

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

860.582.3631 • email: terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org • www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch

Sunday, August 18, 2019

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8

Afterfeast of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

On this date, August 18, we commemorate, among others, the Martyrs Florus and Laurus, the Stone Masons (2nd c. A.D.), and the Venerable John, Abbot of Rila (d. 946 A.D.)

The 144th Saying of Abba Poemen

Abba Poemen (d. 450 A.D.) was one of the “desert fathers”, the early Christian hermits and ascetics, who lived in the desert regions of Egypt beginning in the 3rd century A.D. Here is the 144th of the more than two hundred sayings attributed to Abba Poemen in the collection of sayings called *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* (The *Apophthegmata Patrum*, to use its formal Latin title). This 144th saying is important to us, because it makes reference to the Holy Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, and her sufferings at the Cross of her son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Here’s that 144th saying:

Abba Joseph related that Abba Isaac said, ‘I was sitting with Abba Poemen one day and I saw him in ecstasy and as I was on terms of great freedom of speech with him, I prostrated myself before him and begged him, saying, ‘Tell me where you were.’ He was forced to answer and he said, ‘My thought was with St Mary, the Mother of God, as she wept by the cross of the Saviour. I wish I could always weep like that.’

The Virgin Mary’s sufferings and tears at the Cross of her son, Our Lord, remind us of the close bond between them. We remember that Our Lord did His first wondrous sign at the Wedding in Cana, changing water into wine, at His Mother’s bidding. O Most Holy Theotokos, as we continue to celebrate your blessed repose (“dormition”), exercising the boldness of a mother, intercede for us, before your son, and Our God, so that we might be saved!

Schedule of Services

- 8/17 Saturday**
10:30 AM – Funeral of Eva Kopcha
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 8/18 Sunday – 9th Sunday after Pentecost**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
NOTE: *The Parish Picnic previously scheduled for this date has been postponed to a date not yet decided*
- 8/19 Monday**
7:00 PM – Rescheduled August Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council
- 8/21 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 8/24 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by General Confession
- 8/25 Sunday – 10th Sunday after Pentecost**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 8/28 Wednesday**
NO Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 8/29 Thursday – Day of Strict Fasting
Beheading of Saint John the Baptist**
8:00 AM – Service of Prayer
- 8/31 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 9/1 Sunday – Church New Year**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 9/4 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 9/7 Saturday**
Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
TENTATIVE: Vigil the Waterbury Parish Chapel (which is dedicated to this Feast) at a time to be determined. Further information will be made available closed to the date.
- 9/8 Sunday**
Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 9/11 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

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

Eva Kopcha—our fellow parishioner	d. 8/12/19
Archpriest John Matusiak—a prominent OCA priest	d. 8/15/19
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother, priest in CT	d. 8/7/19
Archimandrite Pitirim (Stenach)—priest acquaintance of Fr. John's	d. 7/10/19
Boris—father of a friend of the Hopkos	d. 7/26/19
Rupert Twombly—D. Twombly's brother & M. Petroff's cousin	d. 7/11/19

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

William Papach	8/18/1991
Alexander Desenko	8/20/1957
John Pavelchak	8/20/1987
Clement Passechnuk	8/21/1958
Cyprian Panasuk	8/22/1956
Melanie Duke	8/22/1958
Maria Savoron	8/23/1951
Philip Glowa	8/23/1956
Anna Kablesh	8/24/2001

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
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
Helen—friend of Anna Marie Boruch; suffering in illness
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; increasing health challenges
Georgiana—Anna Marie Boruch's cousin; broken ankle suffered in fall
Wayne—acquaintance of C. Palleria; suffering in illness

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

Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother
Mary Fomenko—our fellow parishioner
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

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

Marilou Petroff—traveling during the period August 7 to 21
Deborah Wegh—traveling during the period August 15-19
Lucy Hopko, David Crosby, and Peter Hopko—away at a family wedding
And all those traveling during these summer months

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, now in Afghanistan

Wedding (The groom listed below, John, is one of Fr. John H.'s nephews)

John and Katherine, being united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, August 18

Newly Ordained

Priest Michael Sochka—Ann Sovyrda's Godson, ordained priest on August 17

Anniversaries

Gregory & Deborah Wegh	8/18
------------------------	------

Birthdays

Elizabeth Massicotte—Lenna's daughter	8/23
---------------------------------------	------

News and Notes

Memory Eternal! Our fellow parishioner and sister in Christ, Eva Kopcha, widow of Protodeacon Simeon (+2010), died this past Monday morning at the age of 90, following a long period of much diminished health. Eva's funeral took place here in our parish on Saturday morning, August 17. The funeral service was concelebrated by six priests, and the Church was completely full of family, friends, and fellow parishioners. Following the funeral service, Eva was laid to rest in our parish cemetery. Memory Eternal!

THIS WEEK—Rescheduled! Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council: The Terryville Parish Council will meet on Monday, August 19, beginning at 7:00 PM. As usual, the meeting will take place in the Terryville Parish Basement Social Hall. (This is the meeting that has been rescheduled from last Monday, when, on short notice, we had to cancel and then reschedule.)

Postponed: Our Parish Picnic, originally scheduled for this Sunday, August 18, has been postponed due to Eva Kopcha's funeral. We hope it will be rescheduled for a weekend in September.

A Excerpt from the Life Story of the Venerable John, Abbot of Rila (b. 876 – d. 946 A.D.)

