

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, December 20, 2020

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908). Sunday before the Nativity. Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). Ven. Ignatii (Ignatius), Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1435). St. Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch (323). St. Daniel II, Archbishop of Serbia (1338).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/12/20>

THE ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS APPEALS

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Usually, at this time of year, we conduct an Annual General Christmas Appeal, and an Annual Christmas Flower Appeal. However, it is an unusual year, and we will not be conducting those two Appeals in the usual way this year. Usually, the Annual General Christmas Appeal serves to supplement the General Fund of the Church, which is the primary repository of money that we use to pay the basic requirements of Parish life. This is the money we use to “keep the lights on.” On the other hand, the Annual Christmas Flower Appeal is an appeal that serves to raise funds for the decoration of the Church at Christmas-time. Even with the limited services we are having, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas this year. The floral arrangements will not be quite as extensive as they usually are, but we will have poinsettias in Church, in some abundance, and others flowers, too, especially decorating the Icon of the Feast.

If you would like to contribute to either or both of these Appeals, even as we are not having them in the usual way, you may do so by making a check out to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, and specifying in the memo line of that check the intended purpose of your donation, in this case, either the General Christmas Appeal or the Christmas Flower Appeal. Once you have made out your check you may send it to: Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Attn: Christmas Appeals, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT, 06786-6329.

If, however, you don’t wish to write or send a check, you may always donate at the online portal set up for that purpose on our Parish Website. That PayPal portal can be reached at this “clickable” link: <https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>.

Thanks for considering contributing to our Christmas Appeals. May God bless you in this season, and may you and yours enjoy a safe and healthy holiday season.

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

Patriarch IRINEJ of Serbia—head of the Serbian Orthodox Church	d. 11/20/2020
His Eminence, Archbishop David of Alaska	d. 11/27/2020
Luke H.—son of Fr. Steven and Mat. Anne H.	d. 12/17/2020
Maryann Kendall—well-known lay person in the CT Deanery	d. 12/16/2020
Mary Ellen Zobbi—wife of Robert Zobbi, of the Waterbury Parish	d. 12/12/2020
Madeline “Maddie” Bell—Terryville H.S. student, tragically killed	d. 11/13/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Harry Kanot	12/26/1952

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

Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness
Archpriest John—Fr. John H.’s uncle through marriage; cancer
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 injury to hand
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
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 M.; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim L.; 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
Wayne—Donna O.’s father
Vickie—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray
Sam—Vickie’s husband, struggling with multiple health issues
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray
Sue—friend of Macrina H.; quite unwell at this time
Jody—Jacob J.’s father; recovering from significant back surgery
Helen—acquaintance of Helena G; in long-term care
Candace—acquaintance of Helena G; in need of prayers
Elaine H.—hip replacement surgery upcoming in January; our fellow parishioner
David B.—recovering from a medical procedure; has asked our prayers

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

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 officer and 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

Joel Kowaleski	12/22
Roland Oscar Joseph Massicotte	12/26

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

News and Notes

Christmas Worship Services: We will be serving the Festal Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25, and on the Sunday after Christmas, December 27. Christmas Vigil will be served virtually, as an online event, on Christmas Eve. We may, also, serve a Christmas Eve Prayer Service in the Church during the day on December 24. Exact details about these services will be shared via email this week, ahead of these events. If you have questions or concerns, please, contact Fr. John H. via email or by phone. Thank you.

Congratulations and “Many Years”: We congratulate Subdeacon Joseph Boruch, who was elevated to the subdiaconate last Sunday, December 13, 2020, at Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Cotuit, Massachusetts (on “the Cape”), where Subdeacon Joseph and his wife, Annie, are now members. May God grant the newly elevated Subdeacon Joseph many fruitful years of service to Christ’s Holy Church. For many years, before relocating to Cape Cod, Subdeacon Joseph and Annie were faithful members of Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, Waterbury.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services, via “Zoom”, at 8:00 a.m.: 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 have replaced that in-person service with an on-line gathering for worship and prayer, Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. Watch your email inbox for details.

Bible Study – Via “Zoom,” Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This Tuesday, we will be continuing our reading and discussion of the First Letter to the Corinthians. Each week is an event unto itself, so, please, even if you haven’t joined us before, feel free to join us now...this week.

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: *First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart*. 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. Lawrence has written a whole series of accessible commentaries on parts of the Bible. In particular, his commentaries are written to be appreciated by and useful to Orthodox Christian lay people.

Support from the Parish: If you require financial or pastoral 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. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity. **Don’t be shy: If you need help, please, do contact Fr. John.**

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 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.