

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, November 4, 2018

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

November 4th, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others, the Venerable Joannicius the Great (8th c. AD), and Saint Mercurius the Faster (14th c. AD)

The Prayer of Saint Joannicius

“O Father, my hope; O Son, my refuge; O Holy Spirit, my protection; O Holy Trinity: Glory to You!” This is the Prayer of Saint Joannicius, which is said every day in the Orthodox Church as part of the Service of Compline, which is prayed before bedtime.

It is said that Saint Joannicius used this prayer as a refrain while praying the Psalter. Saint Joannicius was a great ascetic, who spent much time in solitude, in prayer and in fasting, and who – over years and years of time spent praying them – learned all the Psalms by heart.

There are 150 Psalms, some very short, just a few verses, and some very long. The longest Psalm in the Bible, Psalm 119 (Psalm 118 in the Septuagint numbering usually used by Orthodox Christians) is 176 verses long. It is the Psalm that we chant over the Tomb of Jesus late in the evening on Great and Holy Friday, when serving the Matins of Great and Holy Saturday. It speaks of faithfulness to God’s Law, and we read it over the large icon of Jesus laying lifeless in his tomb, as a reminder that only He, and He alone, was fully and perfectly faithful to God the Father’s Will, the Law of God, even unto death.

Saint Joannicius prayed the Psalter (the entire Book of Psalms) constantly, and memorized the Psalter. We too, should pray the Psalms regularly, and work to memorize some of them.

If we regularly attend Church services, we will find that we are actually quite familiar with some Psalms that are used in the Church’s liturgical worship. For example Psalm 50/51, the Psalm of Repentance, which begins with the words, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love, according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions,” is prayed time and again during the usual cycle of services. It is included in Matins, in the 3rd Hour, at Small Compline, at memorial services and funerals, and in most private rules of prayer kept by people at home. Also, the “prokeimena” (a word which literally means “that which comes before”), which we hear before the readings of Scripture during our Church services, are all Psalm verses. Indeed, in some traditions, those parts of the service are called “the responsorial Psalm.”

Perhaps, here we might make a Prayer to Saint Joannicius: “O Holy Father Joannicius, powerful in devout and pious prayer, intercede before the Lord our God that we, too, might become strong in prayer.”

Schedule of Services

- 11/3 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by monthly Choir Rehearsal
- 11/4 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
Followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish
- 11/7 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
- 11/10 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/11 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/14 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
- 11/17 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/18 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/20 Tuesday**
Eve of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
6:15 PM – Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- 11/21 Wednesday**
Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
8:00 AM – Matins
- 11/24 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/25 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/28 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers
- 12/1 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/2 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/5 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins

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

Mary Wasula—a parishioner of the Waterbury Parish d. 10/22/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Anna Kurdeka	11/7/1997
Mary Susla	11/8/1971
Metro Maichack	11/8/2000
Tekla Dziamba	11/9/1940
Paul Duke	11/10/1949
Ekaterina Koltko	11/10/1967

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

Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering terribly in illness
Archpriest Nicholas Timpko—presently unwell
Monk John—a monk in one of our OCA monasteries; wounded by a troubled visitor
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
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
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
William "Bill" Markovich—unwell and in need of prayerful support
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
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Anna Szepeł—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Carleen—heart surgery with complications; acquaintance of C. Palleria
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Nina Gorbachev—former parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; 2nd phase non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; awaiting the possibility of a lung transplant
Carol Johnson—very, very unwell and in need of our prayerful support

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko—shut-in at home
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Juliana and the child to be born of her—Claudia Senecten's niece and her baby

Those from among us serving on active duty 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
Joshua Pcsolyar—acquaintance of the Hopkos; U.S. Army officer, helicopter pilot

Birthdays

Michael Nimchek 11/8

Please pray for Carol Johnson: Carol Johnson is unwell and is presently in Hartford Hospital. She has been hospitalized for several weeks now. She is not able to receive visitors at this time, except by appointment. ***If you would like to visit with Carol, please, check with Fr. John first!*** Please keep Carol in your prayers, fervently. Thank you.

ADVENT (THE NATIVITY FAST) BEGINS SOON!

