

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, August 9, 2020

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. Glorification of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1970). Hieromartyr Euthymios of Rhodes (16th c.). Apostle Matthias (ca. 63). Martyr Anthony of Alexandria. Ven. Psoi of Egypt (4th c.). Martyrs Julian, Marcian, John, James, Alexius, Demetrius, Photius (Phocas), Peter, Leontius, and Mary, of Constantinople (730).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/08/09>

Beirut Explosion deeply impacts Orthodox Christians in that city

On Tuesday evening, August 4, just after 6:00 pm local time, a massive explosion occurred in the port area of Beirut, Lebanon. The explosion has been traced to 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse in the port area. The port area, along with neighboring sections of the city, has been devastated. At the time of this writing (Saturday, August 8), 158 persons have been confirmed dead, 21 persons are listed as missing, and thousands more are injured. Searches are ongoing, in the wreckage and debris, for other victims. An estimated 300,000 people have been rendered homeless.

Among the damaged buildings and institutions is Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, a non-profit teaching hospital that operates under the patronage of the Orthodox Christian bishop of Beirut, His Eminence Metropolitan Elias. (Metropolitan Elias is a graduate of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, here in the United States.) The hospital is located in the port area of Beirut, and was the hospital closest to the blast's epicenter. The main hospital building is so badly damaged that it has been completely evacuated, with all the patients being transferred to other hospitals, further away from where the explosion took place.

Also badly damaged is Saint George Orthodox Cathedral, which is located in the port area of Beirut, too. One image on the Cathedral's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeCathedralBeirut/>) shows one of the massive doors of the Cathedral blown off its hinges, and lying thirty or forty feet inside the building. The Cathedral is the oldest extant Church in Beirut, dating to the 18th century.

Fr. John and Macrina Hopko's classmate at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Fr. Philip Said, is an Orthodox priest serving in Beirut. He and his family are all safe and healthy following the explosion, but Fr. Philip reports that the situation in Beirut is dire. This tragic event comes at a time when the economy in Lebanon has been suffering terribly, and at a time when COVID-19 is a deeply serious problem in the city. Lebanon was already in a deep crisis, and now this explosion has destroyed the country's main port, where vital food and medicine imports arrive in the country.

To contribute to Beirut Relief, please, visit the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) website at <https://iocc.org/blog/iocc-issues-statement-on-the-beirut-explosions>.

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

Cynthia—Elena Watras's cousin	d. 8/4/2020
Doris Pohlod—our fellow Terryville Parishioner	d. 7/26/2020
Subdeacon Nicholas ("Chuck") Thornhill, of the Salem, MA, Parish	d. 7/26/2020
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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Natalia Venger	8/9/1941
Francis Boudreau	8/9/1985
William Hasko	8/10/1956
Pelagia Pavelchak	8/10/1979
Anna Wasyluk	8/10/2005
John Fedishin	8/11/1940
Michael Lyga	8/11/1971
Anna Jay	8/11/1983
Peter Andrash	8/11/2011
Vassily Duke	8/12/1919
Lavrenti Patick	8/12/1936
John Christophy	8/12/1964
Anastasia D'Andrea	8/12/1974
Florence Pawelchak	8/12/1987
Eva Kopcha	8/12/2019
John Grela	8/13/1965
Ignati Sarojak	8/13/1937
Anna Liga	8/14/1952
Catherine Sarojak	8/14/1982
Kondrat Kowalchuk	8/15/1955
Michael Sarachun	8/15/1962
Helen Rudnick	8/15/1999

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
Darlyne—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
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
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

Deb, Greg, and Emery Wegh
John "Jack" Kriniske

And 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

Protodeacon Paul & Patty Nimchek 8/9

Birthdays

Nadia—Rich and Laura's daughter 8/10

First Anniversary of Repose: Wednesday, August 12, is the first anniversary of repose of our Sister-in-Christ, Eva Kopcha. Eva, and her late husband, Protodeacon Simeon ("Sam"), were central members of our Terryville Parish, for decades. Memory Eternal!

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, on August 16, 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.

Ordination on August 9: On Sunday, August 9, Fr. John's nephew, John Thetford, a recent graduate of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, is being ordained to the holy diaconate at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. (John grew up in Ellwood City.) Please, keep John and his wife Katherine in your prayers.

News and Notes

UPDATE – Baby Mariana: Joel and Julie Kowaleski’s new granddaughter, Mariana, was born on July 21. A few days after birth she required surgery to correct a blockage in her intestine. Marina is now able to feed (just a very small amount) on her own, and has gained some weight. She now weighs about four pounds. She is still in the hospital, but continues to hold her own. 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!

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.

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.)

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, which is 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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is August 9

The Reading from the First Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 3:9-17)

Brothers and Sisters: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will

disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart,

it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Readings for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is August 16

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:9-16)

Brothers and Sisters: I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we

labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 17:14-23)

At that time a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus

privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.