, are for prayer, and for the possibility of participation in the Sacrament of Confession, and (if discussed and arranged in advance) the reception of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

For further information, contact Fr. John. Fr. John may be contacted at his office landline, which is 860-582-3631, or by voice or text message at his cellphone, which is 860-944-3486. You may, also, email Fr. John at the parish email address, which is [terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com).

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

**+ 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***

Rosalind—Fr. John's daughter-in-law Alexis's grandmother	d. 6/19/2020
Gregory Sheshko—devoted layman in the Diocese of NE	d. 6/16/2020
Michael—C. Palleria's cousin; victim of cancer	d. 6/13/2020
Mark J. Orelup—our parishioner Mark Orelup's father	d. 6/10/2020
Jean M. (Farrell) (Semanoff) Drexler—widow of a Waterbury parishioner	d. 5/29/2020
Peggy Anne Perry McIntosh—friend of the Livermans	d. 5/19/2020
Natasha Frances McIntosh—Peggy Anne's daughter	d. 3/24.2020

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

Paul Andrash	6/28/1969
Peter Saugran	6/29/1961
Priscilla Krivoy	6/29/1989
Theodore Yatsenick	7/1/1946
Michael Shopay	7/1/1981
Ann Biscoe	07/01/??
Peter Sandyk	7/2/1966
Tillie O'Hazo	7/2/1991
Michael Shaltis	7/3/1931

## **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***

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  
Dartyne—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 Sz.—current health issues, ongoing  
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; unwell at this time  
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery  
Vincent—relapse of cancer; relative through marriage of P. Oraschewsky  
Rosie Dubnansky—recent health issues  
Michael "Mike" L.—recent health issues  
Doris P.—our fellow parishioner; presently unwell, struggling with health issues  
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell  
David B.—acquaintance of Fr. John's; upcoming surgery to repair broken shoulder  
Tamara and Leonid—E. Granoth's parents; presently unwell, hospitalized

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother; recently unwell, doing a little better, lately  
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother, resident in long-term eldercare

### ***Expectant Mothers***

Amanda and the child to be born of her—Amanda is an acquaintance of C. Palleria  
Diana and the child to be born of her—Joel and Julie Kowaleski's daughter-in-law  
Nadia and the child to be born of her—Nadia is Rich and Laura K.'s daughter  
Anya and the child to be born of her—Anya is one of Fr. John's many nieces

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

All those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us

### ***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; 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

### ***Anniversaries of Marriage***

NONE THIS WEEK

### ***Birthdays***

Alexandra Emilia Wingate

7/1

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## News and Notes

**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" (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) 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.)

## LETTER ABOUT SUNDAY MORNING DIVINE LITURGIES

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

- **Pre-register (25 persons, maximum attendance).**
- **Bring and wear your facemask.**
- **Maintain “social distance.”**
- **Don’t touch anyone or anything.**

Going forward through this present public health crisis, until further notice, we will be having Sunday morning Divine Liturgies here in our Terryville Parish, beginning at 9:15 AM each Sunday. **Attendance is by pre-registration ONLY. You must contact Fr. John by no later than 8:00 PM on the Friday evening previous to the Sunday in question in order to pre-register.** Attendance is limited to 25 persons: 1 Priest, 1 Cantor (instead of a Choir), 1 Reader, 2 Ushers, 20 Congregants. (At Fr. John’s discretion, we will rotate through attendees, Sunday to Sunday, if more than 25 persons wish to attend services.)

- If you choose to attend Church, you do so at your own risk.
- Do NOT come to Church if you have a credible reason to believe that you are either sick with COVID-19 or carrying the novel coronavirus.
- Facemasks are mandatory, except for the Priest, Cantor, and Reader. Bring your face mask with you to Church. (Fr. John will put on a mask to distribute Holy Communion.)
- Your temperature will be taken upon arrival at Church. Your temperature cannot be above 100.4 degrees (Fahrenheit) if you wish to attend Church.
- You will be asked to sanitize your hands. (We have hand sanitizer at Church.)
- Strict “social distancing” will be enforced. Stay at least six feet away from every other person at all times. (The only exception to this is the moment when you receive Holy Communion.)
- Do not touch anything in Church, other than the chair with which you will be provided. Venerate the icons by means of bows made from a distance.
- Holy Communion will be distributed with individual stainless steel spoons. You will not share the use of that spoon with any other person who will be present.
- We will not have candles for sale in Church. If you want to buy candles and have them lit during the service, you must contact Fr. John ahead of time to make arrangements for that to happen.
- Follow all directions that are given to you during the service. Fr. John and the two Ushers are authorized to give instructions, and to ensure compliance with the protocols that have been set in place. We are acting in obedience to our bishop and to the civil authorities.

