

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 25, 2020

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries, of Constantinople (ca. 355). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) the Deacon, Recluse of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Martyr Athanasius the Fuller, at Salona in Dalmatia (3rd c.). St. Tabitha, the widow raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter (1st c.).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/10/25>

Increase in COVID-19 Cases in Connecticut – Our Parish’s Response

(Note: This is a reprint of the letter sent via email to the entire Parish Email Group on Friday, October 23, 2020.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Please pray for all those affected by the recent “spike” in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut.

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, we will, for now, postpone in our Parish any plans to move forward with loosening restrictions and increasing activities in our Church. For now in our Parish, we will be “on hold” and, thus, continue to follow the protocols established when we first reopened for liturgical services some months ago: Attendance limited to 25 total attendees, with health safety protocols being enforced.

We will, also, continue to avoid the use of many singers, readers, or altar servers, and we will continue to use only one Priest, one Cantor, and one Reader at the Divine Liturgy. We will continue to have Wednesday morning Matins services, too, primarily because attendance at those services has been so limited (not more than five persons at a time, total) that we are able to pray those services comfortably, while appropriately observing the necessary health safety protocols.

I have made this decision to put our Parish “on hold,” exercising my pastoral prerogatives and responsibilities, working in consultation with our Protodeacon Paul Nimchek and our Lay Parish President Paul Senetcen. I, also, blessedly find myself to be in obedience to our diocesan authorities, who, by means of formal communications received in the last several days, are strongly encouraging such a cautious approach. Our civil authorities, also, are asking us to exercise renewed and increased caution.

Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, the Parish Council did authorize me, in my capacity as duly appointed Rector, to discuss with our diocesan authorities the matter of increased initiatives towards the goal of more fully reopening our Parish, and to ask for blessings for some lessening of restrictions and some increase in activities. Since that time, however, given the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, our diocesan authorities have indicated that, for...

...now, they would like us simply to 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. They have, also, asked us to be prepared, even, to return to more restrictive approaches to this matter, if that, sadly, proves necessary. All the clergy of the Diocese of New England have received a letter to that effect from our Diocesan hierarch, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, contact me, Fr. John Hopko, directly and personally. I can be reached, by voice or text, on my cell phone at 860-944-3486. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

With prayerful best regards, and love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

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

His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (<i>retired</i>)	d. 10/19/2020
Priest Peter—a priest in England; friend of the Hopkos	d. 9/11/2020
Robert (Bob)—Patty N.'s brother	d. 10/21/2020
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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Anna Spielman	10/25/1983
Anna Lyga	10/26/1966
Theodore Panko	10/26/1971
Paranka Cartona	10/26/1997
Daria Sholomicky	10/26/2002
Tatiana Martynylr	10/27/1918
Olga "Suzy" Choate	10/27/2001
Theodosia Tkach	10/28/1917
Theodore Kriniske	10/28/1940
Nikolaj Slawnyj	10/29/2009
Julia M. Casey	10/30/2013

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 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
Darylne—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

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

Anya & Juliana Catherine newly born of her—Fr. John's niece and her baby
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
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—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

Thomas and Natalie Wingate	10/26
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Birthdays

Rose Orelup	10/27
Fr. John Hopko	10/29

News and Notes

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.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services: Unless otherwise announced, we will be regularly serving Matins on Wednesday mornings in our Parish, beginning at 8:00 a.m. As at the Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, we require the use of masks and enforce social distancing. Please, consider joining us for Matins, if you are available on Wednesday mornings. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

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. On October 14, at the monthly Parish Council meeting, Jack was officially elected to be our parish lay representative by our Parish Council.

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 is now fulfilling 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 Question 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 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.'"

Scripture Readings for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 1

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 2:16-20)

Brothers and Sisters: We know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 8:26-39)

At that time Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.