

## 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***

**7/2 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

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*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*  
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**7/5 Wednesday** – Fr. John away  
NO Matins (Morning Prayers)

**7/8 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil

**7/9 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

**7/12 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

**7/15 Saturday**  
5:30 PM – Memorial Service for Departed Members of the Kowaleski Family  
6:00 PM – Vigil

**7/16 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

**7/19 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

**7/22 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil  
*Followed by the Monthly Rite of General Confession*

**7/23 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

**7/26 Wednesday**  
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)

**7/29 Saturday**  
6:00 PM – Vigil

**7/30 Sunday**  
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy

**7/31 Monday**  
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting

## Sunday, July 2, 2017

### *The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3*

July 2, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, Saint John (Maximovitch), Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (1896-1966)

## Sunday, July 9, 2017

### *The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4*

July 9, annually, is the commemoration of, among others, the Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1<sup>st</sup> c.)

### **NOTES FROM FR. JOHN: Preaching Series on Church Development**

Beginning on Sunday, July 16, I will be preaching a series of sermons on eight consecutive Sundays on the theme of Church Development. In order to give that series structure, on each of the eight Sundays I will be preaching on one of the eight “quality characteristics” possessed by healthy, developing parish churches according to the principles of Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD).

We have discussed ONCD in the parish for some time now. Included as an insert in this bulletin is a summary of ONCD that has been distributed to the parish membership earlier this year. Please, again (or for the first time), take a few moments to review that material. Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD) exists as a formal, defined program that can be followed step-by-step, in a measurable fashion. For further information, visit [www.oncd.us](http://www.oncd.us).)

*These NOTES continue on page 2 of this bulletin.*

# 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***

Stefanie Yazge—a friend of the Hopko family d. 6/29/17

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

Peter Sandyk	7/2/1966
Tillie O'Hazo	7/2/1991
Michael Shaltis	7/3/1931
John Astrow	7/6/1959
Michael Wittick	7/7/1920
Stephen Shopay	7/8/1917
Alexander Sveschuk	7/10/1928
Mary Hrabsky	7/10/1981
Theodora Andrash	7/11/1949
Peter Kowaleski	7/11/2008
Lovey (Luba) Kowaleski	7/11/2015
Michael Zolotar	7/12/1964
Pedro Kaidalow	7/12/1985
Joanna Susidko	7/13/1969

## **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  
Darylne—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  
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; now back home, but still ailing  
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell  
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer  
Archpriest Vladimir Horoszczak; underwent open heart surgery on June 27  
Peter Oraschewsky—upcoming hip joint replacement surgery, on July 11  
Barbara Sovyrda—Mark Sovyrda's former wife; health challenges

### ***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

### ***Mother and newly born child***

Olga and the daughter newly born of her—Olga Fedorcza and her baby

### ***Expectant Mother***

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  
John "Jack" Kriniske—away visiting family in the Midwest  
Joel and Julie Kowaleski and members of their family—in France  
Maria Oraschewsky—visiting Germany, July 4 to August 28, with her grandson  
Fr. John and Peter Hopko—away the first week of July

### ***Birthdays***

Elaine Karabin	7/4
Olivia Wingate	7/5
Anna Saltourides	7/15

## **Notes from Fr. John (continued here from page 1 of this bulletin)**

ONCD is meant to be a lay-led, lay-driven program of Church Development within an individual parish church. The preaching that I will be doing is meant to lay the groundwork for and to inspire lay people within our parish to take on leadership in applying the ONCD program in our parish. Once the preaching series has been completed, we will be having a full meeting of the parish on Sunday, September 10, to ask the membership, "Are we ready and able to do this? Do we want to fully engage in the ONCD program? Who is going to lead and steward this program in our parish?"

It is my hope and prayer, whatever happens as regards ONCD in the long-term, that this upcoming program of preaching will prove to be edifying and inspiring. I ask your prayers as I begin to prepare for this endeavor.

