

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 23, 2018

The 30th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

The Sunday before Christmas

December 23rd annually is the commemoration of, among others, the Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete

Schedule of Services

- 12/23 Sunday**
The Sunday before Christmas
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/24 Monday**
Christmas Eve
4:00 PM – Vigil of Christmas
Followed by our Parish "Holy Supper"
- 12/25 Tuesday**
Christmas: The Nativity of Our Lord
9:15 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy
- 12/29 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 12/30 Sunday**
The Sunday after Christmas
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 12/31 Monday**
Eve of the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ
Eve of the Feast of St. Basil the Great
Civil New Year's Eve
7:00 PM – Vespers with Prayers
for the New Year
- 1/2 Wednesday**
The Feast of Saint Seraphim of Sarov and
The Feast of Saint Juliana of Lazarevo
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/5 Saturday**
Eve of the Feast of Theophany
6:00 PM – Festal Vigil
- 1/6 Sunday**
Feast of Theophany: The Commemoration
of the Baptism of our Lord
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
With the Rite of The Great Blessing of the Water
- 1/9 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/12 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/13 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 1/16 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

A Reminder about Christmas: The word “Christmas” is a compound word originating in the phrase “Christ’s Mass.” Mass is an alternative word for what we call the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church, so the word Christmas tells us that the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord is a day when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy in obedience to Our Lord, Jesus Christ’s command that we “do this in remembrance of Me.” Let us all make absolutely sure that we will be in Church to celebrate Christmas (Christ’s Mass/Liturgy), on time, and prepared appropriately to participate in Holy Communion.

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

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

John—Deacon Gregory Curran's father-in-law d. 11/24/18
John Sobestanovich—Fr. John presided at this man's funeral d. 11/24/18
Mary Rozum—a former parishioner of the Waterbury Parish d. 11/24/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

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
Joseph Pawelchak 12/27/1972

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
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
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
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications

William "Bill" Markovich—unwell and in need of prayerful support
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
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Anna Szepele—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
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; recent heart surgery
Glen Sheets—Jennifer Wegh's uncle; severe heart related issues
Carol Johnson—still 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

Expectant Mothers

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

Those traveling and soon to be traveling

Mat. Ann Sovyrda
And all those traveling during the holiday season

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

Roland Oscar Joseph Massicotte—Lenna's son 12/26
Nina Dubnansky—John's wife 12/29

Request for Prayers

Fr. John has a niece, Marina (Thetford) Djoric. Marina's husband, Stefan Djoric, a final-year student at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, is being ordained to the holy diaconate this Sunday, December 23. Please keep Stefan and Marina, and their families, in your prayers. Also, on this Sunday, December 23, Fr. John's newest great-nephew, Gabriel, is being baptized. Please keep Gabriel and his family in your prayers.

Help Fr. John Edit the Prayer List

With the beginning of the New Year upcoming, please, help us 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 and dangerously ill, especially those facing or approaching death. Please, let's all work together to edit the Prayer List in a good and responsible way. Thank you!

NEWS AND NOTES

THIS COMING WEEK – Fr. John away for the day, Thursday, December 27: On Thursday, December 27, Fr. John will be out of town and away for the day.

THIS COMING WEEK – Youth Gathering and Christmas Party, Friday evening, December 28: On Friday evening, December 28, the fast-free Friday following the Feast of Christmas, there will be a Youth Gathering and Christmas Party at All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT, beginning at 6:30 pm, with a worship service and continuing with a meal, education, and fellowship. All youth between the ages of 11 and 17 are invited to participate in this event.

Financial Secretary Required: Unfortunately, due to changes in his employment status, it is now difficult for Tim Osuch, our Parish Financial Secretary, to fulfill his duties. So, we are looking for a parishioner who would be willing to take on that administrative position in our parish. Duties of the Financial Secretary include keeping track of and acknowledging all financial donations, and helping the Parish Treasurer with his duties. One important task fulfilled by the Financial Secretary is assisting the Treasurer with the processing of the Sunday morning collections. This is done during the Coffee Social Hour that follows the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings. Mark Orelup, our dedicated and faithful Treasurer, has been doing this task on his own lately, and that is not a “best practice.” Mark really must be assisted by a second person. Thanks for your consideration of this request. Our parish life depends upon the free-will offerings of time, talent, and treasure made by us all.

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.*)

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation “button” 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% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

LOOKING AHEAD—The Feast of Theophany, Sunday, January 6: On the Feast of Theophany we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord. This year the Great Feast of Theophany, January 6, falls on a Sunday. So, this year, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 6, the Feast of Theophany, we will perform the Rite of the Great Blessing of Water. It is a gift to us that the Feast of Theophany falls this year on a Sunday, because it means that many more of us than usual will be able to participate in this Rite of the Great Blessing of Water. Please, plan for and look forward to this special and festive occasion. (Children in particular enjoy the celebration of the blessing of water.)

LOOKING AHEAD—House Blessings: Each year, after Theophany, we perform the annual blessings of homes. Soon, we will begin building our schedule of house blessings, so, please, begin thinking about days and times in the month of January when it will be convenient to invite Fr. John to your home for the annual house blessing.

LOOKING AHEAD—Year 2019 Parish Council: The Year 2019 Parish Council will be formally installed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, January 6. The first regular monthly meeting of the Year 2019 Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, January 7, beginning at 7:00 PM. As usual, the venue will be the Parish Basement Social Hall. (*Reminder: Parish Council Meetings are open to any member of the parish. Non-members may attend, too, but only with advance permission.*)

LOOKING AHEAD—Fr. John will be away Saturday through Monday, January 12-14: Fr. John will be away from Terryville from Saturday, January 12, through Monday, January 14. He will be traveling with family members to the Albany, NY, area, to participate that weekend in the marriage of Shelby (Sophia) Duchow to Paul Giokas, which is taking place at Saint Basil’s Orthodox Church, Watervliet, NY, on Sunday afternoon, January 13. Shelby is former member of our parish, having been received into the fullness of the Orthodox Faith here in Terryville in August 2011. Shelby is now a second-year student at Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.

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.