

## 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 18, 2020

**19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.).** Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus (4th c.). Ven. Julian the Hermit, of Mesopotamia (4th c.). The "Machairotissa" Icon of the Mother of God.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/10/18>

### NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: Read the Gospels

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Today is the Feast of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. The Gospel According to Luke is one of the four Gospels. The Gospels are kept, bound in ornate covers, and printed in large type, at the center of the Altar Table, as a physical demonstration of their central place and importance in the Church. The Gospels are treated in the Church as an icon. As well as being read, they are carried in procession, lifted on high in the sight of all the faithful, and venerated. The Gospels, the Word of God, are said to be an icon, an image, of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, for one of Our Lord Jesus's titles is "Word of God." The Gospel According to John begins with these words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

We should read from the Gospels frequently, every day, for they are the central books in the entire Bible. All of the Bible is, of course, Holy Scripture. Nevertheless the four Gospels—the four accounts of the earthly life and ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with the accounts of His death and resurrection—are the absolutely central texts of our Christian Faith. Every day we should visit with Our Lord Jesus Christ in the pages of the Gospels, even if we only read a few sentences.

The Gospel of Mark is short and stark—extremely direct in its telling of the story of Our Lord. The Gospel of Matthew is rich in detail, and contains the Sermon on the Mount in Chapters 5 through 7. The Sermon on the Mount is a foundational text, which every Christian should read often, and seek to know, and to live. The Gospel of Luke is beloved because it contains some of the most memorable passages in the Gospels—such as the Parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. The Gospel of John is a magnificent document, majestic and powerful.

Reading the Gospels strengthens us. Reading the Gospels calls us to repentance. Reading the Gospels humbles us. Reading the Gospels encourages us. Reading the Gospels puts our lives into proper perspective. Reading the Gospels guides us along the paths of prudence and wisdom, peace and joy. Reading the Gospels reminds us that Our Lord Jesus Christ has won a victory for us, over death and destruction, which cannot be overcome.

We should read the Gospels, brothers and sisters, daily, and seek to live them.

In Christ, *Fr. John H.*

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

**We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.**

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

*First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. Memory Eternal!*

## **Newly Departed**

Priest Peter—a priest in England; friend of the Hopkos	d. 9/11/2020
Helen—Mat Ann S.'s sister	d. 10/11/2020
Paul—a young man we have been asked to pray for	d. 9/22/2020
Antonio—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P.	d. 9/9/2020
Ryan—prayed for at the request of David C.	d. 9/9/2020

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

Metro Skrupsky	10/18/2002
Elizabeth (Bunker) Sweatt	10/19/1999
Margaret Gabor	10/20/1981
Sadie Witik	10/20/1991
Agafia Papkov	10/21/1938
Aksenty Stasenko	10/22/1919
Mary Wallick	10/23/1979
Mary Panko	10/23/1992

## **THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP**

*First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is 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**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (*retired*) — very unwell at this time  
His Eminence, Archbishop David of Alaska—renal cancer  
Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness  
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)  
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment  
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer  
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin  
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  
Maria Oraschewsky—dialysis three times a week; recent minor surgery  
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges  
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray  
Tanya Beach—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage  
Mark—a profound diabetic for whom we have been asked to pray  
Richard—a person for whom we have been asked to pray  
Walter—an elderly man injured in a fall, for whom we have been asked to pray  
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer  
Mary—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health

Simone—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health  
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; chronically unwell  
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery  
Vincent—relapse of cancer; relative through marriage of P. Oraschewsky  
Rosie D.—ongoing health issues  
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues  
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell  
Paul S.—recovering from knee surgery  
Bill M.—recovering from a fall in which he suffered a shoulder injury  
Christopher—friend of Kathy Mihailoff; struggling with cancer  
Paula—friend of Jim Liverman; struggling with cancer  
Cheryl—acquaintance of Carolyn P.; recent surgery  
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues  
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish  
John K.—recovering from recent hip joint replacement surgery  
Dave—Marilou P.'s cousin; recovering from hip surgery after a fall  
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues  
Reader Joseph—recent issue with a painful hip joint  
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer  
Judy—a woman suffering with dementia for whom we have been asked to pray  
Wayne—Donna O.'s father

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty N.'s brother; recently unwell, doing better, lately  
Alex—John D.'s brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother, resident in long-term eldercare  
Anna—Rdr. John Paul Sz.'s mother; resident in long-term care

## **Mothers and Newly Born Children**

Diana & Mariana newly born of her  
Jessie & Abigail newly born of her (Ann S.'s granddaughter and great-granddaughter)  
Amber & the child, Hudson, newly born of her

