

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, October 1, 2017

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8

The Feast of the Protection (the Protecting Veil)
of the Most Holy Theotokos

Schedule of Services

- 10/1 Sunday**
Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 10/2 Monday**
7:00 PM – Monthly Parish Council Meeting
- 10/4 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 10/7 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 10/8 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 10/11 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
- 10/14 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 10/15 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 10/18 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 10/21 Saturday**
Pre-Advent Memorial Saturday
5:30 PM – General Memorial Service
("Panikhida") for all Departed
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 10/22 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 10/25 Wednesday**
8:00 AM -- Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 10/28 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 10/29 Sunday**
9:15 AM -- Divine Liturgy
- 11/1 Wednesday**
8:00 AM -- Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 11/4 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/5 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/8 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

The Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos, also called, sometimes, the Feast of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos, commemorates a specific miraculous appearance of the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos.

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the middle of the 10th century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All-Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (commemorated each year on October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied her, the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.

[Source: www.oca.org – Feasts and Saints commemorated on October 1st.]

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

Catherine—Fr. Vladimir Aleandro's aunt d. 8/24/17
Stephen Kowalchuk—was member of our parish as a child d. 8/31/17
David Lordi—acquaintance of the Hopko Family d. 9/3/17
Ann Spohrer—member of the Waterbury parish d. 9/3/17
Yolan Forish—member of the Waterbury parish d. 9/11/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

George Witick 10/1/1949
Adam Mattson 10/1/2006
Edward Tadaychuk 10/2/1962
Clement Sarahyn 10/2/1952
Averky Hubchik 10/2/1969
Harry Kostyk 10/2/1980
Andrew Shkarypsky 10/4/1940
Vasili Belick 10/4/1965
Eva Mattson Pierce 10/5/2007
John Biscoe 10/6/1966
Madeline Pikul 10/6/1989
Anastasia Fill 10/7/1958
Nellie (Anastasia) Hrabsky 10/7/2002
Michael Kopcha 10/7/2007

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
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures
Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darylne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin

Michael "Mischa" Semanitzky—Dn. Paul's uncle; ongoing health issues
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
Anatoli—a friend of Tania Bouteneff; diagnosed with colon cancer
Galina—wife of above-mentioned Anatoli
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
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
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; still in need of prayers for health
Virginia—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer
child Maver—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family; serious medical condition
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Peter Oraschewsky—hip joint replacement surgery earlier this summer
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges
Mary—Deacon Paul Nimchek's sister; back surgery
John Kuzmich—suffering from lung cancer
Louine "Anna" King—suffering from lung cancer
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell; now back home, but still ailing
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Nadia Krawchuk—Bob Matzkevich's mother-in-law; recently unwell
Macrina Hopko—will undergo arthroscopic knee surgery on Friday, October 6
Dennis Kowaleski—recently hospitalized; now recovering at home

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol; recently increasingly unwell
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Travelers, those soon to be traveling and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until spring 2018
Peter and Chezelle Serev and family
Lucy Hopko—on clinical rotation in Allentown, PA, until October 6

Wedding Anniversaries

Kristen & Matthew Austin 10/03

Birthdays

Luke Kowaleski 10/1

A (Lightly Edited) Excerpt from the Writings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) concerning the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos

[Source: <http://www.pravmir.com/prayer-xxx-prayer-mother-god/>]

The Mother of God is inseparable from the Savior; Her exploit, her spiritual struggle and journey [*podvig*], is inseparable from His. Consider that when the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven to say to her: "Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son" (Luke 1:31), the Incarnation depended upon her agreement or disagreement. She could have said "no," but she said "yes." She raised the Child, brought Him to the Temple in sacrifice to God; She traversed His entire earthly life alongside Him. When Christ was crucified, she stood at the Cross, because she could not be separated from Him. She was with Him even in His most fearful suffering, because she became a participant in His exploit.

When the Lord Jesus was on the Cross, His beloved disciple, John, stood next to Him, and Jesus said to His Mother: "Woman, behold thy son!" And to His beloved disciple Jesus said: "Behold thy Mother" (John 19: 26-27). Jesus thereby, as it were, gave over not only to His beloved disciple, but to all His disciples, her protection and care. From that moment she, as the Mother of her Son, also became the Mother of His followers, that is, the Mother of the Church. And we turn to her as to our Mother and the Mother of the Church.

