

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, June 18, 2017

The Feast of All Saints of North America

June 18, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Martyr Leontius and his companions (1st c.)

Prayer for a Time of Difficulty

O Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress. Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy. I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday, June 18, is Father's Day!

On Father's Day we offer our prayerful gratitude to all our wonderful fathers, grandfathers, and Godfathers—to all those who exercise fatherly ministry on our behalf. Thank you, and may God bless you!

Schedule of Services

6/17 Saturday

6:00 PM – Vigil, followed by the Monthly Rite of General Confession

6/18 Sunday – Father's Day

Feast of All Saints of North America

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

At All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, CT:

4:00 PM – Akathist to All Saints of North America, with Veneration of the Relics of Eight of those Saints and Anointing with Holy Oil

6/21 Wednesday

8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

6/24 Saturday

Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

9:00 AM – Service of Prayer to Saint John the Baptist

6:00 PM – Vigil

6/25 Sunday

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

6/28 Wednesday

Eve of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
NQ Matins (Morning Prayers)

6:15 PM – Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul

7/1 Saturday

6:00 PM – Vigil

7/2 Sunday

9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

Fr. John will be away for five days, from Sunday, July 2, after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, until late in the evening on Saturday, July 8

7/8 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

Allison—friend of Peter Serev d. 5/10/17
Lynda—the mother of Marina Leonidas's Pastor d. 5/13/17
Robert Faria—former member of parish d. 5/17/17

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Anna Biscoe 6/18/1994
Archimandrite Anthony Repella 6/18/1957
Michael Baritsky 6/19/1947
Ellen Senetcen 6/19/1971
Mary Fill 6/21/2010
Xenia Bystry 6/22/1986
Julia Virovoy 6/23/1961
Evdokia Onepenko 6/23/1997
Olga Baiga 6/24/1920

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
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke
Darilyne—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, overcoming 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
William "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
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
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
Lucretia—friend of Jeanne Moore; broken leg
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
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
George Klachany—our fellow parishioner; still in need of prayers for health
Virginia—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vince—friend of the Oraschewsky Family; colon cancer
child 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
John Cordone—Thomas Hopko's grandfather-in-law; now in hospice
John Kuzmich—suffering from lung cancer; now in treatment
Louine "Anna" King—suffering from lung cancer
Mary Fomenko—recently unwell
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Archpriest Vladimir Horoszczak; will undergo open heart surgery on June 26-27

Shut-ins and those in Nursing Homes

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut

New Mother and Child

Mikel and the daughter newly born of her—J. and E. Watras' daughter and her baby

Expectant Mother

Juliana and the child to be born of her—Juliana Dresko Veek 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
Brianna and the child to be born of her—Chezelle Serev's niece 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
Tatyana Bristol—traveling to Russia, May 4 to July 19, visiting family
Mark and Karry Orelup and Family—at Family Reunion in Indiana

Birthdays

John Osuch 6/19
Ann Sovyrda 6/22
Roger Karabin 6/22
John Saltourides 6/24

Pray before the Relics of the American Saints

Sunday, June 18 – Pilgrimage to All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, Connecticut: This weekend, on Sunday, June 18, which, this year, is the Feast of All Saints of North America, we have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to pray before and venerate the relics of eight of the saints of North America. At 4:00 PM on that Sunday afternoon, at All Saints of North America Church, 313 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, CT, the Akathist Service to the Saints of North America will be celebrated before the relics of eight of the saints of North America. At the conclusion of that service we will have the opportunity to venerate the relics of those saints and to be anointed with holy oil. The eight saints—small portions of whose relics are enshrined at All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury—are Saint Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska; Saint Innocent, Apostle to America; Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America; Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre and Minneapolis; Saint Raphael of Brooklyn; Saint Nicolai of Zicha, Saint John of San Francisco; and the Holy New Martyr Saint Vasily Martysz, the Archpriest and Military Chaplain. You may access and read accounts of the lives of all these saints at the Lives of Saints section of the Orthodox Church in America website: <https://oca.org/saints/lives>.

Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, who died in 1879, wrote an essay entitled, *Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven*. Here follows an excerpt from that work, where Saint Innocent speaks about taking up our cross and following Christ.

It is necessary for a disciple and follower of Christ to take up his cross. The cross means the various difficulties and sorrows associated with a Christian life. Crosses may be external as well as internal. To take up your cross means to tolerate everything without complaining, regardless of how unpleasant things might become. For example, if someone has insulted you or laughed at you or provoked you, bear it all without anger or resentment. Similarly, if you helped someone and he, instead of showing gratitude, made up deceitful tales about you or if you wanted to do something good but were unable to accomplish it, bear it without despondency. Did some misfortune befall you? Did someone in your family become ill, or despite all your efforts and tireless labor did you repeatedly suffer failure? Has some other thing or person oppressed you? Bear all with patience in the name of Jesus Christ. Do not consider yourself punished unjustly, but accept everything as your cross.

To bear your cross means not only to accept patiently all difficulties that befall you but also to strive for spiritual perfection, as the Scriptures teach us. For example, we must do good to others: work for the prosperity of your parish, visit the sick and imprisoned, help the needy, collect money for the poor, and assist in spreading spiritual enlightenment. In other words, we must seek out tasks which will lead to the salvation and welfare of those around us and then, with perseverance and meekness, strive in that direction by our actions, words, prayer, and advice.

