

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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Sunday, July 7, 2019

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2

July 7, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others, Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon, the Martyr Evangelus of Tomi (3rd c. AD), and Saint Eudokia, in monasticism Euphrosyne, Grand Duchess of Moscow (d. 1407 AD).

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: Beginning to Read the Bible

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.

Schedule of Services

- 7/7 Sunday**
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/8 Monday**
7:00 PM – Joint Meeting of the
Terryville and Waterbury Parish Councils
- 7/10 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 7/13 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 7/14 Sunday**
4th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Fathers of the First Six of the Seven Ecumenical Councils
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/17 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

NOTE: Fr. John will be away on a “mini-sabbatical” from Saturday, July 20, until Saturday morning, July 27.

- 7/20 Saturday**
Fr. John away – ***NO*** Services in our Parish
- 7/21 Sunday**
5th Sunday after Pentecost
Fr. John away – ***NO*** Services in our Parish
- 7/24 Wednesday**
Fr. John away – ***NO*** Services in our Parish
- 7/27 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 7/28 Sunday**
6th Sunday after Pentecost
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 7/31 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 8/1 Thursday**
First Day of the Annual Dormition Fast
7:00 PM – Service of Intercession
(Paraklesis/Moleben) to the Theotokos

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

child Trinity Irene—a Orthodox Christian five-year-old child d. 6/17/2019

[Trinity Irene is a little girl who was born with a serious medical condition, which on June 17 took her earthly life. Fr. John's sister Mary was her nursery school teacher. Please pray for little Trinity Irene, and all those who mourn her loss. Memory Eternal!]

Madeline—Jacob Janco's great-aunt d. 6/10/2019

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Michael Wittick	7/7/1920
Stephen Shopay	7/8/1917
Alexander Sveschuk	7/10/1928
Mary Hrabsky	7/10/1981
Theodora Andrash	7/11/1949
Peter Kowaleski	7/11/2008
Lovey (Luba) Kowaleski	7/11/2015
Michael Zolotar	7/12/1964
Pedro Kaidalow	7/12/1985
Joanna Susidko	7/13/1969

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

His Eminence Archbishop Nikon—ongoing health issues
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in serious illness
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
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin

child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
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
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Nina Gorbachev—very unwell
Mat. Cindy Voytovich—facing health challenges at this time
Barbara—friend of Jack Kriniske; hip replacement surgery followed by complications
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—facing serious health challenges at this time
Vincent—Maria Oraschewsky's brother-in-law; battling cancer
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Anna Szepele—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage; returned home recently
Vera Wegh—recently unwell
Helen—friend of Anna Marie Boruch; suffering in illness
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; increasing health challenges

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

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

Elena Watras
Peter Hopko
And all those traveling during these summer months

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelop—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, now in Afghanistan

Birthdays and Anniversaries

NONE THIS WEEK

The Venerable Saint Sisoes the Great – commemorated annually on July 6

Saint Sisoes the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, St Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, St Sisoes attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoes was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, St Sisoes remarked, "That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility." Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoes said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days."

When St Sisoes lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoes replied that he saw St Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father" St Sisoes said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent." After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. St Sisoes told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoes departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

(Read the lives of the saints at this link: <https://oca.org/saints/lives>. Each day the lives of the saints commemorated that day are detailed for us on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America.)

News and Notes

Congratulations! Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are conveyed to our archpastor, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, who on Friday, July 5, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the holy diaconate, and on Saturday, July 6, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the holy priesthood. Many years, Your Eminence!

THIS WEEK: Joint Meeting of the Terryville and Waterbury Parish Councils, July 8: On Monday evening, July 8, beginning at 7:00 PM, there will be a joint meeting of the Terryville and Waterbury Parish Councils. The meeting will take place in the Basement Social Hall in the Terryville Parish Church. The meeting will not be a formal business meeting, but, rather, will be one of those meetings we occasionally have in the Terryville Parish where we explore, in depth, a specific concern. We will not be making any formal decisions at this meeting. Rather, it will be a chance to get people together, and to begin a conversation that many of us feel strongly needs to be had. All interested members of both parishes, Waterbury and Terryville, are invited to participate in this meeting. For further information, please, see Fr. John.

LOOKING AHEAD: Fr. John to be away, July 22 to 27: From Saturday, July 20, through to his return on Saturday morning, July 27, Fr. John will be away from Terryville. He will be participating in a “mini-sabbatical” aimed at helping him renew himself and his ministry. This is not a vacation, but rather time spent away from the Parish attending and participating in a specific, guided, development program for clergy. Fr. John thanks the Parish Council for authorizing continuing education funds to help him participate in this week-long program at the Pastoral Institute in Columbus, Georgia. (The Parish is covering a little more than half of the cost of the program in which Fr. John will be participating.) This is the first time in his nineteen years as Pastor of the Parish that Fr. John is being afforded this specific sort of opportunity for reflection, renewal, and rejuvenation.

LOOKING AHEAD: Our Parish will be closed the weekend of July 20-21: In Fr. John’s absence, our Parish will be closed over the weekend of Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21. Unfortunately, there is no easily available “supply” priest to come and substitute for Fr. John that weekend. Also, after considering the matter, and receiving a blessing from His Eminence Archbishop NIKON, Fr. John and Protodeacon Paul have decided that this circumstance represents an opportunity for our Terryville and Waterbury parishioners to experience the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy in a neighboring Orthodox Christian Parish. Within a 25 mile radius of our Parish Temple (Church Building) in Terryville, there are at least a dozen (!) other Orthodox Christian Parishes. By road, from among our sister parishes in the Connecticut Deanery, the New Britain Parish to our east is only 13 miles from Terryville, the Meriden Parish is just over 19 miles to our southeast, the Southbury Parish is only 21 miles to our southwest, and the Hartford Parish is just over 21 miles to our northeast. Further afield, All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, is about 40 miles to our northwest, but relatively convenient to our parishioners who live in the Torrington area. Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Bristol is only just over 3 miles away at 31 Brightwood Road in Bristol. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Waterbury, is located about 12 miles to our south. There are many options to choose from. **So, rather than having a non-Eucharistic service led by Deacon Paul here in our Parish on Sunday, July 21, the Archbishop has blessed us to close our Parish in order to make it possible for all our parishioners to visit another Orthodox Christian Church that morning, and to participate in the Divine Liturgy in that place.**

LOOKING AHEAD: Reception into the Fullness of the Faith, July 28: On Sunday, July 28, in a solemn rite beginning at 9:00 AM, before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, and to be fulfilled by anointing with Holy Chrism and reception of Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy, Jacob Janco will be received into the fullness of the sacramental communion and fellowship of the Orthodox Church. Jacob’s sponsor will be Peter Hopko. Please keep Jacob in your prayers as he prepares for this event. Many Years!

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 6

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 14

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.