

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 21, 2021

Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/11/21>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Sunday afternoon, November 21, 12:30 PM, Online General Meeting of the Waterbury Parish:** On Sunday afternoon, November 21, beginning at 12:30 PM, there will be an online (“virtual”) meeting the entire membership of the Waterbury Parish.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 24, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Thursday, November 25, is Thanksgiving Day:** Thursday, November 25, is Thanksgiving Day, so we will not have our usual Thursday night Bible Study that day. May we all give thanks to God for all the ways in which He has blessed us.
- **(Note: Fr. John will be away on November 25 and November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.)**
- **Saturday evening Vigil, November 27, 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 28, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, December 1, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, December 2, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, December 2. (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, December 4, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, December 5, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Monday morning, December 6, Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, 9:00 AM, Prayer Service:** On Monday, December 6, the Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, at 9:00 AM, we will serve a Service of Prayer to Saint Nicholas. (Holy Father Nicholas, pray to God for us!)
- **Tuesday evening, December 7, 7:00 PM, ONLINE, Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council:** The Terryville Parish Council will hold their December monthly meeting at 7:00 PM, Tuesday evening, December 7, via video teleconference (ZOOM).

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

Maria Oraschewsky—our fellow parishioner d. 11/1/21
Marian Klatt Markovich McIlvin—spouse of former parishioner d. 11/3/21

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Maxim Vavriniak 11/22/1945
Mary Wandzilak 11/22/1960
Joseph Kowaleski 11/23/1987
Philip Kowsher 11/25/1949
William Kablesch 11/25/1984
Vasily Senetcen 11/26/1926
Christine Homsevich 11/26/1931
Elena Homsevich 11/26/1931
Iosephat Dziamba 11/26/1960
Michael Duke 11/27/1960
Konstanty Kisiel 11/27/2000

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
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.—W'bury 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 leukemia
child Zoe—appendicitis; at request of Deb. W.

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.
Courtney and the son newly born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s family

Expectant Mothers

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

Newly Illumined through Holy Baptism and Chrismation

Christopher and his children, Alex and Emma

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

Richard and Laura K. (until 11/20)

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 this coming week

George Wegh 11/22
Nicholas Tichon 11/27

News and Notes

Happy Thanksgiving to all! May God bless us with gratitude and hope!

A Thanksgiving Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, we give thanks for Your loving kindness and all the blessings that You have richly poured out upon us. We fall down in worship and adoration before You, the King of Glory. We praise You, we glorify You, we bless You, and we give thanks to You for Your great goodness and tender mercy. To You we come, our sweet Lord and loving Master: Shine in our hearts the light of Your grace. Enlighten our minds, that we may walk righteously throughout all the days of our life by keeping Your commandments; for glorified and exalted is Your holy name, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More News and Notes

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.

General Meeting of the Waterbury Parish, Sunday, November 21, at 12:30 PM, via video and voice teleconference: The full membership of the Waterbury Parish will meet virtually on Sunday, November 21, beginning at 12:30 PM, via video and voice teleconference, to discuss matters necessary to the legal and canonical consolidation of the Waterbury and Terryville Parishes. A notice via email has been sent out to the members of the Waterbury Parish, and a mailed notice will follow via USPS.

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.

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. 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.

THIS SUNDAY, November 21: Special Basket Collection to Benefit IOCC, Sunday November 21: On this Sunday, November 21, 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.

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple at Jerusalem

Commemorated each year on November 21

The second great feast of the Theotokos, after the celebration of her nativity (birth), is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple. This feast is commemorated on November 21, each year. Like the feast of her nativity, this feast of Mary is without direct biblical and historical reference. However, like the nativity, it is a feast filled with important spiritual significance for the Christian believer.

The texts of the service tells how Mary was brought as a small child to the temple by her parents in order to be raised there among the virgins consecrated to the service of the Lord until the time of their betrothal in marriage. According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to be "nourished" there by the angels in order to become herself the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her.

The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance to the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the living temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence. (Ezekiel 37:27; John 14:15-23; Acts 7:47; II Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Peter 2:4; Revelation 22:1-4)

Thus, the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is the feast which celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. When the child Mary enters the temple, the time of the temple comes to an end and the "preview of the good will of God" is shown forth. On this feast we celebrate—in the person of Christ's mother—that we too are the house and tabernacle of the Lord.

... We are the temple of the living God, as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (II Corinthians 6: 11; Isaiah 52)

This article "Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple" is a much shortened adaptation of the article of the same name authored by Fr. Thomas Hopko, which appears among the education materials that are available for reading on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America, www.oca.org

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews

Brethren: the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"