Advent Confession Appointments—Advent begins on November 15: The Nativity Fast (Advent) lasts for the forty days from November 15 until the celebration of The Nativity (Birth) of our Lord, Christmas, on December 25. Each of us should plan to keep the Fast in an appropriate manner. Besides keeping the Fast, we should all make, prepare for, and keep an appointment to take part in the Sacrament of Personal and Private Confession. Fr. John will hear Confessions by appointment. Please contact Fr. John now to make your appointment. Thank you for your cooperation!

Advent (Nativity Fast) Vespers: As is our custom, from Thanksgiving Day on, we will celebrate Daily Vespers on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, and include during those services special hymns to prepare us for the celebration of the Feast of Christmas. Those Wednesday evenings during the Nativity Fast are: November 28, and December 5, 12 and 19. Prepare for Christmas in the best way possible—with gratitude expressed in prayer!

Choir Rehearsals during the Nativity Fast: On Saturday evenings throughout the month of December leading up to the Feast of Christmas, we will be having Choir Rehearsals following the conclusion of the Vigil service, in order to prepare for the Feast.

NEWS AND NOTES

Fr. John away from Terryville for the day, Tuesday, November 6: Fr. John will be away from Terryville for the day on Tuesday, November 6. He will be attending the pre-Advent Retreat of the CT Deanery Clergy taking place in the afternoon and evening at Saint Alexis Orthodox Church, Clinton, CT.

NEXT WEEKEND: Saint Nektarios Day celebrations at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT: Saint Nektarios of Aegina (1846 - 1920) is greatly venerated as a patron saint at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, CT, a parish that was founded 27 years ago as a missionary outreach from our parish. This year the schedule of events to mark the annual commemoration of Saint Nektarios in the Southbury parish is as follows: *On Sunday afternoon, November 11, beginning at 4:00 PM, Vespers with the Veneration of the Relics of Saint Nektarios will take place. His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, will preside at that service.* On the actual day of Saint Nektarios's annual commemoration, Friday, November 9, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in the Southbury Parish beginning at 9:30 AM. For more information about the annual commemoration of Saint Nektarios at Christ the Savior Church, please see Fr. John. (Most unfortunately, this year Fr. John has direct conflicts with both the Divine Liturgy on Friday morning and the Vespers on Sunday afternoon, and will, very sadly, not be able attend either event. However, please, do not allow this to impede you from attending and profiting from these spiritually uplifting church services.)

IN TWO WEEKS TIME: Special Basket Collection to Benefit IOCC, Sunday November 18: On Sunday, November 18, we will have a "Special Basket" Collection at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), as part of our parish's way of marking the Thanksgiving Holiday. *Is there a better way of expressing thanks for the blessings that we have received than giving to meet the needs of others?* Since 1992, IOCC has been the official humanitarian aid agency representing the charitable concern of Orthodox Christians living in North America. Since its founding, IOCC has delivered millions of dollars in service to tens of thousands of people around the globe. To learn more about IOCC, visit their website at www.iocc.org, or see Fr. John.

Fr. John away for Thanksgiving: Fr. John will be away from Terryville for Thanksgiving. He will be out of the office on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, November 21-23. (We will have Matins, as usual, on that Wednesday morning.) In the case of a true pastoral emergency requiring the ministry of a priest while Fr. John is away, please contact Fr. David Koles at 860-573-0013, or by email at frdavid@htocnb.org. Please also leave a message on our Parish's Rectory telephone voicemail. That number is 860-582-3631. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD: Special Basket Collection to Benefit our Seminaries: On Sunday, December 2, we will be having a "Special Basket" Collection at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to benefit the three seminaries of the Orthodox Church in America: Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood (Yonkers), New York; Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania; and Saint Herman's Seminary, Kodiak, Alaska. In our 2018 Parish Budget we have an expenditure line item for the support of our seminaries. This planned collection will help meet that line item. That line item is \$1270.00, which is just a bit more than one percent (1%) of our annual income budget for 2018. The Orthodox Church in America, by means of a formal resolution passed at the 16th All-American Council in Seattle in 2011, has asked every parish to pledge 1% of their annual income each year towards the support of the seminaries, and we have done so in our parish since that time. In terms of breaking down our donation between the three schools, we are planning to send 40% of our total donation to Saint Vladimir's Seminary, 40% to Saints Tikhon's Seminary, and 20% to Saint Herman's Seminary.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 4

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 2:4-10)

Brothers and Sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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.

Scripture Readings for the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 11

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 2:14-22)

Brothers and Sisters: Christ Jesus is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 10:25-37)

At that time a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."