

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 19, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

Each year on the Sunday between July 13 and July 19, we commemorate the Holy Fathers of the First Six of the Seven Ecumenical Councils

July 19, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others: The Venerable Macrina the Younger, sister of Saint Basil the Great (d. 380 AD); the Venerable Saint Seraphim of Sarov (1754-1833 AD); Venerable Dius, Abbot of Antioch (5th c. AD); Right-believing Prince Roman of Ryazan (d. 1270 AD); Venerable Paisius of the Kiev Far Caves; Blessed Stephen, King of Serbia (d. 1427 AD); Holy Right-believing Princess Militsa of Serbia (d. 1405 AD); Saint Theodore, Bishop of Edessa in Mesopotamia (d. 848 AD).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/07/19>

A Brief Account of the Life of Saint Macrina, the Younger

Saint Macrina was the elder sister of the holy, sainted, hierarchs Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa, and was born in Cappadocia (modern-day central Turkey) at the beginning of the fourth century.

Besides Macrina, in the family there were nine other children. Saint Emilia, Macrina's mother, herself guided the upbringing and education of her daughter. She taught her reading and writing in the Scriptural books and Psalms of David, selecting examples from the sacred books that spoke of a pious and God-pleasing life. Saint Emilia taught her daughter to pray and to attend church services. Macrina was also taught the proper knowledge of domestic governance and various handicrafts. She was never left idle and did not participate in childish games or amusements.

When Macrina grew up, her parents betrothed her to a certain pious youth, but the bridegroom soon died. Many young men sought marriage with her, but Macrina refused them all, having chosen the life of a virgin, and not wanting to be unfaithful to the memory of her dead fiancé. Saint Macrina lived in the home of her parents, helping them fulfill the household tasks as an overseer together with the servants, and she helped with the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters. After the death of her father she became the chief support for the family.

When all the children grew up and left the parental home, Saint Macrina convinced her mother, Saint Emilia, to leave the world, to set their slaves free, and to settle in a women's monastery. Several of their servants followed their example. Having taken monastic vows, they lived together as one family—they prayed together, they worked together, they possessed everything in common—and in this manner of life nothing distinguished one from another.

After the death of her mother, Saint Macrina guided the sisters of the monastery. She enjoyed the deep respect of all who knew her. Strictness towards herself and temperance in everything were characteristic of the saint all her life. She slept on boards and had no possessions. Saint Macrina was granted the gift of wonderworking. There was an instance (told by the sisters of the monastery to Saint Gregory of Nyssa after the death of Saint Macrina) when she healed a girl of an eye-affliction. Through the prayers of the saint, there was no shortage of wheat at her monastery in times of famine.

Saint Macrina died in the year 380 AD, after a final prayer of thanks to the Lord for having received His blessings over all the course of her life. She was buried in the same gravesite with her parents.

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

Klaudyna—Kathy Smick's friend; victim of car accident	d. 7/15/2020
Irina—acquaintance of the Hopko family	d. 7/12/2020
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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Alexander A. Smick—Kathy Smick's father	7/17/1980
Alexander Rewak	7/19/1994
Metro Glowa	7/20/1992
Stephen Letish	7/21/1917
Eugene Kymanov	7/21/1927
Audi Khish	7/21/1934
James P. Casey	7/21/1965
Michael O'Hazo	7/21/1973
John Lyga	7/22/1960
Theodosia Stanko	7/24/1916
Paraskeva Pisaretz	7/25/1928

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
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
Walter—an elderly man injured in a fall, 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

Mothers and Newly Born Children

Amanda and the child newly born of her—Amanda is an acquaintance of C. Palleria

Expectant Mothers

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; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Elias Orelup 7/24

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.

A Remembrance: We remember in prayer especially this weekend John Kriniske's wife, Donna, who entered into blessed repose six years ago, on March 3, 2014. Yesterday, July 18, 2020, was Jack and Donna's 50th wedding anniversary.