With love in Christ, *Fr. John H.*

# News and Notes

**Fr. John away from Terryville the first week of July:** Fr. John will be away from Terryville, visiting his mother and other family in Canada, from Sunday afternoon, July 2, until late in the evening on Saturday, July 8. During Fr. John's absence, in the case of a true pastoral emergency requiring the ministry of a priest, please contact Fr. David Koles at 860-573-0013. (Alternatively, you may also contact any priest of one of the parishes of the Diocese of New England's Connecticut Deanery. You may also reach out to our parish deacon, Protodeacon Paul Nimchek at 860-489-3220.)

**Blood and Blood products are always needed—please consider donating blood:** If you would like to donate blood, or are willing to consider doing so, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Thank you! Remember: When a person needs a transfusion, there is no substitute for blood. *(As the recipient a number of years ago of urgently required blood transfusions, which preserved and restored my health, and may even have saved my life, I urge you to consider giving blood. I, myself, unfortunately, am now ineligible to give blood. I hope that you will consider donating this "gift of life." Thank you, so much! In Christ, Fr. John)*

**LOOKING AHEAD: Monthly General Confession, Saturday, July 22:** Our Parish's usual monthly General Confession will take place after the conclusion of the Saturday evening Vigil service on Saturday, July 22. Participation in our Parish's monthly Rite of General Confession is an important, significant and vital part of our preparation for regularly partaking of Holy Communion in our Parish. Holy Communion is a wonderful, but awesome gift. We should always be preparing for the reception of Holy Communion through prayer, fasting, and disciplined Christian living, which includes battling our weaknesses and sins, and seeking always to know, accept and live God's will. We should, of course, confess our sins every day when we spend time in personal prayer, but participation in General Confession is a formal and meaningful effort, as well.

**LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, July 23 – Fr. Nicholas Timpko to be honored:** On Sunday afternoon, July 23, Fr. Nicholas Timpko, the senior-most priest in the Diocese of New England will be honored. Amazingly, Fr. Nicholas will be celebrating his 55th anniversary of ordination this coming August. He and Matushka Anastasia will also be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary this summer. On Sunday afternoon, July 23, at Three Saints Church in Ansonia, CT, where Fr. Nicholas is Pastor Emeritus, Great Vespers will be celebrated beginning at 4:00 PM. During that Vespers service, our Archbishop NIKON will award Fr. Nicholas the privilege of wearing the priestly mitre. Bishops regularly wear mitres as part of their vestments, but for priests this is an extremely rare award, only given to the senior-most clergy. (Mitres are the ornate, crown-like hats that some senior clergy wear when fully vested.) **IMPORTANT:** If you are planning to attend this event, please RSVP to Nina Kosowsky at 203-924-0936, or at [threesaints@att.net](mailto:threesaints@att.net), by no later than July 14.

**LOOKING AHEAD: Parish Council Meeting, Monday, July 31:** Our Parish Council, which, by custom, only meets once during the July and August, will next meet on Monday evening, July 31, beginning at 7:00 PM.

**LOOKING AHEAD: Annual Diocesan Youth Rally, August 7-12:** Fr. John Hopko, in his continuing role as Director, and Macrina Hopko, in her continuing role as Nurse, will be away at the annual Diocesan Youth Rally from Sunday afternoon, August 6, until Saturday evening, August 12. Several young people from our parish are planning to participate in this event.

# What is Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD)?

*[Note: This is a Summary of the 34-page-long Pamphlet about Natural Church Development entitled “The ABC’s of Natural Church Development” by Christian Schwarz and Jonathan Ivanoff]*

## Introduction

Some questions: Have the members of your parish come to feel that somehow things are “different” now? Has the parish seemed to plateau or, even, experience decline?

## Why is “Change” So Difficult?

We fear change, but this is a sin, because Christians are people who are called to repentance, to change, to spiritual growth. “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

## So How Can My Parish Grow?

This is not actually the best question. A better question is this: “Are we applying the principles, locally, that allow a Church to grow?”

## Can Parish “Health” Be Measured?

Yes, it can, but not simply by comparing ourselves to just one or two other parishes that seem “healthy” in comparison to ours. Rather, we need to measure our parish “health” in relation to certain timeless, enduring characteristics.

