

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 26, 2020

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

July 26, annually is the commemoration of, among others, the Hieromartyr Hermolaus of Nicomedia, and of the Repose of Saint Yakov (Jacob) Netsvetov of Alaska

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/07/26>

Saint Yakov of Alaska (1802 – 1864)

Saint Yakov (Jacob) Netsvetov of Alaska was born in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska in 1802. His father was a Russian man, his mother an Aleut woman. He was raised as an Orthodox Christian in what was then the far eastern end of the Russian Empire. Saint Yakov attended seminary in Siberia, where he married and was then ordained to the priesthood. In 1829 he returned to Alaska to serve in that missionary field. Within his first six months of pastoral labor, the young priest had baptized 16 persons, chrismated another 442, married 53 couples, and buried 8 persons. This was just the beginning of his work—during his lifetime of ministry in Alaska he would baptize thousands of people, with his missionary labors taking him all around that vast territory. Saint Yakov was, also, a valuable assistant to Saint Innocent of Alaska, especially in the work of the translation of sacred texts. Saint Yakov's ministry continued in Alaska until he died on July 26, 1864, in Sitka. Those three and a half decades were not easy—indeed, they were, at times, terribly difficult, such as when his young wife died in 1836, and other times when he himself suffered terrible illness, and finally, late in life, when he was falsely accused of misconduct. Indeed, Saint Yakov was in Sitka at the time of his death because he had been summoned to that place, then the territorial capitol, to respond to charges slanderously made against him. Saint Yakov was glorified (officially recognized) as a saint in 1994, in conjunction with the celebration of the bicentennial of Orthodox Christianity in North America. A fuller account of Saint Yakov's life can be accessed here: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2016/07/26>. (Note: Our pastor, Fr. John Hopko, was privileged to be present at the canonization rites for Saint Yakov in 1994. At that time Fr. John was serving as deacon and personal secretary to the then primate [presiding Archbishop] of the Orthodox Church in America, His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius.)

The Dormition Fast, August 1 to August 14

The fourteen days from August 1 through August 14 constitute the Dormition Fast. We keep this short, two-week-long, fast each year to prepare ourselves for the commemoration of the death of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, which we commemorate each year on August 15, on the Feast of the Dormition (the Falling Asleep) of the Most-Holy Theotokos. The Feast of Dormition marks the day that the Virgin Mary died and, also, commemorates the fact that, after her blessed repose, the Virgin Mary was received bodily into the Kingdom of Heaven by her Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. During this period of fasting, special prayers are offered to the Mother of God asking her motherly intercession before her Son, and Our God, Our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that it is often the case that the intercessions of a mother have great influence with a son, so we ask the Mother of God to intercede for us before the Lord, Jesus Christ, her Son.

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

Olga Shkymba—former member of the Waterbury Parish	d. 7/17/2020
Klaudyna—Kathy Smick's friend; victim of car accident	d. 7/15/2020
George—Jim Liverman's acquaintance	d. 7/13/2020
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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Ignati Hamesovich	7/26/1962
Michael Belik	7/27/1916
Timothy Pogischer	7/28/1935
Walter "Vladimir" Kowaleski	7/28/2000
Anna Ligota	7/30/1930
Solomon Sklarsky	7/30/1947
Libbie "Luba" Prystash	7/30/2000
Anna Pyzankevich	7/31/1913

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

Doris P.—our fellow parishioner; extremely unwell at this time
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
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
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. Granoth's parents; doing much better now, praise be
Paul S.—debilitating knee injury; surgery scheduled for late August
Bill M.—recovering from a fall in which he suffered a shoulder injury
Christopher—friend of Kathy Mihailoff; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim Liverman; struggling with cancer

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

Diana and the child Mariana newly born of her (See note on page 3.)

Expectant Mothers

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
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

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

NONE THIS WEEK

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 were scheduled to be married here in the Terryville Parish on August 16. That marriage is now scheduled to take place in the Ansonia Parish (a much larger temple, where we can more easily maintain "social distance; Fr. John is still scheduled to preside.) Thank you for your prayers.

A Remembrance: We remember in prayer especially this weekend Olga Shkymba, who grew up in the Waterbury Parish. She died on Friday, July 17, and was buried this past week in the family plot in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery. Fr. John presided at the committal. Please pray for Olga, and those who mourn her loss. Memory Eternal!

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 last week: Fr. John spent three full days at the Waterbury Parish Community Center this past week, working to bring materials and matters to a necessary level of organization there. Thanks are expressed to Bob Matzkevich, Helena Guba, Rdr. John Paul Szepel, Rdr. Joseph Boruch, and Anna Marie Boruch who all worked hard this past week in Waterbury. Thank you and God bless you.

Further Steps Towards Reopening Our Parish: On Tuesday, July 14, 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.

Congratulations and Many Years, on the occasion of the birth of a child: Earlier this week Joel and Julie Kowaleski became grandparents. Mariana Kowaleski, a girl, has been born to Joel and Julie's son, Nicholas (Nick), and his wife, Diana. Mariana was born two months early, and is quite small, being only three and a half pounds in weight, and just over sixteen inches in length. Shortly after birth, on this past Friday morning, Mariana required surgery to correct a blockage in her intestines. The surgeons that performed that surgery are confident in its results, and, as of this writing Mariana is doing well. Besides the matter requiring surgical correction, Mariana is an apparently healthy baby. Mariana's actual birth was without complications, and her mother, Diana, is healthy and doing well. Please, keep the newly born child Mariana, with her parents Nicholas and Diana, in your most fervent prayers. May God grant Mariana—and all those who love her, especially her parents, Diana and Nicholas—many, many, blessed years!

Congratulations and Many Years, on a significant anniversary: One year ago, on July 28, 2019, Jacob Janco was baptized in our parish. We congratulate Jacob on the first anniversary of this significant event. Many Years!

Twenty Years goes by quickly: Fr. John Hopko was assigned as Pastor of our Parish 20 years ago. His ministry began here on August 1, 2000.

Readings from Holy Scripture

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 St. 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.

Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is August 2

The Reading from the First Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:10-18)

Brothers and Sisters: I appeal to you, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I am

thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." Then he

ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

