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

Schedule of Services

11/24 Sunday – *23rd Sunday after Pentecost*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

11/27 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

11/30 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

12/1 Sunday – *24th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

12/2 Monday
7:00 PM – Terryville Parish Council Meeting

12/4 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

12/6 Friday – *Feast of St. Nicholas*
9:00 AM – Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving

12/7 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

12/8 Sunday – *25th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
"Visit of Saint Nicholas"

12/11 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

12/13 Friday – *Feast of St. Herman of Alaska*
9:00 AM – Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving

12/14 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

12/15 Sunday – *26th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

12/18 Wednesday
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

12/21 Saturday
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal

12/22 Sunday – *27th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, November 24, 2019

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

Post-Feast of the Entrance
of the Theotokos into the Temple

Annually on November 24th we commemorate, among others, the Greatmartyr Catherine and the Greatmartyr Mercurius

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Two Thanksgiving Prayers

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.

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the God of boundless mercies and compassion, Whose love for us is indescribable and immeasurable: We fall down in worship before Your glory with fear and trembling, as we offer You thanks for all the good things You have granted us, Your unworthy servants. We glorify You, we praise You, and we sing to You, the only Lord, our Master and Benefactor. Again, falling down before You, we offer thanks to You for Your ineffable and inexpressible compassion; and we pray that, from this day forth, as before, You continue to work Your wonders for us, so that we may grow in love for You, and cry out and sing praises to You, and to Your eternal Father, and Your life-giving Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Please support our Parish's Annual Christmas Appeal, now being distributed! (Extra Appeal response envelopes are available at the Candle Desk in the Church Narthex.) Thank you, for your kind support!

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

Anna Osuch—John's sister; a former parishioner	d. 11/10/19
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother	d. 11/7/19
Charles F.—a man associated with the Waterbury Parish	d. 11/7/19
Don Norton—acquaintance of the Nimcheks	d. 11/5/19
Leonid—an acquaintance of Lenna Massicotte	d. 11/2/19
Vera Hudobenko—member of the Waterbury Parish	d. 11/1/19
Marcel—Lenna Massicotte's father-in-law	d. 10/27/19
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother	d. 10/23/19
Nadia—an acquaintance of Fr. John and Macrina	d. 10/22/19

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Philip Kowsher	11/25/1949
William Kablesh	11/25/1984
Vasilly 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
Anna Delendik	11/28/1929
Panteleimon Dziamba	11/28/1931
Olga Wrettick	11/29/1966
Stephen Kablesh	11/29/1992
Procopy Chervoniak	11/30/1956

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
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
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; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Boyd—at request of C. Serev; ill and in need of prayers
Cheryl—at request of C. Serev; ill and in need of prayers
Cherilyn—at request of C. Serev; ill and in need of prayers
Charyn—at request of C. Serev; ill and in need of prayers
Charisse—at request of C. Serev; for strength and comfort in bearing of burdens
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Mat. Cindy Voytovich—facing worrying health challenges at this time
Barbara—friend of Jack Kriniske; hip replacement surgery followed by complications
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—facing serious health challenges at this time
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage
Helen—friend of Anna Marie Boruch; suffering in illness
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; increasing health challenges
Anna Szepel—suffered a fall; now in a rehabiltation facility
Mark—a profound diabetic that we have been asked to pray for
Heather—an acquaintance of C. Palleria; battling significant health challenges
Crystal—Heather's twin sister; now facing similar health challenges as Heather's
Steven—Barbara Simard's son; still in the hospital, very seriously ill
Steven—Cynthia Belonick's father; recently increasingly unwell
Elena Watras—recovering after knee joint replacement surgery
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer
Michael Nimchek—unwell this past week

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

Alice and the child to be born of her
Yesenia and the child to be born of her—Yesenia is Jayne Grasso's daughter-in-law

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

Maria Oraschewsky
And all those traveling during this holiday season

Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now home from Afghanistan!

Birthdays

Nicholas Tichon—Joanne's son 11/27

News and Notes

PLACE YOUR ORDERS! Christmas Cookie Fundraiser: The Sisterhood is organizing a Christmas Cookie Fundraiser again this year. As before, three dozen fancy Christmas cookies will be gift-wrapped on a tray for $20.00. These festive cookies may be used for entertaining, or would make great gifts. ***If you would like to order a tray of cookies, please sign up on the list provided for that purpose.*** There are, of course, a limited amount of these trays, so sign up promptly, please.

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 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!

THIS WEEKEND: Special Basket Collection to Benefit IOCC, Sunday November 24: This weekend, on Sunday, November 24, 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.