News and Notes

Support from the Parish: If you require financial support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. The Diocese of New England has reduced by 16.7% the Fair Share contributions that it usually expects from our Parish. This reduction has been put into place with the specific intention that this money—the money that the Parish will not be sending to the Diocese, but will be retaining locally—will be used for charitable and relief purposes. Don't be shy: If you need help, contact Fr. John. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity.

Donations to the Parish: Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. 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%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

Fr. John in Waterbury this week: At the time of this writing, Fr. John is planning to spend all the working day on Monday, July 20, on Tuesday, July 21, and on Thursday, July 23, at the Parish Center in Waterbury, working on matters pertaining to that Parish, of which he is Pastoral Administrator. Fr. John can be reached on those days by cellphone at 860-944-3486 (voice or text).

The Plymouth Community Food Pantry—doing its work in the time of COVID-19: The Plymouth Community Food Pantry, which is housed in the basement portion of our Parish Community Center, has been meeting the needs of the hungry, under a special set of operating procedures, during this present public health crisis. The special operating procedures stress adherence to all civil directives and guidelines concerning how safely to operate such an entity, as we endeavor to live safely in the time of COVID-19. Fr. John is a member of the Board of Directors of the Food Pantry, representing our Parish's interests there. Our Parish is both the Food Pantry's landlord, and a significant supporter of the Pantry's mission to defeat hunger in our town. Fr. John is, also, Immediate Past President of the Food Pantry Board, having gratefully passed on the role of President earlier this year to Mr. James “Jim” Forker. Deacon Paul Nimchek is also a past member of the Food Pantry Board, and a former Treasurer of the Pantry. In May of this year, it was found necessary for Erin Kennedy, after many years of good and effective service, to resign as Food Pantry Executive Director, due to limitations on her availability imposed by the present public health crisis. Thereafter, in June, a longtime Food Pantry volunteer, Mr. Lawrence “Larry” Chiucarello, was hired as the new Executive Director. Larry is a retired schoolteacher, who lives here in Terryville. Larry has been on the job as Executive Director for some weeks now, and has made an excellent start in his new role. Our Parish is pleased to be able, for many years now, to support and participate in the good work of the Plymouth Community Food Pantry.

Further Steps Towards Reopening Our Parish: This week the Terryville Parish Council met and, among other things, authorized Fr. John Hopko, our Pastor, to approach the Diocesan authorities for a blessing to expand some activities during this present public health crisis. We have, for some weeks now, been celebrating the Sunday morning Eucharistic Divine Liturgy in our parish, with relevant health safety procedures being carefully followed (including a step taken one weekend to postpone Liturgy, when that seemed prudent). Now, however, we will be asking the Diocesan authorities here in the Diocese of New England for a blessing to expand our schedule of liturgical worship to include the possibility of scheduling some services for Wednesday mornings. This will provide an opportunity for a greater number of parishioners and friends of our Parish to participate in corporate worship in our Parish Church building (temple). As this initiative develops, we will inform you more fully about it.

VTC Bible Study: Fr. John is looking to establish an online Bible Study for the members and friends of our Parish, to be convened via VTC (video teleconference), specifically via Zoom, the VTC service many of us have become quite familiar with these days. This initiative recognizes that opportunities for fellowship, education, and learning have been limited in our Parish during the time of COVID-19, and that we ought to take advantage of the tools and technology available to us to create more such opportunities. This Bible study would use resources available at this website: <https://bibleproject.com/>. (NOTE: This website is an initiative of Christians who are not members of the Orthodox Church, but it is well-done, and, with the guidance of an Orthodox priest or catechist, can be useful for Orthodox Christians.) The first step in this initiative will be to survey our members and friends to determine if there is sufficient interest, and to work out some specific issues regarding the best times to schedule such online gatherings.

Readings from Holy Scripture

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 Saint 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.

Readings for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 26

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 15:1-7)

Brothers and Sisters: We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint. Matthew (Matt. 9:27-35)

At that time, when Jesus was passing by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity of the people.