

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

860.582.3631 • email: terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org • www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch



Sunday, November 12, 2017

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

Commemoration of Saint John the Merciful
Commemoration of Saint Nilus the Faster

Schedule of Services

- 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)
- 11/18 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/19 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/20 Monday**
Eve of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
6:15 PM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy (“Vesperal Liturgy”) for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple at Jerusalem
- 11/22 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 11/25 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 11/26 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 11/29 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 12/2 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/3 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/6 Wednesday**
Feast of Saint Nicholas
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers
- 12/9 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/10 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: These are some of the concluding paragraphs of Fr. John’s 2017 Annual Report of the Rector (Pastor). They are reproduced here in preparation for this weekend’s Annual General Meeting.

At the present time, we have three primary challenges in our Parish:

First, many of our members do not consistently attend Church services. On recent Sundays, we had less than forty people in Church for the Divine Liturgy. We have many more members than that, and we need every parishioner to regularly and faithfully attend services. We should be in Church every Sunday morning, even when we are away on duty or vacation. (There are Orthodox Churches all over the country now, and, also, it is now possible to be “virtually” present in Church every day. Some monasteries “stream” their liturgical services over the Internet on a daily basis.) Faithful, regular Church attendance is not just for the clergy, the choir, and a few “zealots.” We should know that there are members of our Parish who have probably been absent from a Sunday morning Divine Liturgy fewer times in their lifetimes than they have fingers and toes! Are some members of the Church meant to be here every Sunday, so that other members who choose to be here only on some Sundays can be assured that there is a service on the days when they choose to participate? Are some of us “providers” and others of us “consumers” of the “product” that we call “Church?” This is not correct! If we are to call ourselves a Church, we need to commit ourselves, each and every one of us, to be constantly in Church being what God made us to be—His people!

[This item continues at the bottom of page 2 of this bulletin]

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

Ida Skrip—former member of the Waterbury Parish	d. 10/8/17
Matushka Marie Kreta—Fr. John Kreta's mother	d. 10/23/17
Anatoli Demanosow—grew up in our parish	d. 11/1/17
Nadia Krawczyk—Bob Matzkevich's mother-in-law	d. 11/2/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Catherine Plasko	11/12/2002
Mikolai Sulima	11/13/2006
Xenia Shakhno	11/14/1939
Ignaty Sobestanovich	11/14/1963
Anna Wazorko	11/15/1953
Michael Myshka	11/16/1945
Paraskeva Glowa	11/17/1917
Mary Uckin	11/18/1982
John Fomenko	11/18/1998

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
Darlyne—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 ("Gina")—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
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell; now back home, but still ailing
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers

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

Birthdays

Karry Orelup	11/13
Carol Johnson	11/18
Caroline Marie Paden	11/18

[This item continues here from page 1 of this bulletin]

Second, some members of our Parish are not contributing financially to the Parish in any meaningful and significant way that can truly be seen as sustaining the life of the Parish. We have an annual expense budget of over \$135,000.00, of which the grand majority of costs must be supported by the annual giving of the faithful. (Our Parish does not have an endowment, and our present financial reserves would support the Parish for less than a year.) Many of our parishioners, with discipline and self-sacrifice, have heeded the call to support the Parish through first-portion, percentage giving ("tithing"). We have widows on limited, fixed incomes who tithe—that is they give ten percent of their income to the Church and make a personal living from the other nine-tenths of their living. However, some of us give shockingly, indeed, cringeworthy, small amounts in financial support to the Parish. If we have an income, the first expenditure we make, the first "bill" we pay, before any other expenditure we make, must be in support of Christ's Holy Church—His Body, His Presence, in and for the life of the world. Let us each ask ourselves: When I die, and when I stand, alone, before Christ Himself, what will my explanation be when He points out to me how I spent my money, how I managed my resources, and what those expenditures and decisions say about what I value most?

Third, we are losing members faster than we are replacing them. This past year we made a start to address this issue. But, at the moment we are in what some in our Parish have termed "a strategic pause." We need to continue address this issue, as God allows, guides, and blesses us to do so, going forward. It is a fact, determined over and over again by studies of this matter, that the single most effective means of Church growth is when existing members of a Church not only invite people to come with them to Church, but also make it possible for those whom they invite to accept and fulfill the invitation. Do we have the courage to say to people in our lives: "Come to Church with me this Sunday morning. I'll drive. What time should I pick you up?"

News and Notes...

Advent Confession Appointments: 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!

NEXT SUNDAY: Special Basket Collection to Benefit IOCC: On Sunday, November 19, 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.

Special Basket Collection to Benefit our Seminaries: On Sunday, December 3, 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 2017 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 (roughly) about one percent (1%) of our annual income budget for 2017. The Orthodox Church in America, by means of a formal resolution passed at the Seattle All-American Council several years ago, has asked every parish to pledge 1% of their annual income each year towards the support of the seminaries. 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.

Choir Rehearsals during the Nativity Fast: On Saturday nights 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.

Advent Vespers, Wednesday evenings in December: On Wednesday evenings in December, during the several weeks leading up to the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas), we will celebrate Daily Vespers beginning at 7:00 PM. This has been our custom for many years now and is an edifying part of our liturgical preparations to celebrate the Feast.

Annual Visit of St. Nicholas, Sunday, December 10: On Sunday, December 10, during the Coffee Hour after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, our children (with all of us!) will enjoy the Annual “Visit of St. Nicholas” to the Parish.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 12

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 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 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."

Scripture Readings for the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 19

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 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 12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."