

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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Schedule of Services

- 3/26 Sunday—4th Sunday of Great Lent**
Saint John of the Ladder
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 4:00 PM – Mission Vespers
 Hosted by Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Meriden, CT
- 3/29 Wednesday**
 6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share” Supper
- 3/30 Thursday**
 9:00 AM – Lenten Morning Prayers with the Reading of the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete
- 3/31 Friday**
 7:00 PM – Akathist to the Mother of God
- 4/1 Saturday**
 5:30 PM – 40th Day Memorial for Anna Rosko
 6:00 PM – Vigil
Followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 4/2 Sunday—5th Sunday of Great Lent**
Saint Mary of Egypt
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 4:00 PM – Holy Unction Service
 Hosted by Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT
- 4/3 Monday**
 7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 4/5 Wednesday**
 6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten “Bring-and-Share” Supper
- 4/7 Friday**
Eve of Lazarus Saturday
 7:00 PM – Vespers marking the end of Great Lent, *followed by Choir Rehearsal*
- 4/8 Saturday**
Lazarus Saturday – Eve of Palm Sunday
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 6:00 PM – Vigil of Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 26, 2017

- The 4th Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 7
- *Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder*
- Leave-taking of the Feast of the Annunciation
 - Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Orthodox Natural Church Development

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At our Parish Council meeting earlier this month, which was a special one-topic meeting addressing the issue of Church Growth and Development, our parish made the decision to engage a program called Orthodox Natural Church Development – also, known by the acronym “ONCD.” (You can visit the official ONCD website at www.oncd.us.)

Here is a quote describing ONCD from the website: “Natural Church Development (NCD) is a paradigm – a way of thinking about church growth by first thinking about church health. Growth should be about quality (health) and not just quantity (numbers). In fact NCD suggests that quality should take priority over quantity in church growth thinking.”

ONCD is a layperson-led and layperson-driven program with the goal of helping Orthodox Christian parish communities grow and develop in eight “quality characteristics.” These characteristics include aspects such as spirituality, evangelism, relationships, leadership, ministry, structure, groups and worship.

Our parish is now seeking lay members of the parish who are willing to serve as the local community coordinators of this effort. Are you willing to be a steward (not just a volunteer—volunteers come and go, stewards are committed for the long term) of this effort in our parish? If so, please see Fr. John so that he can share your name with the other members of the parish who are looking forward to serving in this way.

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

Marina Zovich—former parishioner 3/11/17
Roland Oraschewsky—husband of Maria Oraschewsky 3/1/17
Anna Rosko—our fellow parishioner 2/20/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Maria Hubchik 3/26/1946
Nicholas Maichak 3/26/1961
Martha Grabchuk 3/26/1965
Arlene Osuch 3/27/2011
Theodore Kozar 3/28/1936
Michael Kandybaik 3/28/1961
Paraskeva Glowa 3/30/1932
Lou Plasko 3/30/1961
Anna Shewchuk 3/30/1982

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

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
Allison—undergoing cancer treatment; friend of Peter Serev
Matushka Marie Kreta—Fr. John Kreta's mother; increasingly unwell
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Phyllis George—Donna Krinske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Maria Oraschewsky—unwell and grieving, and in need of our prayers
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Michael "Mischa" Semanitzky—Dn. Paul's uncle; ongoing health issues
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
Hope—Fr. John's sister Catherine's sister-in-law; tumor in one of her kidneys
Nicole—acquaintance of Tom and Marie Wood; young mother with leukemia
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
Anatoli—a friend of Tania Bouteneff; diagnosed with colon cancer

Galina—wife of above-mentioned Anatoli
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell
Bill Markovich—recently unwell
Veronika "Nika" Dubnansky—continuing her recovery
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
Mara—Fr. Patrick Burns' wife; recently unwell
Marie Wood—still in recovery from recent ill health, but doing well, praise be
Peter Oraschewsky—recovering from back surgery
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Deryl—Ann Sovyrda's nephew; kidney disease
Mark Sovyrda—recovering from back surgery
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Lucretia—friend of Jeanne Moore; broken leg
Anne Hosking—Fr. Steven Hosking's wife; facing health challenges
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
James—Louine King's son; chronic ankle joint issues, perhaps requiring surgery
Justin—Louine King's great-grandson; troubled and in need of our prayers
Steve Panasuk—recently unwell
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; undergoing treatment for lung cancer
Virginia—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dolores Matzkevich—Bob's mother; quite unwell at this time
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Maven—child of friends of the G. and D. Wegh Family; serious medical condition
Dianna—Jennifer Wegh's mother; suffered an apparent stroke with complications
George Wegh—recent foot surgery
John Kuzmich—will undergo surgery on April 7
Nadia—D. and G. Wegh's daughter; sadly, Nadia has suffered a miscarriage of her baby

Shut-ins and those in Nursing Homes

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol

Expectant Mother

Juliana and the child to be born of her—Juliana Dresko Vigh and her baby
Olga and the child to be born of her—Olga Fedorczak and her baby
Rachel and the child to be born of her—Rachel Kopcha Goulet and her baby
Sarah and the child to be born of her—L. King's granddaughter and her baby
Brianna and the child to be born of her—Chezelle Serev's niece and her baby
Mikel and the child to be born of her—J. and E. Watras' daughter and her baby

Those from among us serving 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

Travelers, those soon to be traveling and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until spring 2018
Peter and Chezelle Serev
John "Jack" Krinske—scheduled to return to us the last week of March
John Thetford—Fr. John's nephew, a missionary catechist in Guatemala

Birthdays

Vera Wegh 3/28
Nicholas Kowaleski (Joel and Julie's son) 4/1

A Prayer to the Mother of God, from the Compline Service

O All-pure and incorruptible Virgin Bride of God and our Sovereign Lady: you made the Word of God one with mankind by gloriously giving birth to your Son and joining our fallen nature to His divine nature; you are the hope of the despairing and the support of those in distress, the swift defender of those who turn to you and the refuge of all Christians: Do not turn from me, an unclean sinner, who have destroyed myself with unworthy thoughts, words and deeds, and have been enslaved by forgetfulness to the carnal passions of life; but have compassion on me, O Theotokos, and accept the prayer of a sinner and prodigal, offered from unclean lips.

