

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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Sunday, December 19, 2021 – Tone 1

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Sunday before the Nativity. Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aglæ (Aglaída) of Rome (290). Ven. Ilya (Elias) of Murom, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1188). Martyrs Elias, Probus, and Ares in Cilicia (308). St. Boniface the Merciful, Bishop of Ferentino (6th c.). St. Gregory, Archbishop of Omirits (ca. 552).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/12/19>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Wednesday morning Matins, December 22, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
 - **Wednesday, December 22, 7:00 PM:** Pre-Feast Vespers, with the singing of pre-festal hymns.
 - **Thursday, December 23, 7:00 PM:** Small Compline with the Reading of the entire Infancy Narratives from the Gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke.
 - **Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM:** Christmas Vigil.
 - **Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9:15 AM:** Festal Divine Liturgy.
 - **Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil, with Christmas elements included in the service.
 - **Sunday, December 26, Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos, 9:15 AM:** Divine Liturgy, with Christmas elements included in the service.
 - **Wednesday morning Matins, December 29, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
 - **Saturday evening Vigil, January 1, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
 - **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, January 2, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
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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

Archpriest Igor Soroka—prominent priest and Church musician d. 12/18/21
John—a relative (through marriage) of Fr. John H. d. 12/18/21
Michael—associated with Hartford Parish, a young man, victim of cancer d. 12/18/21
Eugenia "Jean" Mickewich, who was Arthur Charkowsky's sister d. 12/13/21
John A.—husband of Claudia A. of the W'bury Parish d. 12/8/12
Mat. Anne Pawlush—wife of past Pastor, Fr. George Pawlush d. 12/7/21
Sophie (Sonia) Ozerov—Fr. John's great aunt d. 12/2/21
Lorraine Lucien—former parishioner in Waterbury Parish d. 11/19/21

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Johanna Slawnyj 12/19/2009
Dorella Panasuk 12/20/2007
Anna Mislecheff 12/21/1922
John Virovoy 12/21/1961
Tamara Oraschewsky 12/22/2015
Eve Stashenko 12/23/2015
Andrew Yakowitz 12/25/1955
Philip Uckin 12/25/1964
Nicholas Hriceniak 12/25/1975

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
Darilyne—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; health challenges and recently widowed
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
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
Louis—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 surgery
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

Expectant Mothers

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

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

And all those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us, especially in this holiday season

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

Joel Kowaleski 12/22

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Once again this Christmas, we face odd circumstances. We are still vexed by the COVID-19 event, and are not necessarily in agreement—being mere, fallible human beings—about how to respond to it, even within the Church, even among and with fellow Christians.

However, this we know, and of this we are convinced: We can depend, always, on God, Our Heavenly Father, and we can depend, always, on His unending love for us. In the Scriptures, again and again, we read about how God never forgets, how He always remembers us, how He is always faithful to us. We sometimes forget God, but He never forgets us. And "in the fullness of time" He sends His Son, Our Lord Jesus, to save us from our sins.

With the Psalmist, we cry out, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Lord, we call upon You! Hear us, O Lord! Hear us, now at Christmas, as we celebrate Your Birth! Lord, have mercy!

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. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

More Prayers Requested: A number of people recently diagnosed with COVID-19 have asked our prayers, specifically. Please, remember all those suffering with COVID-19, and all those working to alleviate their suffering. Thank you. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

A Note of Thanks at Christmas...

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

We wish to thank all those who are remembering us during this Christmas season with kind and generous gifts and greetings. We are deeply, deeply grateful for the privilege and blessing of being part of this Orthodox Christian community! Thank you, very much.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John, Macrina, and Family

Help Fr. John Edit the Prayer List

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the beginning of the New Year upcoming, please, help me to edit the Prayer List. We would like to review the Prayer List and, perhaps, choose to remove some of the names of persons who have been on the list for months and months, whose conditions may have now stabilized to the point where they can be prayed for under the all-inclusive heading of “and all those who are in need of prayers,” rather than still being listed, specifically and individually, by name on the list.

If you are the person who has asked for a name to be included on the Prayer List, and you know that the person in question is now stable, please, do consider asking Fr. John to remove that person’s name from the prayer list.

The section of the Prayer List designated “for those who are sick and suffering” should be reserved for those who are acutely ill, facing significant difficulties, right now, in the present moment. Please, let’s all work together to edit the Prayer List in a good and responsible way. Thank you!

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday before Christmas and the Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord

The Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

Brethren: By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated--of whom the world was not worthy--wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 1:1-25)

THE BOOK of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of She-alti-el, and She-alti-el the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanu-el" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.