Saint John of Rila was a Bulgarian shepherd boy, who became a hermit, around whom disciples later gathered, so that a monastery was formed of which John became the Abbot. John of Rila was renowned for his austere and pious way of life, and did miracles even in his lifetime. He is revered today as Patron Saint of Bulgaria. The Rila Monastery still exists today, south of the capital city of Bulgaria, Sofia. What follows here is an excerpt from the life story of Saint John of Rila, detailing his encounters with the then King of Bulgaria, Peter the First. Saint John of Rila is commemorated each year on August 18. He died on August 18, 946. His relics can still be venerated today at the Rila Monastery, which he founded.

The reputation of the holy one, John of Rila, continued to spread. At that time pious King Peter held the scepter of the Bulgarian kingdom. Coming to the city of Sardica and hearing of the holy man, the king wished to see him. He dispatched nine experienced hunters and ordered them not to return until they had found John. Upon the king's order, they hastened to Rila Mountain where they searched for many days and found nothing. Although they were hungry, exhausted and perplexed, they dared not return to the king, but neither could they roam hungry around the wilderness of the mountain. As their fear was greater than their hunger, they continued to search.

Some time later they discovered the place where the holy man dwelt and finding him there, they begged for and received his blessing. He asked why they had come and they told him. With the eye of his soul, he realized that they had not eaten for the last five days, so he offered them a small loaf of bread which completely satisfied their hunger. The One Who fed the five thousand with five loaves of bread here, too, satisfied the hunger of nine men with one small loaf. And like that other time when many fragments were left, now, too, half of this loaf was left. The hunters were amazed, for in the beginning they had thought that one loaf would not suffice, yet here half a loaf remained.

At their return they reported everything to the king who became so ardent in his zeal and joy that hurrying like "a hart [deer] yearning after water brooks," [Psalm 42] he took with him his closest companions and quickly started toward the mountain. But when they came to the river Rila, they encountered a very high and inaccessible rock. Unable to pass, they turned back. They then climbed another high mountain which the inhabitants called "Knishava." From there they were shown the mountain and the rock where the venerable man lived. The king could not reach the place, for it was steep and forbidding, but he sent two of his most trusted men to implore the holy man to come so that the king might meet John personally and receive his blessing. The young men, obeying the king's command, quickly went to the saint and disclosed their master's request. He answered that he could not fulfill the king's request. "Nevertheless, my children, tell the king: Your effort and your daring are offerings to God which are accepted like the sweet fragrance of incense. But leave that place quickly for it is steep, lest you and your companions suffer. You cannot see God's humble servant at this time, but in the future, without fail, we will meet and then we shall delight in untold joy if we have brought forth 'fruits worthy of repentance.' But now pitch your tent on top of the mountain so that I can see it, and I will light a fire so that you can see the smoke; thus God has commanded: only in this way will we see each other." The holy father lit the fire

like a pillar toward the sky. King Peter saw the smoke and the holy man saw the king's tent; both glorified God and bowed one to the other.

The king went away, but was saddened, as one who had suffered a great loss. Upon his arrival at his palace, he sent John a large amount of gold and various foods befitting a monk, accompanied with the following letter: "King Peter to the honorable hermit John: I heard of the God-loving nature of your soul, of your settling in the wilderness of the mountain, of your incorporeal, angelic life, of your abandonment of the world. I wished very much to meet you personally and delight in your honeyed words. I thought that I might have benefited greatly merely to have beheld your countenance. Because of our desire for wealth, empty glory and delights, we continually drift in the sea of vain life; but I wished to lift my eyes to your sinless and unworldly life. The eyes of my soul are dimmed by earthly sorrows and rebellions. But, awakened as from a deep sleep, I had wished to see you. However, since I, the pitiful one, was deprived of this grace for the multitude of my sins, I now bow before you and beg you to send me a comforting message that might alleviate my burning sorrow. For you know the worldly storms and mutinous clouds that trouble the hearts of kings."

The blessed John accepted the food in order to humble his pride, but he did not accept the gold. To the king's request he replied: "The poor John to the honorable autocrat of the Bulgarian Scepter, King Peter: To entirely accept your gift would not be fitting for me. But because of your faith and your zeal towards me, I accept the food. The gold, however, I must return to you, for it greatly harms a monk, especially a monk living in the wilderness and inaccessible places. Why does one need gold who is content to eat bread, but not to full satisfaction, and enough water only to moisten his parched tongue? To us 'Christ is life and death is gain.' In your state of life, however, gold is a necessity. But even you, who are adorned with a diadem, must not delight in gold because it is said: 'When wealth is flowing, do not attach your heart to it.' In spite of what is written: 'Wealth is proper to a king's state,' it is to be used for his arms and his army, not for his own pleasure, but most of all it is for the disabled and the poor, for the naked and the homeless. Therefore, if you wish to inherit the kingdom of heaven, be generous as our heavenly Father is generous. Flee injustice and plundering. Be meek, calm and accessible, and let your eyes be opened for all. 'Let the oil of your mercy run over all, but let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing! Let the poor be happy when they leave your palace! Your princes curry praises on their lips! Your purple robe shine with the light of virtue! Your sighs and tears be your offspring! The remembrance of death be always on your mind! Your thoughts be unceasingly centered upon longing for the Kingdom! Prostrate yourself at the feet of your mother, the Church. Diligently kneel and bend your neck before those who rule her, so that the King of kings and Lord of lords, when He sees your diligence, will give you the reward which 'eye has not seen, nor ear heard neither has entered into the heart of man - that which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" The king read the message and held the saint's words in high esteem. Kissing the message with love, he carried it close to his heart like a precious treasure. He read it often, for it helped to drive away the spiritual darkness of worldly confusion.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Readings for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is August 18

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 25

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.

