

## 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](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com)

[www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org) • [www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch)



### ***Schedule of Services***

- 9/8 Sunday**  
***Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos***  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 9/9 Monday**  
7:00 PM – Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council
- 9/11 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 9/13 Friday**  
***Eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross***  
6:15 PM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy with the bringing out of the Holy Cross for Veneration
- 9/14 Saturday – Day of Strict Fasting**  
***Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross***  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 9/15 Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 9/18 Wednesday**  
***NO*** Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 9/21 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil  
Followed by Monthly Rite of General Confession
- 9/22 Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 9/25 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 9/28 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 9/29 Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 10/2 Wednesday**  
***NO*** Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 10/5 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 10/6 Sunday – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

## Sunday, September 8, 2019

**The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**  
**(The “Birthday” of the Virgin Mary)**

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3**

On this date, September 8, we annually celebrate the Feast of the Nativity (Birthday) of the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

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Our bishop, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, entered into blessed repose on Sunday, September 1. Memory Eternal!  
(His Eminence's obituary is printed on page 3 of this bulletin)

Until the election of a new bishop, our Diocese will be cared for by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON. Many Years!

### **A Prayer to the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

O my Most-Holy Lady, the Mother of God, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by your holy and all-powerful prayers remove from me—your humble and burdened servant—despair, anxiety, forgetfulness, lack of understanding, and negligence; and take away all deceitful, unclean, and unworthy thoughts from my troubled heart, and from my darkened mind. Quench the flames of my passions, for I am poor and lost. Deliver me from every cruel memory and undertaking, and set me free from all evil actions, for you are blessed of all generations, and your most honorable name is glorified to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Natural Disaster! Hurricane Dorian** has devastated the Bahamas and done serious damage in the Carolinas. Pick a favorite charity and make a donation today to help the relief effort. Try [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org), as a donation option, if you do not have another charity that you presently favor.

# 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***

His Eminence Archbishop NIKON	d. 9/1/19
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
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister	d. 9/1/19
Eva Kopcha—our fellow parishioner	d. 8/12/19
Victoria—Elena Watras's aunt	d. 8/22/19
Boris—father of a friend of the Hopkos	d. 7/26/19

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

Ann Plasko	9/8/1950
Martha Witick	9/9/1970
Patrick Gurgigno	9/9/1980
Mary (Koltko) Banziruk	9/11/2003
Michael Duke	9/12/1950
Catherine Lyga	9/12/1977
Anna Kucirka	9/12/1991
Sophie Andrash	9/12/2007
Maria Menhichyk	9/13/1914
Trofim Sereduk	9/14/1962
Paraska Glouche	9/14/1972

## **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***

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; suffering with Huntington's Disease  
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week  
Charlotte—Chazelle 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  
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  
Anna Szepeł—suffered a fall on Saturday, August 31

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

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

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

Louine King (*attending a family wedding*)

### ***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

### ***Anniversaries***

NONE THIS WEEK

### ***Birthdays***

NONE THIS WEEK

## News and Notes

**Sunday, September 8—A Wedding!:** This weekend, on Sunday afternoon, September 8, Louine King's family members Daniel and Jennifer are being married at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Monday, September 9, Terryville Parish Council Meeting:** The Terryville Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, September 9, beginning at 7:00 PM.

**Sunday, September 15: Meeting of the Parish Sisterhood:** The Parish Sisterhood will meet during the Coffee Social Hour following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 15.

**Virginia "Gina" Lity enters into blessed repose, Sunday, September 1:** Our fellow parishioner Elena Watras's sister Gina entered into blessed repose on Sunday morning, September 1. Prior to retirement, Gina was a school teacher and school administrator, specializing in dual language (Spanish and English) education. Gina lived a full life. She was devoted to her family, and was not only Elena's sister, but, also, Elena's best friend. In recent years, suffering in diminished health, Gina had been resident at LiveWell in Southington, Connecticut. During that time, Elena would lovingly bring Gina here to Saints Cyril and Methodius Church to worship together here with us.

For many years, Gina was a faithful and active parishioner at Saint Dimitrie Orthodox Church, Easton, Connecticut. In particular, Gina contributed there as a member of Parish Choir, which she occasionally directed when the usual directors were not available. Gina's funeral took place this past Thursday, September 5, at Saint Dimitrie Church. Fr. John Hopko and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek participated there with the local pastor, Fr. George Coca.

Gina was a much-to-be treasured presence among us here in Terryville. She loved being in Church. Memory Eternal!