Should the prideful thought arise that you are better or smarter than others, quickly cast it aside because it will undermine all your good efforts. Blessed is he who carries his cross with prudence and humility, because God will never allow such a person to perish but will guide and strengthen him with His Holy Spirit.

In following Jesus Christ, it is not enough to carry only an outward cross. Indeed, external crosses are borne not only by Christians but by everyone; there exists no person free from one or more sorrows. He who wishes to become a true disciple of Christ must also carry his own inner cross.

An inner cross comes more readily than an outer one. In a state of repentance, you need only direct your thoughts inward to study your soul, and instantly a multitude of crosses will appear. For instance, reflect on how you were created and what is the purpose of your life. Are you living according to Christ's teaching, are you accomplishing something good, are you growing spiritually? Meditate about this in some depth, and soon you will come to realize that you are failing in many important areas. God created you so that with all your works, life, and being you should contribute to the spreading of good and the strengthening of His Kingdom. You, however, have not only failed in this, but, by your sins, you have rejected and even insulted Christ. Reflect on what awaits you beyond the grave and on what side you will find yourself at the Last Judgment: with the righteous or with the evildoers? And if you seriously reflect on all this, you will naturally become distressed and will regret your many words and deeds—and these painful feelings and the desire for repentance will become your inner cross. If you continue attentively to study yourself, you will find many other inner crosses. For instance, hell, which you have so carelessly avoided considering until now, will suddenly appear to you as a very real threat. Paradise, which the Lord has prepared for you and which has barely crossed your mind, will vividly present itself to you as it really is: a place of eternal and pure joy from which you have deprived yourself by your careless way of life.

If, in spite of the inner turmoil brought about by such reflections, you firmly resolve to repent and amend your ways and, if, instead of consoling yourself with earthly enjoyments, you diligently pray to the Lord to save you and you decide to surrender yourself totally to His will, then the Lord will reveal to you more clearly the state of your soul so that you may be totally healed. Our problem is that the actual condition of our spiritual sickness is hidden from us under a thick mantle of self-love and passions. Only occasionally, thanks to our conscience, do we get a glimpse of our major and most obvious spiritual wounds.

Usually the devil, knowing how good it is for us to recognize our moral illness, uses all his wiles to prevent us from doing so and tells us that all is well and there is no need to worry. But when he sees that we are really serious about becoming true Christians and with God's help are on the way to restoring our spiritual health, then the devil uses craftier means: he presents to us our internal illnesses in such a hopeless condition that we become bewildered and despair of our salvation. If the Lord permitted the devil to use this trick on all of us, few of us would find the strength to continue the struggle. However, the Lord, as a knowledgeable physician, protects us from despair. He heals our spiritual ulcers and encourages us as we heal.

Therefore, as the Lord restores your spiritual sight, you will begin to comprehend more clearly that your heart is corrupt and that your passions obstruct your path to God. You will begin to understand also that the little good you have to your credit so far is damaged by your selfishness and conceit. Then you will certainly grieve, and you will become frightened and saddened: frightened because you are in danger of perishing forever, saddened because you have declined for so long to listen to the gentle voice of God who was calling you to salvation, and saddened because you have accomplished so little good.

Although these inner crosses present themselves as burdensome, do not despair and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. No! He is always with you and invisibly sustains you, even when you forget Him. He will not burden you with trials beyond your capacity. Fear nothing, but with total humbleness and devotion bear your cross and pray. He is the gentlest of fathers that could be wished for. If on occasion He allows His faithful servants to be tempted, it is only to remind them of their feebleness and to completely cleanse their hearts from pride. In our hearts is where He intends to reside with His Son and His Holy Spirit.

In time of sorrow do not seek comfort from people. Most people are not experienced in affairs of salvation and are poor advisors. Make the Lord your only helpmate, comforter, and tutor, and from Him alone ask help. The man to whom the Lord sends afflictions is blessed a hundredfold, because it is afflictions that cure our souls. In enduring sorrows, a Christian is likened to Jesus Christ, who suffered for us. We should consider sorrows a gift from the Lord and a sign of His care for our salvation.

If you bear your cross with perseverance and seek comfort only from Him, then He, through His mercy, will not abandon you but will touch your heart and will impart to you the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is then that you will feel an indescribable delight, a wonderful inner peace and joy such as you have never experienced before, and at the same time you will feel an influx of spiritual strength; prayer will become easier and your faith stronger. Then your heart will be kindled with love of God and all people. All these are gifts of the Holy Spirit.

When the Lord decides to honor you with such gifts, do not consider them as rewards for your labors, and do not think that you have attained perfection. Such thoughts come from pride. The comforts and grace of the Holy Spirit are not rewards but gifts of divine mercy. Occasionally the Lord allows us to get a foretaste of future blessings so that we will put forth a greater effort in seeking His eternal Kingdom.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday after Holy Pentecost, which is the day on which we annually commemorate the memory of all the saints of North America

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 2:10-16)

Brothers and Sisters: Glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by

nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 4:18-23)

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother,

in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is June 25

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 5:1-10)

Brothers and Sisters: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value

than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.