

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 30, 2018

The 31st Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6

The Sunday after Christmas

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity.

Also, December 30th annually is the commemoration of, among others, the Virgin Martyr Anysia and the Holy Martyr Zoticus

The Holy Prophet-King David

The Holy Prophet-King David, who lived about 1000 years before the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, was a forefather of the Lord. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he famously vanquished the massive Philistine warrior Goliath in single combat, using stone slung from his shepherd's sling. This event decided the outcome of the battle and, indeed, the entire war in favor of the Israelites.

David endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so. After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. David built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. David's great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous fall into terrible sin: David took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. Nevertheless, David then became, also, an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51, the composition of which is attributed to him.

King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing difficult and vexing situations and decisions.

Schedule of Services

- 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
And Installation of the New Parish Council
- 1/7 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 1/9 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/12 Saturday**
NO EVENING SERVICE IN TERRYVILLE
- 1/13 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
(With Fr. Sergius Halvorsen presiding in Fr. John's place. See note in bulletin, for details.)
- 1/16 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/19 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 1/20 Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 1/23 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 1/26 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil

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!

Afton Susidko 12/30/1963
Anna Baychuk 12/30/1967
Harry Leba, Sr. 12/31/1999
Afton Andrash 1/1/1937
Peter Duke 1/1/1956
Peter Markovich 1/2/2009
Walter Sobestanovich 1/3/1993
Vassily (Charles) Cartona 1/4/1988
John Skovran 1/4/2003
Neda Brenner 1/4/2004
Lewis Plasko 1/5/1991
Nikolai Jakimenko 1/5/1997

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
Darilyne—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 Szepeł—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
Beverly Kuzmich—upcoming surgery on January 3rd to repair broken wrist

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

John "Jack" Kriniske—now in Florida for the next nine weeks
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

Marina Bharara 1/3
Donna Osuch 1/5

NEWS AND NOTES

THIS WEEKEND: Sunday, January 30 – Brief, One-Issue Meeting of the Parish Council: A brief, one-issue, meeting of the Parish Council will take place during the Coffee Social Hour following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, January 30.

THIS WEEKEND: Deacon Paul serving in New Haven Parish on Sunday morning, December 30: Protodeacon Paul Nimchek will be away from our parish on Sunday morning, December 30. He will be serving in the New Haven Parish on Sunday morning, as this Sunday will be Fr. Michael Westerberg's final Sunday as Pastor of the New Haven Parish, where he has been Pastor for almost four decades! At one time in the past, Fr. Michael was our Diocesan Chancellor, and Protodeacon Paul was our Diocesan Treasurer. So, Deacon Paul will be joining Fr. Michael in New Haven on Sunday to help mark this significant moment in Fr. Michael's life. Please keep Fr. Michael and his wife, Mat. Lydia, in your prayers as Fr. Michael now retires from active ministry.

NEWS AND NOTES, continued

2019 Pledge Forms: The Pledge Form Packets for 2019 have been distributed. Please review your packet carefully. Please make a serious and prayerful decision about how you are going to support our parish financially in the coming year, and then fill out and return your pledge form using the envelope provided in the packet. If you have any questions about this matter, please see Fr. John. *(If you did not receive a Pledge Form Packet in the mail, and you require one, please pick up a copy of the Pledge Form Packet in the Narthex of the Church. Thank you!)*

NEXT WEEKEND: 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.)*

House Blessings in the Theophany Season: Soon, it will be time for the annual blessings of homes. House Blessing Forms are now available in the Narthex. If you want your home blessed this year, please fill out a form and return it in the box provided. Thank you!

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.)*

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, also, a past member of our Diocesan Youth Rally staff. Shelby is now a second-year student at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. *(NOTE: Fr. Sergius Halvorsen is scheduled to substitute for Fr. John on Sunday morning, January 13. Since Deacon Paul Nimchek will also be away that same weekend, we will NOT have our usual Saturday evening Vigil service on Saturday evening, January 12. Please, consider attending Saturday evening worship in one of our neighboring parishes that evening.)*

Fr. John needs help with a project—are you the right person to provide assistance? The Parish Council has authorized the installation of a Simplisafe (www.simplisafe.com) Alarm and Security System in our Church Building. Fr. John requires assistance in designing, ordering, installing, and administering this system. Are you the right person to help him with this task? If so, please, contact him at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

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.)*

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.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Sunday after Christmas, this year December 31

The Reading from the Epistle to the Galatians (Gal. 1:11-19)

Brother and Sisters: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

A Prayer on the Occasion of the New Year

O Master, Lord our God, the Fountain of Life and Immortality, the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible, who governs the seasons and the years and guides all things by Your wise providence; we thank You for all the blessings that You have poured out upon us during the past years of our lives, and we beg You, all-bountiful Lord, bless this coming New Year with Your Goodness, direct our civil authorities in the path of goodness, and bestow Your heavenly blessings upon all Your people, especially the blessings of salvation, health and growth in virtue. Deliver Your Church and this town and countryside from every assault of the Evil One, and grant us peace and tranquility; and grant, also, that we may always offer thanksgiving to You, the Father who is without beginning, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your most-holy Spirit, God glorified in three persons, and may we joyfully praise Your all-holy Name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.