

## 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

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## Sunday, July 12, 2020

*The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4*

July 12, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others: The Martyrs Proclus and Hilary (early 2nd c. AD); The Venerable Michael of Maleinus (d. 962 AD); The Venerable Paisios of Mount Athos (d. 12 July 1994); The Holy Martyrs Theodore the Varangian and his son John of Kiev (10th c. AD).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/07/12>

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## Here at Church – Now Reopened

Here at Church, in the Terryville Parish, our Parish Church building (temple) is now reopened, after having been closed for a period of time. Recently, we had to close the Church building, in obedience to the directives of the Orthodox Church in America and the State of Connecticut, because a person was present on Sunday, June 28, who might have been ill with COVID-19.

Praise be, that person is now completely recovered from their illness, and no other member of their household is unwell. That person, upon manifesting symptoms in the early days of July, was tested for possible infection with the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). After a full week's time had passed, on Friday, July 10, the test results were released, and we were informed that the person in question tested "negative" for SARS-CoV-2 infection. We are very grateful to receive that good news. Praise be!

Given this test result, and given the fact that two full weeks have passed since the person in question was present in our Church building, with the blessing our diocesan authorities, our Parish is now reopened for Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, beginning this Sunday morning, July 12, at 9:15 a.m.

We are still restricted to 25 attendees, all present by pre-registration through direct communication with our pastor, Fr. John Hopko. We are, also, practicing social distancing (maintaining large intervals of space between people) and wearing protective face coverings while in present in Church. The Divine Liturgy is being celebrated simply, with just one Cantor and one Reader providing responses at this time.

For further information, please, contact Fr. John Hopko. 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**

Paul L.—a former student of Patty Nimchek's; ATV accident victim d. 6/30/2020  
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

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

Michael Zolotar 7/12/1964  
Pedro Kaidalow 7/12/1985  
Joanna Susidko 7/13/1969  
Tessie Panchak 7/17/1969  
Makar Krivoy 7/17/1975  
Anastasia Kovaleski 7/17/1975  
Anna Tczap 7/17/1977  
Steven Duke 7/17/1982  
Alexander Rewak 7/19/1994

## **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  
Darilyne—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, though improving lately  
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; recovering from recent surgery  
Tamara and Leonid—E. Granth's parents; doing much better now, praise be  
Paul S.—debilitating knee and back injuries; undergoing medical care  
Bill M.—recovering from a fall in which he suffered a shoulder injury

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother; recently unwell, doing 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  
Anyia and the child to be born of her—Anyia is one of Fr. John's many nieces  
Amber and the child to be born of her—a woman enduring a difficult pregnancy

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

Joseph—relative of Fr. John's; traveling abroad on essential business  
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**

Jayne & Gerard Grasso 7/17

### **Birthdays**

Anna Saltourides 7/15

**Prayer Request:** Fr. John is aware of several young couples whose marriage plans have been disrupted, postponed, or made unsure by the present public health crisis. Please, pray for Josh and Emma, and for Theresa and Colin. Theresa and Colin are scheduled to be married here in the Terryville Parish on August 16. Thank you for your prayers.

## 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.)

## Notes from Fr. John: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Saints

When we think of saints, we often think of people who lived a long time ago, in faraway places, who are much removed from us by great expanses of time and space. However, the Church continues to canonize saints, that is, to officially recognize certain people, for certain reasons, as saints of the Church, including some whom have lived quite recently.

Saints shine forth in various categories, but all the saints have this commonality: The saints are persons who in their lives, and by the manner of their deaths, give witness, in a beautiful and unmistakable way, to the Good News—the Gospel—about Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Today, July 12, when we look at the calendar of saints, we find this name and date listed: The Venerable Paisios of Mount Athos, died July 12, 1994. Here is a saint who walked the earth within the lifetime of many who are now reading these words. He only died 26 years ago, at the age of 69. If he was still with us in earthly life today, he would be 95, soon to celebrate his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Saint Paisios the New, as he is sometimes called, was a man of Greek ethnicity who was born in Turkey in July 1924. At the time of his birth, the massive exchange of populations was taking place between Turkey and Greece, whereby about 1.2 million Greek Orthodox Christian people left Turkey for Greece, and about 400,000 Muslims left Greece for Turkey. This was an enforced, compulsory removal of peoples, negotiated by the governments involved, backed by the great powers that had recently prevailed in World War One. The goal of this exchange of populations was to resolve relations between Greece and Turkey, which had been characterized by tension and conflict for centuries. This exchange of populations ended the robust presence of Christianity in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), which had been first evangelized by the Apostle Paul himself, nineteen centuries earlier, in the years immediately following the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Paisios's Orthodox Christian family was among those that moved from Turkey to Greece, where he then grew up in Epiros, a region in northwestern Greece.

In 1950, Paisios went to the monastic republic of Mount Athos, the northernmost of the three peninsulas that jut out into the Aegean Sea from the main landmass of northeastern Greece. There he was, after some years, tonsured a monk. Paisios later spent some time at Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai, before returning to the Holy Mountain (Mount Athos). Near the end of his life, Paisios was forced, by the health issues that had troubled him for three decades, to leave Mount Athos, and to live nearer to the major city of Thessalonica, at the Monastery of Saint John, in Souroti, a village just outside the city. The nuns of that Monastery had cared for Paisios in the past, during previous illnesses. There Saint Paisios entered into blessed repose on July 12, 1994, and was buried in the Monastery Cemetery.

Saint Paisios was officially recognized as a saint (canonized) in January 2015, just twenty years after his death, which is quite unusual. He was recognized for his extraordinary personal holiness, for his humility demonstrated during the years he spent as a disciple of Hieromonk Tikhon [Golenkov] (a Athonite monk from Russia who was Saint Paisios's spiritual father on Mount Athos, and a fascinating and saintly person, too), for his labors as a spiritual guide of his fellow monastics, as well as lay people who sought him out, and for his cheerful and uncomplaining endurance of profound sufferings resulting from the serious health issues that he struggled with for most of his adult life. Saint Paisios is revered, especially, among the Orthodox faithful in Greece and Russia, and, also, among many in the United States. His sayings and instructions have been collected and published by his disciples.

The life of Saint Paisios reminds us that we still live in the time of saints. Sanctity is not a quality of people in the distant past. Rather, holiness is something we are called to today, right now, in this time and place.

What are the paths to sanctity? They are the same that they have always been, and are not complicated. (Our lives are complicated to the extent that they are woven through with sin. Virtuous lives are simple and uncomplicated.) We are to keep the commandments of Our Lord to love God and to love neighbor. We are to hate, fight, confess, and repent of our sins. We are to participate in, and support the work of Christ's Holy Church. We are to pray, frequently and with attention. We are to live with discipline ("fast"). We are to be self-sacrificially charitable, even to the extent that it affects our standard of living. We are to defend the oppressed and to meet the needs of those who are impoverished and at risk. And, if called upon, we are to lay down our lives for others and for Christ.

Holy Saints of God, pray to God for us!

*For further information about the 20<sup>th</sup> century Orthodox saints, do an internet search for that phrase.*

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Readings for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 12*

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

Brothers and Sisters: My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

## *Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 19*

### **The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 12:6-14)**

Brothers and Sisters: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 9:1-8)**

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.