

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 31, 2021

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — **Tone 2. Hieromartyr Archpriest John Kochurov (1917).** Apostles of the Seventy: Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, Apelles, and Aristobulus (1st c.). Martyr Epimachus of Alexandria (250). Ven. Spyridon and Nikódēmos the Prospora-bakers, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—12th c.). St. Maura of Constantinople (5th c.).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/10/31>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 3, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, November 4, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, November 4. (Watch for the ZOOM invite in your email inbox.) Presently, we are reading and discussing the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Please, consider joining us for Bible Study.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, November 6, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, November 7, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Monday morning, November 8, 9:00 AM:** Prayer Service to the Holy Angels, on the occasion of the Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels.
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday evening, November 9, beginning at 7:00 PM, Monthly Terryville Parish Council Meeting:** Our monthly meeting of the Terryville Parish Council will convene, via video teleconference (ZOOM) at 7:00 PM, on Tuesday, November 9.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 10, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, November 11, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, November 11. (Watch for the ZOOM invite in your email inbox.) Presently, we are reading and discussing the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Please, consider joining us for Bible Study.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, November 13, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, November 14, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 17, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.

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.

Newly Departed

Marion C.—newly departed spouse of a late Waterbury parishioner d. 10/1/21

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Peter Duke	11/2/1913
Vasili Hrabsky	11/2/1935
Katherine Grella	11/2/1990
Paulus Stanko	11/2/1995
Michael Andrash	11/3/1950
Irene Tichon	11/3/1970
Joseph Sholtis	11/4/1934
Paul Leba	11/4/1960
Joseph Braeinow	11/4/1964
Ignati Tihansky	11/5/1938
Gabriel Vabriniak	11/6/1932
Agafia Shkarypski	11/6/1940
Sophie Johnston	11/6/1956
Harry Popko	11/6/1990

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

Priest John M.—a young priest, suffering with a vexing illness
Matushka Anne Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
Matushka Ann S.—chronic health challenges
Maria O.—our fellow parishioner, in hospice care
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

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)

Albert ("Al")—in need of prayers for healing

Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges

Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; recent health issues

Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.'s family member; heart surgery

Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; recent serious health challenges

Barbara S.—Waterbury parishioner; recovering from recent surgery

Richard—acquaintance of Fr. John's; hip replacement surgery on November 4

Rosemary—friend of Jack K.; recovering from recent stroke

Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty's nephew; Rick is unwell and in need of prayers

Peter—Deacon Paul and Patty's acquaintance; battling lymphoma

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

Mothers and Newly Born Children

Nicole and the daughter newly born of her—at the request of Bob M.

Expectant Mothers

Courtney and the child to be born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s family

Tracey and the child to be born of her—Geo. and Jenn. W.'s daughter-in-law

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

Carolyn P. – our fellow parishioner

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

Birthdays

Rdr. John Paul Szepel

11/2

Prayers Requested: One of our parishioners who is a teacher has asked prayers for one of her students. This student is battling a very serious illness. Please, keep this child and their loved ones in your prayers. Thank you.

Notes from Fr. John: Participate in the Sacrament of Confession

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is usual and customary for Orthodox Christians regularly to participate in the Sacrament of Confession. Unfortunately, for many of us, the ongoing COVID-19 event has disturbed our regular rhythm of participation in this essential and saving sacrament of the Church. I would suggest—in the strongest possible way—that we all make an appointment now to participate in the Sacrament of Confession between now and the Feast of the Birth of Our Lord (Christmas, December 25).

It is, of course, our usual custom to participate in the Sacrament of Confession during the Nativity Fast (Advent), the forty-day period leading up to Christmas. However, given that some of us have not participated in the Sacrament of Confession is quite a long time, it would be appropriate not to wait for the beginning of the Nativity Fast, and to make out appointment now, without any further delay. (Note: The Nativity Fast begins each year on November 15.) So, please, contact me, at your earliest convenience, so that we can get an appointment for you into the calendar, and then prepare ourselves to participate in the essential and saving Sacrament of Confession.