We say in prayer to the Mother of God: "Most Holy Theotokos, save us." This doesn't mean that we consider her to be our savior. The Savior is Christ. But we confess her involvement in the mystery of salvation, her participation in this mystery. And we understand that salvation is possible for us because the Mother of God expressed her agreement with the word of God addressed to her. And, thanks to her consent, we have access to her Son and her God, our Heavenly Father.

News and Notes...

Monday, October 2, Meeting of the Parish Council: Our Parish Council will have its monthly meeting on Monday evening, October 2, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Saturday, October 7: Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary Education Day: On Saturday, October 7, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY, will sponsor their annual Orthodox Education Day, which is the Seminary's annual open house and fall festival. This year "Ed Day" will address one of the most painful realities of the 21st century: *"Modern Martyrs: Christians of the Middle East and North Africa."* The day begins in the morning with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM, and then continues on through the day with public lectures, children's activities, ethnic food, pour-over coffee, an icon display, a book sale, an Akathist Service, a Vespers service, and more. Our own Fr. John Hopko will be giving a young people's presentation that day. Admission to the grounds, lectures, and Church services is free, though pre-registration is requested. Payments are requested for the food and coffee. For further information about this event, please visit the Seminary's website at www.svots.edu/events/orthodox-education-day-modern-martyrs.

LOOKING AHEAD: Pre-Advent Memorial Saturday, October 21: During the Church Year, a number of Saturdays are designated as "Memorial Saturdays", special days when we are especially supposed to pray for the salvation of the souls of the departed. One of these Saturdays is always the Saturday that falls before the Feast of the Great-martyr Demetrius, which falls on October 26. In our parish we have taken to referring to this Memorial Saturday as the "Pre-Advent" Memorial Saturday. We will mark the day by having a General Memorial Service ("Panikhida") for all the departed beginning at 5:30 PM, on Saturday, October 21.

Things we could use at Church: We are in need of items for Coffee Social Hours including paper plates, paper napkins, juice cups, plastic forks, plastic spoons, etc. If you would like to donate some of these items they will be gratefully received.

Myrrh-Streaming Icon to Visit our Area in November

On Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4, the Wonder-working Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Mother of God ("Kardiotissa") from Saint George Orthodox Church, Taylor, PA, will be visiting St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter Street, New Britain, CT.

This icon is known as "Kardiotissa", which means "Tender Heart". The icon has this title because it depicts the Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus in a tender-hearted fashion. This icon has been streaming "myrrh," which is a sweet-smelling oil, since October 13, 2011. Some members of our parish were privileged to venerate this icon, and to be anointed with the myrrh that streams from it, several years ago, when the icon visited Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Mill Hill Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.

The icon will arrive at Saint Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in New Britain at 6:00 PM on Friday evening, November 3. At that time a talk about the icon will be given, a prayer service will be served before it, and all present will have the opportunity to be anointed with the myrrh that streams from the icon. Again, on Saturday morning, November 4, beginning at 9:00 AM, the same schedule of events (talk, prayer service, and anointing) will take place.

The Kardiotissa icon has been associated with a number of miraculous occurrences, including the healing of seemingly incurable illnesses, as well as the repentance and conversion of those previously strongly opposed to Christ and His Church.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please note that it is strictly forbidden to take pictures or video of the icon or events associated with the icon. Every effort is made to maintain pious and sober Orthodox Christian decorum in the presence of the icon, and to avoid any tone or atmosphere of the "sensational." Although unusual, myrrh-streaming icons do occur from time to time in the life of the Church. Usually, when such an event happens it is understood to be an occurrence for the interior life of the Church, a consolation for the faithful. As such, we Orthodox tend NOT to share too much with those "outside" when an icon begins to stream myrrh. We do not invite in the public, and especially not the media. Rather, we gather in prayer and gratitude, thanking and praising God for His unending love and care for us.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 1

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

Brothers and Sisters: What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 6:31-36)

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Scripture Readings for the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 9:1-7)

Brothers and Sisters: the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

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 he 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 he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"