

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

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Sunday, September 12, 2021

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Leavetaking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy (313). Ven. Vassian (Bassian) of Tiksnensk (Vologdá—1624). Translation of the Relics of Righteous Simeon of Verkhotúr'e (1704). Martyr Julian of Galatia and forty Martyrs with him (4th c.). Hieromartyr Theodore of Alexandria. St. Coronatus, Bishop of Nicomedia (3rd c.). Ven. Afanásy of Vysótsk, Wonderworker of Serpukhóv (1395).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/09/12>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Monday evening, September 13, Eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 6:30 PM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy (Vespertine Liturgy) for the occasion of the Feast, beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Tuesday morning, September 14, 9:00 AM:** Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Holy Cross of Our Lord. 9:00 AM: Akathist to the Holy Cross of Our Lord
- **Wednesday morning Matins, September 15, 8:00 AM:** Wednesday Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM.
- **Thursday evening Council Meeting, September 16, ONLINE (via Zoom), 6:30 PM:** Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council, ONLINE, via ZOOM, 6:30 PM.
- **NO Bible Study on Thursday evening, September 16:** Due to the requirement to have our Monthly Terryville Parish Council meeting on Thursday evening, September 16, we will NOT have Bible Study that evening.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, September 18, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, September 19, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Fr. John away on vacation September 20-24. No weekday services or events at Church during his time away.**
- **NO Saturday evening Vigil, September 25, 6:30 PM:** We will NOT have Saturday evening Vigil in our Parish on Saturday, September 25. **Rather, Fr. John (and anyone who wishes to accompany him) will be attending the 125th Anniversary celebratory service beginning at 5:00 PM that evening at Three Saints Church, 26 Howard Avenue, Ansonia, CT.**
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, September 26, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **IN THE SOUTHBURY PARISH – Sunday evening, September 26, 6:00 PM—40th Day Memorial for Fr. Michael Koblosh:** At 6:00 PM on Sunday evening, September 26, at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT, a 40th Day Memorial Service ("Panikhida") will be served in prayerful remembrance of Fr. Michael Koblosh, a past Pastor (1977-1990) of our Terryville Parish. Fr. Michael also served in the Bridgeport, CT, and Southbury, CT, Parishes, so the memorial will be served in Southbury, which is most centrally located of the three parishes where Fr. Michael served.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19.

We, also, remember the many victims of the tragic events of 9/11/2001.

Newly Departed

Mitred Archpriest Michael Koblosh—Pastor in our Parish (1977 – 1990)	d. 8/18/21
Mitred Archpriest Sergei Glagolev—a prominent priest	d. 9/1/21
Archpriest Anastasy R.—a priest who died unexpectedly and suddenly	d. 9/5/21
Gisela Opalak—Waterbury Parishioner	d. 8/27/21
Linda—Parishioners Mike and Jim L.'s aunt	d. 9/8/21

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Matrona Mattson	9/16/1960
Steven Zylka	9/16/1975
Mary Fomenko	9/17/2019
William Markovich	9/18/1986

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to 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

Matushka Ann Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
Matushka Ann S.—chronic health challenges
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores T.—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Darylne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Yelena "Lenna" M.—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner for whom prayers have been asked
John A.—husband of Claudia A., for whom prayers have been asked
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support

Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
child George—young son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
Bill M.—struggling with health issues, please keep in prayer
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.'s father
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week
George Kla.—our fellow parishioner; facing a variety of health challenges
Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers
Joan—dear and close friend of Carolyn P.; recovering from serious back surgery
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering some health problems
Thomas—fighting cancer; father of a friend of the Parish (S.H.)
Yvonne K.—a person we have been asked to pray for; multiple myeloma
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; very unwell recently
Mark—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); critically ill
Domenic—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Brittney—facing possibly severe health issues; at the request of Kathy M.
Jeanne M.—recovering from joint replacement surgery (doing well)
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; recent health issues
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; recent serious health challenges
Barbara S.—W'bury parishioner; recovering from recent surgery

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

Alex—John D.'s brother; suffering permanent effects of stroke
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare

Preparing for Ordination

Paul H.—Fr. John H.'s "best man," Lucy C.'s Godfather; Paul's ordination to the holy diaconate is upcoming on Saturday, September 18

Expectant Mothers

Nicole and the child to be born of her—at the request of Bob M.
Courtney and the child to be born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s family

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

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

Fr. James P., Chaplain (MAJ)—deployed to Africa with the CT ARNG
Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer and helicopter pilot
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division U.S. Army soldier
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

NEWS AND NOTES

LOOKING AHEAD: Fr. John will be away on vacation from Sunday afternoon, September 19, through to Saturday afternoon, September 25: With the blessing of our Diocesan authorities, Fr. John will be out of the office from Sunday afternoon, September 19, through to Saturday afternoon, September 25.