## Are “Growing” Churches Really Different?

Yes, and this has been determined (in the case of Natural Church Development—NCD) by a massive study of parishes that was conducted in the 1990s. What was found is that “Growing” Churches possess and practice the following eight “Quality Characteristics”:

1. **Empowering Leadership:** People (the Laity) are empowered (trained and taught) to lead in those areas where it is appropriate for them to do so. (It is not just all about the pastor, and he needs to be empowered himself to have both the confidence and opportunity to delegate the possibility of exercising appropriate leadership to others.)
2. **Gift-Based Ministry:** People are able to use their God-given gifts and talents in ministry. (The key here is that the gifts must be characteristics that are, truly, gifts. Sometimes, sadly, people want to exercise “gifts” in areas where they are not particularly “gifted!”)
3. **Fervent Spirituality:** People zealously embrace the Orthodox Christian spiritual life. (Here’s an observation: Orthodox Christian spirituality is incredible rich and powerful, but few embrace that richness and power. Do we simply claim our faith, or do we, actually, live it?)
4. **Effective Structures:** The parish is structured so as to function competently and effectively. (Question: Do the structures in our parish simply exist to serve themselves, or do they actually perform and achieve vital and necessary deeds and accomplishments for actual people?)

5. **Inspiring Worship:** Worship services are truly inspiring. (Thankfully, the liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church is one which is rich and inspiring. But, we must make sure that liturgical worship is accomplished excellently—those who chant must chant well, those who sing must sing well, those who serve must serve well, those who preach must preach well. All this requires preparation and practice, and commitment to improvement, constantly.)
6. **Holistic Fellowship Groups:** People can find intimate community at the parish. (Holistic fellowship groups accomplish three things: 1) They allow people to establish close, personal friendships, 2) they provide the setting in which people are provided with effective, practical help in living the Christian life, and 3) they are the context in which people find prayerful, spiritual support for the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.)
7. **Need-oriented Evangelism:** Parish efforts at evangelism are not characterized by triumphalism, but rather by the needs of those whom they are trying to reach. (“Triumphalism” in this context would be characterized by an attitude that “we’re right” and “you’re wrong.” And, here’s a need: According to the Pew Research Center, “fully 23% [of American adults] now describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or ‘nothing in particular’.” [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org))
8. **Loving Relationships:** People in the parish really love and care for each other, and it shows. (Here’s a question: How often do members of the parish interact outside of Church?)

### **No Quality Characteristic Can Be Missing**

Here are three points/claims about the eight “Quality Characteristics.”

1. They are universally valid, in any and all parish situations.
2. They must all be present if a parish is to experience qualitative and quantitative growth.
3. They can be applied in any parish situation.

### **The “All-by-Itself Principle”**

Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD) claims that numerical Church growth occurs “all by itself” in parishes that commit themselves to qualitative, rather than merely quantitative (numerical) growth, because Churches grow by the grace of God, not the efforts of men. As Saint Paul the Apostle wrote, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” (1 Corinthians 3:6)

### **Our Key Concern: The Quality of Churches**

The good tree produces fruit (Matthew 7:17). If we concentrate on having a quality Church, everything else necessary will follow, if God so wills.

### **Some Final Points**

Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD) exists as a formal, defined program (See this website: [www.oncd.us](http://www.oncd.us) ) that can be followed step-by-step, in a measurable fashion. The first step is the completion of a designed-for-this-purpose ONCD Parish Survey that works to measure a given parish according to the eight Quality Characteristics listed above.

Here’s a statistic: Every parish that has ever completed the ONCD Parish Survey that has scored a quality index of over 65 in all eight of the Quality Characteristics categories is a parish that is growing! So, ONCD concentrates on helping any given parish focus on improving in those areas where it may be weak. From that, strength emerges, God willing and God blessing.

# Readings from Holy Scripture

## *Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 2*

### **The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 6:18-23)**

Brothers and Sisters: Having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 8:5-13)**

At that time Jesus entered Capernaum, and a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

## *Readings for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is July 9*

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

Brothers and Sisters: My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.