More Notes from Fr. John: The Nativity Fast (Advent) calls us to fast, pray, and be charitable

Dearly Beloved: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Each year, during the forty days between November 15 and December 25, Orthodox Christians keep the Nativity Fast (Advent), a fasting season meant to prepare us for the celebration of Christmas: The Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

We should be praying and thinking about how we are going to keep the Nativity Fast. We are called during the Fast to fast, pray, and do acts of self-sacrificial service in order to prepare ourselves, physically and spiritually, for the celebration of Christmas.

To fast means to live with self-discipline, keeping the moral and ethical teachings of the Church, saying “No” to some aspects of life, so that we are free to say “Yes” to more important things. We often reduce the concept of fasting to modifications of our diet, restricting the types and amounts of food that we consume. And, while fasting obediently in this way is important (because being careful about what we eat purifies the body and, thus, has beneficial spiritual effects upon us), fasting can be something broader. Too often, we not only over-consume food (thus, being gluttonous), but we, also, over-consume other things, too, especially in the “consumer society” in which we dwell. We should be limiting our consumption of many things in order to free ourselves to have more Godly and fruitful lives. Let’s decide to be more disciplined, and, thus, better disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

To pray means much more than to “think about God” or to “remember God.” Prayer is a specific act in which we stand consciously in the presence of God. In that presence we worship God, we seek communion with God, and we ask God to bless us (and all others!) as He sees fit and as He knows best. Liturgical worship in Church is a form of prayer, no doubt. However, we must pray ourselves, on our own, in our own places. We place ourselves in the presence of God, consciously and physically. Such is prayer. Sometimes, we are tempted to dismiss the formal saying of prayers as “artificial” or “mechanical,” but such formal prayer—that is, the careful praying of prayers from memory or from a prayer book—can be so much more than that. We cannot possibly know what formal prayer can be until we do it, carefully and consistently, over many days and weeks, day after day. Sometimes, quite literally, we must force ourselves to pray. Prayer is difficult, not least of all because the Adversary (the Devil) knows the power of prayer, and, therefore, the Adversary seeks to put obstacles in our way to prevent us from praying. We often speak about prayer. We often ask others to pray for us. We even promise to pray for others. What must happen, however, is this: We must pray in a real, concrete, and organized fashion. We must stand in the presence of God, with humility, gratitude and attention, and say our prayers. Prayer can be ever so powerful, so, let’s pray!

To do charity means, first and foremost, that we give, self-sacrificially, of our money and our material possessions to meet the true needs of others. It, also, means that we make the effort to notice the needs of others. The charitable person “pays attention.” If we are charitable, we work hard to see and to anticipate the needs of others, and to do all that we can do to meet those needs. At Christmas, often called “the season of giving,” let’s give, charitably and cheerfully.

The Nativity Fast (Advent) is a time to renew ourselves as Christian people, as people of prayer, discipline, and kindness. Let’s not miss the opportunity.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

News and Notes

NEXT WEEKEND: Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 AM: Next weekend the clocks “fall back,” so let’s remember to adjust our clocks appropriately before turning in for the night on Saturday evening.

LOOKING AHEAD: Fr. John away for Thanksgiving, November 25 and 26: Fr. John will be away from the Parish for the annual Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Annual General Meeting of the Terryville Parish, Sunday, December 12, at 12:30 PM, via video teleconference: The Annual General Meeting of the Terryville Parish, will take place, via ZOOM video teleconference, beginning at 12:30 PM, on Sunday, December 12. Further information will be made available to you about the meeting, as the date draws near.

IN THE HARTFORD PARISH: On Saturday morning, November 13, at All Saints Church, Hartford, our Pastor, Fr. John Hopko, will be baptizing a man and his two children. Please keep Christopher, and his children, Alex and Emma, in your prayers. Fr. John has been providing catechism to Christopher for many months now. (Fr. John is presently administering the Hartford Parish, while its Pastor, Fr. James Parnell, continues his military chaplaincy deployment in Africa. Fr. James is due back here in Connecticut in the early part of 2022.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 31

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 8:26-39)

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.

Scripture Readings for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 7

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (Gal. 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 8:41-56)

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and could not be healed by any one, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While Jesus was speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when Jesus came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.