

## 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, October 8, 2017

*The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1*

Commemoration of Venerable Pelagia the Penitent

### A Traditional Account of the Life of the Venerable Pelagia the Penitent

*Commemorated on October 8*

Saint Pelagia the Penitent, who lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, was converted to Christianity by Saint Nonnus, Bishop of Edessa. Before her acceptance of Christianity through Baptism, Pelagia was head of a dance troupe in Palestinian Antioch, living a life of frivolity and prostitution.

One day Pelagia, elegantly dressed, was making her way past a church where Saint Nonnus was preaching a sermon. Believers turned their faces away from the sinner, but the bishop glanced after her. Struck by the outer beauty of Pelagia and having foreseen the spiritual greatness within her, the saint prayed in his cell for a long time to the Lord for the sinner. He told his fellow bishops that the prostitute put them all to shame. He explained that Pelagia took great care to adorn her body in order to appear beautiful in the eyes of men, while "We... take no thought for the adornment of our wretched souls," he said.

On the following day, when Saint Nonnus was teaching in the church about the dread Last Judgment and its consequences, Pelagia came. The teaching made a tremendous impression upon her. With the fear of God and weeping tears of repentance, she asked the saint for Baptism. Seeing her sincere and full repentance, Bishop Nonnus baptized her.

By night the devil appeared to Pelagia, urging her to return to her former life. The saint prayed, signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and the devil vanished.

Three days after her baptism, Saint Pelagia gathered up her valuables and took them to Bishop Nonnus. The bishop ordered that they be distributed among the poor saying, "Let this be wisely dispersed, so that these riches gained by sin may become a wealth of righteousness."

After this Saint Pelagia journeyed to Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. She lived there in a cell, disguised as the monk Pelagius, living in ascetic seclusion, and attaining great spiritual gifts. When she died in the year 457 AD, she was buried in her cell.

## Schedule of Services

- 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)
- 11/11 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/12 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM – The Annual General Meeting  
of the Parish
- 11/15 Wednesday**  
**First Day of Advent**  
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***

John Kuzmich—fellow parishioner d. 10/2/17  
Yolan Forish—member of the Waterbury parish d. 9/11/17  
Ann Spohrer—member of the Waterbury parish d. 9/3/17  
David Lordi—acquaintance of the Hopko Family d. 9/3/17  
Stephen Kowalchuk—was member of our parish as a child d. 8/31/17

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

Anastasia Baiga 10/9/1918  
Vladimir Yaromtschik 10/10/1938  
Olga Nimchek 10/11/2007  
Anna Kaschak 10/12/1938  
Ida Rozum 10/12/1982  
John Pawelchak 10/12/2000  
Anna Duke 10/13/1932  
Peter Kopcha 10/14/1931

## **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 Maven—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  
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—underwent arthroscopic knee surgery on Friday, October 6  
Fr. Marc Vranes—underwent total right knee replacement surgery on October 4

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol; now on hospice care  
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

### ***Wedding Anniversaries***

Timothy & Donna Osuch 10/10

### ***Birthdays***

Zachary Wegh 10/9

## **A Walk to Break the Silence of Ovarian Cancer**

On Saturday, September 16, 2017, friends, and members of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church in Terryville, CT, joined me in walking to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer research in honor and memory of my wife, Donna.

Our walking participants consisted of ten individuals and through our overall fundraising effort "Team Donna" raised \$2,320.00 in contributions. To date, the Connecticut Chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) has raised \$47,875 against this year's goal of \$75,000.

I would like to express a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who participated in this year's NOCC Walk to Break the Silence of Ovarian Cancer. "Team Donna" is blessed to have so many caring and loving people who joined us in the walk and those who did not walk but made monetary donations locally and from around the country.

With much love,

Jack Kriniske

# News and Notes...

**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, Saturday, October 21, by having a General Memorial Service (“Panikhida”) for all the departed beginning at 5:30 PM.

**LOOKING AHEAD: Annual Diocesan Assembly, October 27-28:** The Year 2017 Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England will take place on Friday-Saturday, October 27-28, in Montpelier and Northfield Falls, Vermont. Our Parish will be represented at the Assembly by Fr. John Hopko, Deacon Paul Nimchek, and Mrs. Louine King.

**LOOKING FAR AHEAD: The Annual General Meeting of the Parish, Sunday, November 12:** The Annual General Meeting of the Parish will take place on Sunday, November 12, beginning at 11:45 AM. This follows that morning’s celebration of the usual Sunday morning Divine Liturgy.

**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.

**A Free Concert, Featuring a Parish Member:** On Friday, October 13, beginning at 7:30 PM, at The Belding Theater at The Bushnell in Hartford, Edward Cumming leads the Hartt Orchestra and the Hartford Chorale for a performance of Beethoven’s Symphony no. 9, "Ode to Joy". The program will open with Schumann’s Piano Concerto in A minor, featuring the internationally acclaimed pianist and Hartt faculty member, David Westfall. Tickets are free but required. Please contact the University of Hartford Box Office to reserve tickets. 860.768.4228 or 1.800.274.8587, Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Our fellow parishioner Emery Wegh is a student at the Hartt School of Music and plays the double bass in the Hartt Orchestra.

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## 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 18th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 8*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 9:6-11)**

Brothers and Sisters: The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 7:11-16)**

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

## *Scripture Readings for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 15*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:31-12:9)**

Brothers and Sisters: The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 8:5-15)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."