We have now received a formal blessing from our bishop, His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON, to serve Sunday morning Divine Liturgies in our Parish as part of our “reopening” steps during this present public health crisis.

Fr. John will serve on his own, unassisted by any servers. No one else will be (or is permitted to be) in the altar area with him. He will not wear a facemask, except during the time when he is distributing Holy Communion. He will sanitize his hands periodically during the Divine Liturgy.

We will not have a Choir, as choral singing is presently discouraged. (Choral singing involves a group of people, usually standing in proximity to one another, engaged in vigorous exhalation, i.e., breathing out. Several significant cases of large-scale, mass transmission of the novel coronavirus are connected with choral singing.) Instead, we will have one Reader and one Cantor, who will handle the duties of providing the responses during Liturgy. **All others present are asked to refrain from singing.** The Reader and Cantor will stand at the front of the Church, one on one side and one on the other, well separated from each other and from all other attendees. The Reader and Cantor will not wear masks while performing their duties. So, please, stay at least 12 feet away from them, at all times.

The rest of those attending the service will spread themselves out, evenly, throughout the Church, at greater than six-foot intervals. Those who are part of a “social bubble” (family group) may stand together. Do not move around the Church. Stay in one spot, maintaining “social distance.”

Again, attendance is *by pre-registration only*: Contact Fr. John to pre-register.

If you have questions: Text or call Fr. John Hopko on his cellphone, which is 860-944-3486.

**Pre-register. Bring and wear your facemask. Maintain “social distance.” Don’t touch anything.**

In Christ,

**Fr. John H.**

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

# NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: Beginning to Read the Bible

*[This is a “reprint” of some notes that I have shared in the past. Based on some recent conversations that I have had, I think it is useful to share this once again. – Fr. JH]*

Lately, several people have asked me for advice about how to read the Bible. The Bible is a large book; in fact, it is a collection of books—the word Bible, in the original Greek, means “The Books.” In the Old Testament, by Eastern Orthodox Christian reckoning, there are generally said to be 49 books. In the New Testament, all Christians agree that there are 27 books. The actual text of Holy Scripture in the edition of the Bible presently sitting on my desk contains over 1800 pages of Biblical writing. This might seem overwhelming.

So, how should we begin? First and foremost, and constantly, we must read the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are, figuratively speaking, the peak of the mountain that is the Bible. And, they are quite short! In the same Bible referenced above, the four Gospels total just 147 pages. The Gospel of Mark, the shortest Gospel, is only 26 pages long. Our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew, encompassing Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of that book, is just over 3 pages of text. It can be read in a matter of minutes. (Fr. Steven Kostoff in a reflection on the Sermon on Mount [<https://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/the-sermon-on-the-mounts-either-or-choice>] suggests that every literate person should read the Sermon on the Mount twice a month, and seek, actively and conscientiously, to live it out in his or her day-to-day life.)

Beyond the Gospel, we should read the Psalms. The Psalms, written hundreds of years before the Nativity of our Lord, are still, thousands of years later, the “prayer book” of the Church. We use the Psalter (the Book of Psalms) extensively during our Orthodox liturgical worship. In Orthodox Christian monasteries the Psalter is read through liturgically, in its entirety, every week, and twice a week during Great Lent. If we read the Psalms and become familiar with them, we will find that every emotion, feeling, or sentiment that we need to express before the face of God is given words in the Psalms.

Once we are regularly reading the Psalms and Gospels, we will be ready to begin reading the rest of the Bible, beginning with the other 23 books of the New Testament beyond the four Gospels, and with the opening books of the Old Testament. As we read, we will grow in our capacity to engage the Bible and to be edified by it. We should always be reading the Bible not simply to grow in knowledge, but rather to grow in faith, hope, and love.

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## Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Each year, on June 29, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Peter, of course, was the leader of the Twelve Apostles, the small group of disciples that followed Our Lord Jesus Christ during His Earthly Ministry. Saint Paul was not one of “the Twelve.” Rather, he was an early and prominent persecutor of Christians, who was miraculously converted to Christ [*see the Book of Acts, Chapter 9*], and then became the greatest early preacher and teacher of the Christian Faith. His story and letters make up much of the writings featured in the New Testament. For further information about Saints Peter and Paul, “click” on this link: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/06/29>. To access a Prayer Service to Saints Peter and Paul, which can be used at home, in one’s prayer corner, “click” on this link: <https://terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/files/MolebenSaintsPeterPaulReaderVersion.pdf>.

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is June 28*

### **The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 5:1-10)**

Brothers and Sisters: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 6:22-33)**

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

## *Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 5*

### **The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 6:18-23)**

Brothers and Sisters: Having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 8:5-13)**

At that time Jesus entered Capernaum, and a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.