

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 15, 2020

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Dēmétrios of Thrace (ca. 307). Ven. Paísii (Paisius) Velichkovsky (1794). “Fragrant Flower” Icon of the Mother of God.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/11/15>

Please, if you have not yet done so, read the email about the present “spike” in COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, and how it affects Parish life, which I emailed to the entire Parish on November 13. Thank you. Fr. John H.

Possibilities for Charitable Giving in this Season of Thanksgiving

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

This year, 2020, has been an unusual and uncomfortable year, and the present public health crisis will certainly affect our ability to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday in familiar and familial ways. Nevertheless, we must give thanks, everywhere and always, for all that God the Father has done for us, in Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit.

One of the best ways in which we give thanks for the ways in which we have been blessed is by sharing our blessings with others by means of self-sacrificial financial stewardship aimed at meeting the needs of others. Here are several opportunities for giving:

First, of all, we can support the work of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). Indeed, this Sunday, November 15, 2020, has been designated “Stewardship Sunday” by the Orthodox Church in America. (We can read more about that at this link: <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-encourages-support-for-stewards-of-the-oca.>)

By contributing to the Orthodox Church in America on Stewardship Sunday we create or renew our membership among the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, who financially support the departmental and program work of the Church. (Here’s the online link at which to do that: <https://www.oca.org/donate?c=Stewards%20of%20the%20OCA.>) One of the most noticeable components of the departmental and program work of the OCA is the section of the Orthodox Church in America website at which the OCA provides the liturgical texts necessary for us to pray the services of the Church. We access that material all the time in our Parish, when preparing the texts for the worship services that we pray in our Parish. To see that material on the OCA website, and to be reminded of what a wonderful and useful resource it is, please visit this link: <https://www.oca.org/liturgics>. Please, consider becoming a Steward of the Orthodox Church in America, so that the OCA can continue to provide us with these vital resources.

Another organization worthy of our support is International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). 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 <https://iocc.org/>.

There are, of course, hundreds of charities and charitable organizations worthy of our support. Do we want to find a charity that does work in a specific area of need that we find compelling? Do we feel passionate about some cause or another and desire to find an organization that does effective work in support of our chosen cause?

A useful website in this regard is Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>), which identifies itself as “your guide to intelligent giving.” The Charity Navigator website is really worth a visit, if only to be impressed by the wealth of information available there about all the different kinds of charitable organizations that exist and all the different kinds of causes on behalf of which they are working. A quick glance at the website reveals, for example, two or three causes that are much at the forefronts of our minds these days, such as charitable organizations that are working to alleviate the effects of COVID-19, others that are working to meet the needs of those affected by the recent hurricanes, and still more that are seeking to serve veterans of the armed forces. (I contacted a friend of mine who is a veteran earlier this week on Veterans Day, in order to give him my greetings and love. As we were interacting, this man said to me that he wished people would stop saying “Thank you for your service,” and, instead, would ask, “How can I help a veteran today?”)

So, Brothers and Sisters, let’s commit ourselves to giving thanks in a wonderful way, by sharing our blessings with others, who need those blessings so very, very much.

With love 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

His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (<i>retired</i>)	d. 10/19/2020
Robert (Bob)—Patty N.’s brother	d. 10/21/2020
Helen—Mat Ann S.’s sister	d. 10/11/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Theodore Senetcen	11/19/1948
Walter Pastymak	11/19/1974
infant Alec Jon Omichinski	11/19/1993
Olga Kowal	11/19/2013

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) 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
Darlyne—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
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recent minor surgery
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
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 O.; battling breast cancer
Mary—relative of Mike L.; requesting prayers for health
Simone—relative of Mike L.; requesting prayers for health
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; 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
Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer
Christopher—friend of Kathy Mihailoff; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim Liverman; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
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
Jacob—Fr. John’s nephew (and his family); doing well, but still in quarantine

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
Maryellen—an acquaintance of Carolyn P.; resident in long-term care

New Mother and their New Babies

Nadia and the child Stella Airi born of her—Nadia is Rich and Laura K.’s daughter

Expectant Mothers

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 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 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
Ian H.—Fr. David K.’s son-in-law; preparing for overseas deployment, U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

Confession Appointments, during the Nativity Fast (Advent)

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

It is considered a normal part of our journeys through the fasting seasons of the Church that we would participate in the saving sacrament of Holy Confession. Obviously, this is a difficult and vexing time, as we continue to journey through what we might well call “COVID-time.” Nevertheless, I would ask that every parishioner, please, contact me to discuss the matter of participation in the sacraments of the Church. We need to determine what is possible in this regard for every member of the Parish. (Perhaps, we will only be able to meet virtually, in cyberspace, or by phone, but we must be in contact.) This is of vital and increasing importance, not in spite of the present public health crisis, but because of it.

We are all making efforts, even in this difficult time, to have our most important needs met. We are accessing our materials needs, such as for groceries and other items. Many of us are, also, accessing medical and dental care at this time. If we are meeting those important needs, we should, also, be making sure to meet our deepest need—the need for continuing connection to Jesus Christ and His Church. The things of this world will pass away, but the eternal things of God are everlasting, and the sacraments of the Church connect us to eternity.

Please, do be in touch with me. Also, please know that I will be reaching out to you.

With love, and hope, and prayers,

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

News and Notes

The Nativity Fast begins this Sunday, November 15: The Nativity Fast, sometimes called Advent, begins on Sunday, November 15, and lasts for the 40 days until the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) on December 25. This is a time of fasting and prayer in preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Right now, of course, we are living through a public health crisis, which impacts our ability to have as full an expression of parish life as we might prefer. However, this does not mean that we cannot or should not keep the Nativity Fast. We should, certainly, be doing everything that we can to mark and keep the fast, and to prepare ourselves, accordingly, for the celebration of Christmas, the Saving Birth of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

BIBLE STUDY – THIS WEEK ON THURSDAY EVENING! Bible Study Sessions Continue on This Week: We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. However, this week we will meet on Thursday evening from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, because Fr. John and Deacon Paul need to participate in a quarterly Diocesan Council meeting on Tuesday evening. We will be continuing our reading and discussion of the Letter to the Galatians.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services: Due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 here in our area, we have made the choice to limit in-person activities at the Church. **This means that, for now, we are suspending our in-person Wednesday morning Matins services.** We will replace that service with an on-line gathering for worship and prayer. Watch your email inbox for details.

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 a 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.

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 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 15

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 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."