We need a Parish Lay Delegate for the Diocesan Assembly: The Annual Diocesan Assembly is scheduled to take place, in-person, at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, CT, on **Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, 2021.** If you are willing to fulfill this role, please, contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Notes from Fr. John: Remembering 9/11

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are presently commemorating the 20th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. I myself remember especially Brendan Dolan, my high school classmate (Fordham Prep, Class of 1982) who perished that day, a victim of the attacks on the Twin Towers, where he worked. I do not pretend that Brendan and I were more than acquaintances, but it is sobering to have actually known a direct victim of 9/11's tragic events. Memory Eternal!

O Lord, remember the departed. O Lord, console those who mourn. O Lord, bring to repentance all perpetrators of violence and terror.

Our bishop, His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON, has written a good letter for us to be edified by on this occasion. It can be read here, at this link on the website of the Orthodox Church in America: <https://www.oca.org/holy-synod/statements/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon/remembering-9-11-twenty-years-later>.

Let us not wallow in grief or despair or rage. Rather, let us repent of our sins and honor the victims of ungodly violence and terror by recommitting ourselves to Christ and His Holy Church, endeavoring to live beautiful Christian lives, not by our own strength, but by the strength of God, Who strengthens us (see, Philippians 4:13).

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

The Sign of the Cross

by Clark Carlton

(An excerpt from his book "The Faith: Understanding Orthodox Christianity – An Orthodox Catechism")

The most common act of devotion for an Orthodox Christian is to make the sign of the Cross. This is done by bringing the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand together and tucking the remaining two fingers into the palm. Then we bless ourselves in a crosswise fashion, touching the forehead, breast, right shoulder, and then the left.

Unfortunately, many people do not fully appreciate the significance of this action. The non-Orthodox do not understand such physical acts of devotion and often look upon the sign of the Cross as some sort of empty ritual or even as a "good-luck charm." Sadly, even many Orthodox Christians use the sign in a haphazard manner, paying little attention to the proper outward form or to the inner meaning. The sign of the Cross, however, should not simply be brushed aside as a piece of optional piety, for by this little gesture the Christian sums up the entire teaching of the Church.

By bringing the thumb and the first two fingers of the right hand together, we signify the doctrine of the Trinity. In doing so, we confess that we believe not in an impersonal being, but in a personal God – the God who is Love. We confess that we believe in and worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: three co-eternal and co-equal persons in one undivided Godhead.

By tucking the remaining two fingers into the palm, we signify the doctrine of the Incarnation. In this way we confess that God has become man – that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity took upon Himself our humanity while remaining God from all eternity. Thus, we confess that Christ is both fully God and fully man – not 50% God and 50% man, but 100% God and 100% man.

Furthermore, by making the sign of the Cross in this way, we confess the depth of the love of God toward us. For by dying on the Cross, Jesus Christ – One of the Holy Trinity – took upon Himself the ultimate consequence of man's Fall – death itself – in order to raise us up and give us the eternal life of the Holy Trinity. By touching the forehead, breast, and shoulders, we commend our mind, our heart, and our...

...strength to the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, and we remind ourselves that we must take up our own Cross and follow our Lord:

Rejoice! Cross of the Lord: through you mankind has been delivered from the curse. Shattering the enemy by your Exaltation, O all-venerable Cross, you are a sign of true joy. You are our help, you are the strength of kings, the power of righteous men, the majesty of priests. All who sign themselves with you are freed from peril. O Cross, rod of strength under which we like sheep are tended, you are a weapon of peace around which the angels stand in fear. You are the divine glory of Christ, Who grants the world great mercy (*A Hymn of the Feast of the Holy Cross from the Festal Menaion*).

Orthodox Christians begin each day with the sign of the Cross and the invocation of the All-holy Trinity. Furthermore, we should sign ourselves with the Cross not only at the beginning of our prayers, but also before beginning any task. In this way, we commend each and every moment of the day to the All-holy Trinity and the protection of the Holy Cross of our Lord.

When the bishop serves at the Liturgy, he blesses the faithful with the sign of the Cross in a special way. He holds a three-branched candlestick, called a trikirion, in his right hand and a two-branched candlestick, called a dikirion, in his left. With these he blesses the People of God in a crosswise fashion. In the person of her sacramental head, the bishop, the Church confesses her unwavering faith in all that the Holy Trinity has done for the salvation of mankind. By this all of the faithful are blessed, for they are guarded by the power of the Cross in the worship of the undivided Trinity and in the confession that Jesus Christ—God made man—is the Lord of all.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:1-11)

Brothers and Sisters: I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came to Jesus, kneeling before him and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? There is no good but One, and that is God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Jesus, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Jesus, "All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."