# More News and Notes

**NOCC Support in 2019:** In past years, our Parish has participated in the annual National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) Fundraising Walk at Rentschler Field (“The Rent”) in East Hartford. This annual walk had the purpose of raising funds for research into ovarian cancer, in hopes of raising awareness, developing treatments, finding cures, and fostering prevention of that dreadful disease. Our fellow parishioner, Jack Kriniske, has been the organizer of our participation in those walks, in memory of his late wife, Donna, who succumbed to that disease on March 3, 2014, after a brave and courageous battle. (Memory Eternal!) Unfortunately, the Hartford Chapter of the NOCC is now dormant and, thus, is no longer organizing the fundraising walk. Nevertheless, Jack has taken the initiative to make an appeal in support of the NOCC, so that we can continue to support the organization. September is “Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month,” and Jack has set up a donation site that is directly connected to the NOCC national fundraising effort. Jack’s donation site will remain active and accessible on the Internet throughout the month of September, and Jack has set a goal of raising \$1500.00 in support of this worthy cause. (As of this writing, Jack’s site has already raised \$325.00. A good beginning!) Jack’s site can be accessed at: <https://events.ovarian.org/jack>. Please note that Jack’s website is a subset of and directly connected to and associated with the national NOCC website. Donating through Jack’s site is an appropriate and efficient way to support this cause. At Jack’s website, donations can be processed by credit card. Alternatively, if you want to make a donation by check, please, see Jack personally, and he will let you know how best to do that. (Also, Jack is looking to put together an informal awareness walk, as he did last year, on the Memorial Boulevard in Bristol. He is looking to do that walk on Saturday morning, September 28. If you would like to walk with Jack that morning, please, let him know.)

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## An Obituary of our Newly Reposed Archbishop NIKON – Memory Eternal!

His Eminence, the Most Reverend Nikon, Archbishop of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, September 1, 2019. Archbishop Nikon was born Nicholas Liolin to a pious Orthodox family in 1945 in New York, the son of the late Evans J. and Helena P. (Peter) Liolin.

Archbishop Nikon was ordained to the Diaconate on July 5, 1969, and to the Priesthood the following day, July 6. As a priest, His Eminence served at Saint Nicholas Church, Southbridge, MA, and Saint Thomas Church, Farmington Hills, MI.

On Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25, 2002, Archbishop Nikon was consecrated Bishop of Baltimore and Auxiliary to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Weekend pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

Archbishop Nikon was nominated as Bishop of Boston at the Albanian Archdiocesan Assembly on October 10, 2003, and the Holy Synod elected him as Bishop of Boston on October 22, 2003. He served as administrator of the Diocese of New England and was elected ruling bishop during the fall session of the Holy Synod in October 2005. He was installed with the title Bishop of

Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, MA on December 16 and 17, 2005. In addition to his archpastoral leadership of his own dioceses, he served as locum tenens of the Diocese of the South from February 2011 until March 2015. Archbishop Nikon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop on May 9, 2012.

Archbishop NIKON was predeceased by his beloved wife Sarah (Arthur) Liolin and dear brothers John and Billy Liolin. *[Billy Liolin, the Archbishop’s older brother and a U.S. Army soldier, was killed in combat in Korea on February 6, 1951. Memory Eternal!]* Archbishop NIKON is survived by his devoted and loving brothers, Archpriest Arthur Liolin and his wife Margaret, and James Liolin and his wife Christina; in addition he is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces & grandnephews.

*[His Eminence’s funeral took place in Boston, September 4-6. Fr. John and Deacon Paul represented our parish. His Eminence’s burial will be with his wife Sarah at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.]*

Memory Eternal!

# Readings from Holy Scripture

*Scripture Readings for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God (which this year falls on Sunday, September 8)*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians (Phil 2:5-11)**

Brothers and Sisters: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28)**

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As Jesus said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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## **The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**      Notes written by Fr. Thomas Hopko

Sourced (in a lightly edited fashion) from Fr. Thomas's catechetical series of books "The Orthodox Faith," online at <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/nativity-of-the-theotokos>

The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional account of the event is taken from the apocryphal writings which are not part of the New Testament scriptures. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—"the poor and the needy"—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God's disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary's birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it "for us men and for our salvation" is obvious. There had to be one born of human flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents.

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the "Vessel of Light," the "Book of the Word of Life," the "Door to the Orient," the "Throne of Wisdom" is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

The verses of the feast are filled with titles for Mary such as those in the quotations above. They are inspired by the message of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The specific Biblical readings of the feast give indications of this. At Vespers the three Old Testamental readings are "mariological" in their New

Testamental interpretation. Thus, Jacob's Ladder which unites heaven and earth and the place which is named "the house of God" and the "gate of heaven" (Gen 28.10-17) are taken, to indicate the union of God with men which is realized most fully and perfectly—both spiritually and physically—in Mary the Theotokos, Bearer of God. So also the vision of the temple with the "door 'to the East'" perpetually closed and filled with the "glory of the Lord" symbolizes Mary, called in the hymns of the feast "the living temple of God filled with the divine Glory" (Ezek 43.27-44.4). Mary is also identified with the "house" which the Divine Wisdom has built for himself according to the reading from Proverbs 9.1-11.

The Gospel reading of Matins is the one read at all feasts of the Theotokos, the famous Magnificat from Saint Luke in which Mary says: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1.47).

The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy is the famous passage about the coming of the Son of God in "the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man" (Phil 2.5-11) and the gospel reading is that which is always read for feasts of the Theotokos—the woman in the crowd glorifies the Mother of Jesus, and the Lord himself responds that the same blessedness which his mother receives is for all "who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11.27-28).

Thus, on the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, as on all liturgical celebrations of Christ's Mother, we proclaim and celebrate that through God's graciousness to mankind every Christian receives what the Theotokos receives, the "great mercy" which is given to human persons because of Christ's birth from the Virgin.