

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 9, 2018

The 28th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3

December 9th, annually, is the date of the commemoration of the Conception by the Righteous Anna of her daughter, the Most Holy Theotokos

THIS WEEKEND: Sunday, December 9—Guest Priest serving here in our Terryville Parish

On Sunday, December 9, Fr. John's duties as the Administrator of the Waterbury Parish require him to preside at the Divine Liturgy being celebrated at Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, Waterbury, and then preside at that Parish's Annual General Meeting. Therefore, Archpriest Steven Voytovich is presiding in Fr. John's place at the Divine Liturgy being celebrated on Sunday morning, December 9, here in the Terryville Parish.

Fr. Steven has been a priest for 26 years. He was the founding pastor of Saint Alexis Church, Clinton, CT, where he served for 15 years, guiding that parish from founding to the time when its present temple building was consecrated. More recently, from August 2013 to August 2018, Fr. Steven served as Dean of Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, but has now left that position, and is looking forward to new opportunities in ministry. Fr. Steven is, also, a well-known professional in the field of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and serves as Chair of the Orthodox Church in America's Office of Institutional Chaplains.

Please, welcome Fr. Steven as he comes to preside at the Divine Liturgy in our parish on Sunday, December 9.

Schedule of Services

12/9 Sunday

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

(Fr. Steven Voytovich will be here in Terryville, substituting for Fr. John, who will be serving in the Waterbury Parish, and then presiding at that parish's Annual General Meeting.)

12/12 Wednesday

Eve of the Feast of St. Herman

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

12/21 Friday

7:00 PM – Pre-Christmas Service of Scripture Readings and Hymns

12/22 Saturday

6:00 PM – Vigil

Followed by Choir Rehearsal

12/23 Sunday

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

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

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
Fred Thomas "Tom" Senetcen—Paul's brother d. 11/6/18
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!

Vladimir Shymansky 12/11/1921
John Vanoni 12/11/1930
Emelian Lazarko 12/11/1946
Dimitry Kucirka 12/11/1963
Sydney Isidore Brenner 12/11/1992
Vera Kisiel 12/11/2014
Anna Gamernik-Samdetski 12/12/1914
Maria Belitsa 12/12/1942
Alexander Oleshko 12/13/1965
Joseph Kovaleski 12/13/2006
Anna Kyschersky 12/15/1938
Anastasia Kyschersky 12/15/1938
Justina Stashenko 12/15/1964
Fotina Alemoni 12/15/1998

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; recent heart surgery
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

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

Thomas Wingate 12/11
Irene Kiehart, Jayne Grasso's mother 12/13

NEWS AND NOTES

UPDATE—Our Fellow Parishioner Carol Johnson: After a months-long sojourn in the hospital and rehabilitation facility, Carol Johnson is back home, in Bristol. Carol is now quite open to receiving visitors, but respectfully requests that all visits be scheduled in advance to fit into her schedule of continuing rehabilitation and home care. So, please, if you want to visit, call Carol at her home landline telephone number and arrange a visit. Carol is still quite unwell, and is facing an extremely daunting set of health challenges, so, please, continue to keep Carol in your prayers. If you need further information, please, see Fr. John.

THIS WEEKEND—Christmas Concert in Neighboring Parish: The St. Tikhon Seminary's Mission Choir will present "A Concert of Sacred and Holiday Music" on Sunday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m. A reception follows the concert at 5:00 p.m. The event will take place at Three Saints Orthodox Church, 26 Howard Avenue, Ansonia, CT. For further information telephone 203-735-0117. Admission is free, but a collection will be taken to benefit Saint Tikhon's Seminary. There is a flyer about this event posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Basement Social Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES, continued

Advent Confession Appointments—only two weeks are left before Christmas! 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 be keeping 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 is hearing Confessions by appointment. If you have not already done so, please contact Fr. John now to make your appointment. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 include keeping track of 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 on his own lately, and that is not a “best practice.” Mark really should be assisted by a second person. Thanks for your consideration of this request. Our parish life depends upon the freewill offerings of time, talent, and treasure made by all of us.

Christmas Appeals: Our Parish’s two Christmas Appeals, the General Christmas Appeal that goes to the basic support of the Parish, and the Flower Appeal, that helps us pay for the floral arrangements with which we decorate the Church at Christmas-time, will soon be distributed. Please be generous in your support of these appeals. Thank you!

Christmas Services in our Parish: The Services for the Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Our Lord in our parish will take place as follows: On Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the Vigil of Christmas at 4:00 PM, followed by the Parish Holy Supper. On Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Feast beginning at 9:15 AM.

Parish Christmas Eve “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.

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.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 28th Sunday after Pentecost, this year December 9

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (Col. 1:12-18)

Brothers and Sisters: We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in who we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

St Ephrem's Prayer for Those Who are Suffering or in Anguish

Do not lose heart, O soul, do not grieve. Pronounce not over yourself a final judgement for the multitude of your sins. Do not commit yourself to fire. Do not say the Lord has cast me from His face. Such words are not pleasing to God. Can it be that one who is fallen cannot get up? Can it be that he who is turned away cannot turn back again? Do you not hear how kind the father is to a prodigal? Do not be ashamed to turn back and say boldly, "I will arise and go to my father." Arise, and go! He will accept you and not reproach you but rather rejoice at your return. He awaits you, just do not be ashamed and do not hide from the face of God as Adam did.

It was for your sake that Christ was crucified. So will he cast you aside? He knows who oppresses us. He knows that we have no other help but him alone. Christ knows that man is miserable. Do not give yourself up in despair and apathy assuming that you have been prepared for the fire. Christ derives no consolation from thrusting us into the fire. He gains nothing if He sends us into the abyss to be tormented. Imitate the prodigal son – leave the city that starves you. Come and beseech Him and you shall behold the glory of God. Your face shall be enlightened and you will rejoice in the sweetness of Paradise. Glory to the Lord and lover of mankind who saves us! Amen.

(We have this instructive prayer by way of Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, who recently shared it with his parishioners in the Southbury Parish. It is a lovely prayer that serves to instruct us about how we must not lose hope, or abandon faith; but how, rather, we must trust in God's love and forgiveness, in the manner of the Prodigal Son. God awaits us and our return to Him! Let us, with repentance, return to Our Loving and Compassionate Heavenly Father!)