## **Expectant Mothers**

Nadia and the child to be born of her—Nadia is Rich and Laura K.'s daughter  
Anyia S. and the child to be born of her—Anyia is one of Fr. John's many nieces  
Shelby (Sophia) G. and the child to be born of her

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

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**

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  
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad  
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army

## **Anniversaries of Marriage**

Paul & Claudia Senetcen	10/21
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## **Birthdays**

Paul Senetcen	10/22
John Dubnansky	10/22
Forrest Hanson	10/23

# News and Notes

**We Express Our Condolences:** We express our condolences to Matushka Ann S., whose sister, Helen, entered into blessed repose this past Sunday morning, October 11. We pray for the repose of Helen's soul. May God grant her rest eternal. We, also, pray for all those who mourn Helen's loss. May God console those who mourn. Memory Eternal!

**Increase in COVID-19 Cases in Connecticut:** Please pray for all those affected by the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut. Due to this development, Fr. John has decided, in consultation with Protodeacon Paul and Lay Parish President Paul Senetcen, that we will, for now, hold off on moving forward with any plans to loosen restrictions and increase activities in our Church. Earlier this week, the Parish Council did authorize Fr. John to discuss this matter with our diocesan authorities, and to ask for blessings for some lessening of restrictions and some increase in activities, but our Diocesan authorities have now indicated that they would like us to simply continue...

...what we are doing, in the way that we have been doing it, until we have a better idea about how matters will develop. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, contact Fr. John, directly and personally. He can be reached, by voice or text, on his cell phone at 860-944-3486. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Bible Study Sessions Continue on Tuesday Evenings:** We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We are now examining the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, which is believed by most scholars to be the earliest extant letter of Saint Paul that we possess.

**Do you want to attend the online Bible Study, but Tuesday evenings do not work in your schedule?** If you want to attend the online Bible Study, but Tuesday evenings do not work in your schedule, please, let Fr. John know. He is thinking about scheduling a second Bible study gathering on another day and at a different time, so that more interested people can participate.

**Bible Study Companion Book:** If you are interested in reading a book that will serve as a companion to the efforts we are presently making in Bible Study, this book may be a resource for you: *Words of Fire: The Early Epistles of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians and the Galatians*. This book is written by Fr. Lawrence Farley, who is a priest in British Columbia, Canada, in parish of the Orthodox Church in America’s Archdiocese of Canada. It is published by Conciliar Press, Chesterton, Indiana (<https://store.ancientfaith.com/biblical-studies/>). Fr. Farley writes in his introduction to this book, “This commentary was written...for the average layman, for the nonprofessional....” Thus, it is a book that is accessible to us, Orthodox Christians who regularly attend Church, and who would like to know more about the Bible.

**Annual Diocesan Assembly:** The 2020 Diocesan Assembly is going to take place on Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7. Our parish will be represented by Fr. John and Protodeacon Paul. John “Jack” Kriniske will, also, represent our parish. This past week, Jack was officially elected to be our parish lay representative by our Parish Council.

**Fr. John to be out of the office, Thursday, October 22:** Fr. John will be out of the office all day on Thursday, October 22. He is having oral surgery that day. He hopes to be back in the office, for at least part of the day, on Friday, October 23, and be back, fully, on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25.

**A New Bishop for our Diocese:** Fr. John, in his capacity as District Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, has been appointed to the Diocesan Committee that has the task of meeting with the men who have been identified as possible candidates to be the next presiding bishop here in the Diocese of New England. For more information about the process by which a new bishop will be nominated and elected, please, see Fr. John’s article on the subject, entitled “A New Bishop for Our Diocese—Some Questions and Answers.” That article was recently published in our Diocesan newspaper, and is, also, available at this “clickable” link: <https://terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/files/A-New-Bishop-For-The-Diocese.pdf>.

**Support from the Parish:** If you require financial support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. For 2020, the Diocese of New England has reduced by 16.7% (one-sixth) the annual Fair Share contributions that it usually expects from our Parish. This reduction has been put into place with the specific intention that this money—the money that the Parish will not be sending to the Diocese, but will be retaining locally—will be used for charitable and relief purposes. **Don’t be shy: If you need help, contact Fr. John. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity.**

**Donations to the Parish:** Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation “button” (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Scripture Readings for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 18*

### **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."

## *Scripture Readings for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 25*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 1:11-19)**

Brother and Sisters: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 16:19-31)**

The Lord said: "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"