

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

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Schedule of Services

- 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**
5:30 PM – Memorial Service for
Departed Members of the Guba Family
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/2 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
Followed by the Annual "Visit of Saint Nicholas"
- 12/3 Monday**
7:00 PM – Monthly Parish Council Meeting
- 12/5 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers
- 12/6 Thursday**
Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
9:00 AM – Service of Prayer to St. Nicholas
- 12/8 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/9 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/12 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers
- 12/13 Thursday**
Feast of St. Herman of Alaska
9:00 AM – Service of Prayer to St. Herman
- 12/15 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 12/16 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/19 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins
7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

Sunday, November 25, 2018

The 26th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1

**Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entrance
of the Theotokos into the Temple**

November 25th, annually, is the date of the commemoration of, among others, the Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (1st c. AD) and Saint Clement of Ochrid (d. 916 AD)

Saint Clement, Pope of Rome

Saint Clement was one of the earliest Christian bishops of Rome. It is said that he was consecrated for this ministry by the Apostle Peter himself. In some of the earliest sources that we have, Saint Clement is listed as having served as the head of the Roman Church from 88 AD to 99 AD. He died a martyr's death.

Notably, we have one document extant today that was almost certainly written by Saint Clement. Today it is referred to as the *First Epistle of Clement*. It was written by Clement from Rome in Italy to the Christians of the city of Corinth in Greece. It was probably written in about the year 96 AD. Here is Chapter 49, from that First Epistle of Clement:

Let him who has love in Christ keep the commandments of Christ. Who can describe the [blessed] bond of the love of God? What man is able to tell the excellence of its beauty, as it ought to be told? The height to which love exalts is unspeakable. Love unites us to God. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love beareth all things, is long-suffering in all things. There is nothing base, nothing arrogant in love. Love admits of no schisms: love gives rise to no seditions: love does all things in harmony. By love have all the elect of God been made perfect; without love nothing is well-pleasing to God. In love has the Lord taken us to Himself. On account of the Love he bore us, Jesus Christ our Lord gave His blood for us by the will of God; His flesh for our flesh, and His soul for our souls.

Holy Father Clement, pray to God for us!

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

Prdn, Dennis and Helen Lucak—died in tragic circumstances d. 11/11/18
John—Deacon Gregory Curran's father-in-law d. 11/24/18
John—a person for whom we have been asked to pray d. 11/24/18
Fred Thomas "Tom" Senetcen—Paul's brother d. 11/6/18
Marguerite—Kathy Mihailoff's 103 year-old aunt d. 10/27/2018
Mary Wasula—a parishioner of the Waterbury Parish d. 10/22/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Anna Delendik 11/28/1929
Panteleimon Dziamba 11/28/1931
Olga Wrettick 11/29/1966
Stephen Kablesch 11/29/1992
Procop Chervoniak 11/30/1956
(Matushka) Olga Kiryluk 12/1/2003

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
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 Szepel—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
Arthur James "A.J." Brauer—Food Pantry volunteer; awaiting heart surgery
Carol Johnson—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

Travelers, those soon to be traveling, and those apart from us

Elena and Jim Watras

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—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer, helicopter pilot

Birthdays

Nicholas Tichon—Joanne's son

11/27

PARISH HOLY SUPPER: Christmas Eve, after Vigil

Immediately following the conclusion of the Vigil of Christmas on Christmas Eve, there will be a "bring-and-share" Holy Supper in the Church Basement Hall. While many families have household events then, others are pleased to gather at the Church at that time for this traditional meal.

If you are planning to participate in the Parish Holy Supper, please sign up on the sheet posted in the Church Basement indicating what you will be bringing so that we might then ensure that all needs are met for the Holy Supper. Suggestions are included on the sign-up sheet as to foods and other items that are needed for the Supper. If you have any questions about this, please see Fr. John.

NEWS AND NOTES

Parish Sisterhood Christmas Cookie Fundraiser: We have been asked to remind all those many people who have agreed to bake and provide cookies for the Parish Sisterhood Christmas Cookie Fundraiser that the organizers would like to put together the cookie trays on Saturday, December 8. That means that all the cookies being baked and provided need to be brought to Church by no later than that morning, December 8. For further information, please contact Laura Koski or Patty Nimchek, directly.

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 website. 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.)*

Advent Confession Appointments—Advent began 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 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.

Annual “Visit of St. Nicholas”, Sunday, December 2: On Sunday, December 2, 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.

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.

December Parish Council Meeting, Monday, December 3: The December Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, December 3, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church Basement Social Hall, as usual. This is the last meeting of the 2018 Parish Council. The Year 2019 Parish Council will begin its work in January. (Those newly elected to the 2019 Parish Council are certainly invited to attend this last meeting of the 2018 Council, if they so desire.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 25

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 5:9-19)

Brothers and Sisters: Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

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 27th Sunday after Pentecost, this year December 2

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 6:10-17)

Brothers and Sisters: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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."