Items needed for Holiday Food Distribution: The Plymouth Community Food Pantry (housed in our Community Center) is seeking donations of the following food items to distribute at Thanksgiving and Christmas: Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing Mix, and Gravy Packets. If you purchase and bring these items to Church, we can get them over to the Food Pantry. Thanks for your consideration.

More News and Notes

Pre-Christmas Choir Rehearsals: The Choir will have rehearsals between Thanksgiving and Christmas on all the Saturday evenings following Vigil. Those Saturday evenings are November 30, and December 7, 14, and 21. (Thanks, Choir, for your ministry of music. God bless you!)

Advent (Nativity Fast) Vespers: As is our custom, from Thanksgiving Day on until Christmas, 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: December 4, 11 and 18. Prepare for Christmas in the best way possible—with gratitude expressed in prayer!

THIS WEEK! Expert to Assess Wooden Carved Icon of Saints Cyril and Methodius: This week an expert in the restoration of wooden items (furniture, architectural elements, and carvings), will be coming to the Church on Monday to assess the large wooden carved icon of Saints Cyril and Methodius that we recently had removed from the front exterior façade of the Church building. The man's name is Serge Plante and he runs a business bearing his own name in Thomaston, CT. His website is https://www.sergeplanterestoration.com. We will be asking Mr. Plante to assess what needs to be done and, if he so desires, to provide us with a bid for accomplishing the work. We are blessed to have found such an expert locally. The other nearest such artisans (specialists in the restoration of wooden items) that we were able to identify are located in the Boston, New York, and Philadelphia metropolitan areas.

NEXT SUNDAY: Special Basket Collection to Benefit our Seminaries, Sunday, December 1: On Sunday, December 1, 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, Yonkers, New York; Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania; and Saint Herman's Seminary, Kodiak, Alaska. In our 2019 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 about one percent (1%) of our annual income budget for 2019. 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 Saint Tikhon's Seminary, and 20% to Saint Herman's Seminary.

Thank You Note Received: Recently our parish made a charitable donation to the Cody Family of Terryville to help them meet the requirements of their daughter Jordan's medical care, as she faces serious illness. This week we received a kind note from Jordan Cody herself, thanking us for our care and support. That note is posted on one of the bulletin boards in the Parish Basement Social Hall.

LOOKING AHEAD: December Parish Council Meeting, Monday, December 2: The December Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, December 2, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church Basement Social Hall, as usual. This is the last meeting of the 2019 Parish Council. The Year 2020 Parish Council will begin its work in January. *(Please be reminded that our Parish Council meetings are "open" meetings. Any interested member of the Parish may attend our Council meetings, though, of course, voting privileges are accorded only to those who are presently duly elected and installed members of the Council.)*

LOOKING AHEAD: The Annual "Visit of St. Nicholas", Sunday, December 8: On Sunday, December 8, 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.

An Orthodox Christian Christmas Concert: Three Saints Orthodox Church, 26 Howard Avenue, Ansonia, CT, 06401, on Sunday afternoon, December 8, beginning at 4:00 PM, will present a Christmas Concert entitled *"Christmas: From the Village to the Cathedral."* The concert will benefit Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and will feature three groups: The Sheehan Family Singers, the St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir, and the Saint Tikhon's Monastery Mixed Choir. There is no admission fee, but freewill donations to support the work of Saints Tikhon's Seminary will be gratefully accepted. If you send a significant "event sponsorship" gift of $100.00 or more to Three Saints Church in advance of the concert, your name will be listed in the event program as a valued sponsor. (Sponsorship Levels are: Level 1 - $1000.00; Level 2 - $500.00; Level 3 - $200.00; and Level 4 - $100.00).

LOOKING AHEAD: Christmas Services here in the Terryville Parish: On Monday, December 23, at 7:00 PM, we will serve Small Compline with the reading of the entirety of the Infancy Narratives from the Holy Gospels according to Saint Luke and Saint Matthew. On Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 pm, we will serve the Vigil of Christmas, followed by our Parish "Holy Supper." On Wednesday, December 25, beginning at 9:15 AM, we will serve the Festal Divine Liturgy for Christmas Day.

Weather Related Cancellations: If we need to cancel parish services and/or other events due to bad weather, those announcements will appear on NBC Connecticut Television and on the NBC Connecticut Internet web-site. We will, also, send out an email to the Parish email group and post an announcement on the Parish website. Finally, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information. *(NOTE: If you need to have your email address added to the Parish email group, please contact Fr. John.)*

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 24

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 13:10-17)

At that time Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Scripture Readings for the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, this year December 1

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 18:18-27)

At that time: a ruler of the synagogue asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: `Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."