Exercise your boldness as a Mother and pray to your Son, our Lord and Master, that He will make known to me also His compassionate goodness, and overlooking my countless sins,

will turn me to repentance and make me fervent in doing His commandments. Be with me always in your grace and loving mercy, for you are the fervent helper who turns away the assaults of enemies and guides men towards salvation, caring for my unworthy soul at the hour of death, and driving from it the darkness of evil spirits. In the Day of Judgment free me from eternal torment, and show me to be an heir of the divine glory of your Son and our God.

Grant this, O Lady Theotokos, by your prayers and intercessions, through the mercy and lovingkindness of your Only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom are due all glory, honor and worship, with the Father Who is eternal and His all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lenten Confessions: Less than two weeks left!

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Each and every Christian should participate in the saving Sacrament of Holy Confession during the Lenten season, as part of his or her own “Lenten journey.” As you know, I hear Confessions by appointment. If you have not already done so, please contact me now to make your Confession appointment. Please make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, that is, by Friday, April 7. I would greatly prefer not to hear confessions over the Palm Sunday Weekend or during Holy Week (April 8 - April 15). By then time is extremely limited and we should be concentrating, without distraction, on the liturgical schedule leading up to Holy Pascha. Thank you for your consideration in this regard. I am most grateful.

Your servant in Christ, Fr. John

Connecticut Deanery Lenten Mission Services: During Great Lent this year we are again having Sunday afternoon/evening Mission Vespers services here in the Connecticut Deanery of the Diocese of New England. The following dates remain:

- Sunday, March 26, the 4th Sunday of Great Lent: Mission Vespers, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT, at 4:00 PM.
- Sunday, April 2, the 5th Sunday of Great Lent: Deanery Service of Holy Unction, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT, at 4:00 PM
- Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday: Bridegroom Matins, All Saints Church, Hartford, CT, at 4:00 PM.

2017 Terryville/Plymouth Lenten Luncheons on Tuesdays at Noon during Great Lent: This year the Clergy Association of Terryville/Plymouth is again sponsoring a series of “Lenten Luncheons.” The Luncheons will take place at 12:00 Noon on Tuesdays over the course of the weeks of Great Lent. The suggested donation for the Luncheons is \$5.00 apiece, and participants are also encouraged to bring donations for the Plymouth Community Food Pantry. At each Luncheon, the host parish will be offering a presentation appropriate for the Lenten season. The schedule of remaining Luncheons is as follows:

- March 28: First Baptist Church and First Congregational Church of Plymouth on the Plymouth Green
 - April 4: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
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Pertaining to Pascha

- **Volunteers Required:** We need a volunteer (or volunteers) to come to the Church early in Holy Week (Monday or Tuesday) to iron all the black and white covers for use in the Church later in the week for Holy Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Holy Pascha.
- **Paschal Appeals:** Please give generously to our Parish’s General Paschal Appeal and to the Easter (Paschal) Flower Offering. We always have lovely flowers in the Church for Pascha and our contributions help cover the cost of these beautiful additions to our Paschal worship. Your support of these two appeals is deeply appreciated.
- **Blessing of Paschal Baskets:** The Blessing of Paschal Baskets will take place at the conclusion of the Paschal Midnight Services in the Church Basement Social Hall, after which time the Parish Paschal “Agape” Meal will take place in the same location.
- **Paschal Agape Meal:** The Parish Paschal “Agape” Meal, which will happen after the Paschal Midnight Divine Liturgy, will take place in the Church Basement Social Hall, immediately following the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets. We will not have a general food table, but will be eating from and sharing the contents of our family Paschal Baskets, while enjoying each other’s company. If you are planning to stay for this meal, please bring everything you need with you—your own plates, cups and cutlery, your own beverages and condiments, etc. (P.S. The word “agape,” pronounced “ah-GAH-pay,” means “love” in the Greek language and is the traditional word used to describe this Paschal meal.)
- **Thomas Sunday Blessing of Graves:** On Sunday, April 23, weather and ground conditions permitting, we will celebrate the Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday. As is the parish’s custom for Thomas Sunday, we will bless the graves in the parish cemetery that day beginning at 12:15 PM.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, on which we commemorate especially the memory of St. John of the Ladder

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 6:13-20)

Brothers and Sisters: when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mk. 9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

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Holy Week Services in our Parish

April 10 Great and Holy Monday	April 11 Great and Holy Tuesday	April 12 Great and Holy Wednesday	April 12 Great and Holy Thursday	April 14 Great and Holy Friday	April 15 Great and Holy Saturday	April 16 Holy Pascha, The Feast of Feasts
			10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Commemoration of the Last Supper	3:00 PM Vespers with Rite of Entombment	10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy	11:00 AM Vespers of Pascha
7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins	7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins	7:00 PM Matins of Holy Thursday	7:00 PM Matins with 12 Gospels	7:00 PM Matins with Procession	11:30 PM Nocturns followed by the Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha	