

## 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, January 10, 2021

**31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday after Theophany.** St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4th c.). St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (601). St. Marcian, Presbyter, of Constantinople (5th c.). Ven. Paul, Abbot of Obnora (Vologdá—1429). Ven. Macarius, Abbot, of Pisma (14th c.). Bl. Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa (385). Ven. Antipas the Athonite (1882). St. Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov (1894).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/01/10>

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## Please, Continue Your Generous Financial Support of Our Parish

Dear Financial Supporters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Each year, we ask every member of the Parish, and all those others who wish to support the Parish financially, to submit a completed Pledge Form indicating the amount of money that they wish to donate to the Parish during the calendar year. This money will be used to meet the annual 2021 Expense Budget of the Parish. That Budget was approved at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Parish.

**This year, 2021, we are asking, respectfully and gratefully, that every member of the Parish simply maintain their financial support at the level at which it was provided in 2020. The only two exceptions to that request would be as follows:**

First, if you are suffering genuine economic distress due to the economic effects of the present public health crisis, please, contact me, Fr. John Hopko, Pastor, directly and confidentially, so that we might see if there is a way in which the Parish can be of assistance to you at this time. I will keep any such contacts completely and fully confidential.

Second, if you did not contribute to the Parish in 2020 at a level proportionate with your true ability to support the Parish, we would, respectfully and gratefully, ask you, please, to consider increasing your level of financial support in 2021.

I would remind everyone that the basic principles of Christian stewardship indicate that we would give generously and self-sacrificially to support the work of the Church. I have written broadly and in detail about this matter in the past, but in this space I will only ask everyone to remember these words of the Holy Apostle Paul:

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under

compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

I will close by noting that formal Pledge Forms, on which you will indicate your pledge of financial support of the Parish anticipated for 2021, will soon be mailed out to you, with a return envelope enclosed to make it easy for you to return those completed forms here to the Parish Office. Please, watch for those Pledge Forms in the mail.

Thank you for your continuing generous support of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church. May God see your generosity and bless you for it.

With love in Christ.

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

**We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.**

**+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!***

*First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. Memory Eternal!*

### ***Newly Departed***

Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich	d. 01/02/2021
Anna Szepel	d. 01/08/2021
Luke H.—son of Fr. Steven and Mat. Anne H.	d. 12/17/2020
Maryann Kendall—well-known lay person in the CT Deanery	d. 12/16/2020
Mary Ellen Zobbi—wife of Robert Zobbi, of the Waterbury Parish	d. 12/12/2020

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

Nicholas Toropilo	1/10/1970
John Fill	1/10/1986
Maria Vanokhy	1/12/1932
Martha Hasko	1/12/1967
John Naymchik	1/13/1932
Alexander Skalaban	1/13/1960
Michael Sarachun	1/13/1967
Michael Nimchek	1/13/1972
Makari Kaplonetz	1/14/1939
Clement Tikhon	1/14/1945
Ignaty Kucirka	1/14/1958

### **THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP**

*First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is COVID-19, and those working to alleviate their suffering.*

### ***Persons captive and suffering for the Faith***

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

### ***Those who are sick and suffering***

Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness  
Archpriest John—Fr. John H.'s uncle through marriage; cancer  
Archpriest Joseph I.—A retired priest of the CT Deanery; unwell at this time  
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)  
Dolores T.—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment  
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer  
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin  
Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease  
Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease  
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer  
MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease  
Yelena "Lenna" M.—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges  
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray  
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage

Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer  
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; chronically unwell  
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery  
Rosie D.—ongoing health issues  
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues  
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell  
Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer  
Christopher—friend of Kathy M.; struggling with cancer  
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer  
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues  
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish  
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues  
Subdn. Joseph—recent issue with a painful hip joint  
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer  
Wayne—Donna O.'s father  
Vickie—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray  
Sam—Vickie's husband, struggling with multiple health issues  
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray  
Sue—friend of Macrina H.; quite unwell at this time  
Jody—Jacob J.'s father; recovering from significant back surgery  
Helen—acquaintance of Helena G; in long-term care  
Candace—acquaintance of Helena G; in need of prayers  
Elaine H.—hip replacement surgery upcoming in January; our fellow parishioner  
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recently injured in fall  
Joanne—acquaintance of the Hopkos; quite ill and in need of prayers  
Stephen—family member of a parishioner; quite ill and in need of prayers

### ***Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities***

Alex—John D.'s brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother, resident in long-term eldercare

### ***Expectant Mothers***

Shelby (Sophia) G. and the child to be born of her  
Katherine and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife

### ***Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us***

All those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us

### ***Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces***

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")  
Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps  
Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer and pilot  
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad  
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army  
Ian H.—Fr. David K.'s son-in-law; preparing for overseas deployment, U.S. Army

### ***Anniversaries of Marriage***

Matthew & Laura Nimchek	1/16
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### ***Birthdays***

Richard Koski	1/11
Larisa Kowaleski	1/15

# News and Notes

**Parish presently Closed for In-Person Activities:** Our Parish is presently closed for In-Person Activities, due to a possible Coronavirus/COVID-19 exposure that took place last week. As soon as that matter has been resolved, we will inform Parishioners, accordingly. We have already, as soon as we were informed about it, contacted the members and friends of the Parish about this matter via the Parish email list, and by means of some telephone calls, too. However, if you require any further information about this matter, please, do not hesitate to contact Fr. John, directly, by phone (voice or text) at 860-944-3486.

**Memory Eternal!** Anna Szepel, a lifelong member of Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, Waterbury, entered into blessed repose on Friday, January 8. Please keep the newly reposed Anna in your prayers, together with all those who mourn her loss, especially our fellow parishioner, Reader John Paul Szepel. Memory Eternal!

**Funeral Arrangements, January 14-15, for Mrs. Anna Szepel are as follows:** On Thursday evening, January 14, there will be Calling Hours, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, at Naugatuck Valley Memorial - Fitzgerald Zembruski Funeral Home, 240 North Main Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770 (Tel: 1-203-729-4187). At the conclusion of the Calling Hours, Fr. John will lead Memorial Prayers. On Friday morning, January 15, beginning at 10:00 AM, the Funeral Service will take place, at the Funeral Home, in the presence of family and close friends. Please note, that, due to COVID-19, the Funeral Home is restricted to no more than 30 people in attendance, with social distancing and use of face masks mandatorily enforced. Burial will take place in the Waterbury Parish (Saint Mary's) Cemetery, Stillson Road, Waterbury, at approximately 11:00 AM on Friday morning, January 15. Given attendance restrictions at the Funeral Home, we note that we can safely gather many more people in the Cemetery. *(A Note from Fr. John: Frankly, given the present surge in COVID-19 cases locally, the safest option for attending this funeral is to gather in the Cemetery, at the time of burial.)*

**Wednesday Morning Matins Services, via "Zoom", at 8:00 a.m.:** Due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 here in our area, we have made the choice to limit in-person activities at the Church. This means that, for now, we are suspending our in-person Wednesday morning Matins services. We have replaced that in-person service with an on-line gathering for worship and prayer, Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Watch your email inbox for details.

**Terryville Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday evening, January 13, beginning at 7:00 PM:** The Terryville Parish Council will meet on Wednesday evening, January 13, beginning at 7:00 PM. This meeting will take place via video teleconference ("Zoom"). The Zoom link for that meeting will be sent out closer to the time of the meeting to all the members of the Parish Council. If any parishioner has any agenda items for the Parish Council meeting, they are asked to contact Fr. John with those items. If any parishioner wishes to participate in the Parish Council meeting (as a non-voting observer, as is allowed by our Parish procedures), they are asked to contact Fr. John in order to request the necessary Zoom link to enable such participation.

**NO Bible Study this week, the second full week of January:** Unfortunately, Fr. John is heavily scheduled on weekday evenings this coming week, January 11 through 15. He is required to participate in administrative meetings on both Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening, and he will be participating in Mrs. Anna Szepel's Calling Hours on Thursday evening. Thus, **we are cancelling Bible Study this week, and will regroup for the following week**, when we hope that we can gather (via video teleconference) on Tuesday evening, January 19, for Bible Study, following our usual pattern.

**Bible Study Companion Book:** If you are interested in reading a book that will serve as a companion to the efforts we are presently making in Bible Study, this book may be a resource for you: *First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart*. This book is written by Fr. Lawrence Farley, who is a priest in British Columbia, Canada, in a parish of the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Canada. It is published by Conciliar Press, Chesterton, Indiana (<https://store.ancientfaith.com/biblical-studies/>). Fr. Lawrence has written a whole series of accessible commentaries on parts of the Bible. In particular, his commentaries are written to be appreciated by and useful to Orthodox Christian lay people.

**Support from the Parish:** If you require financial or pastoral support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity. **Don't be shy: If you need help, please, do contact Fr. John.**

**Donations to the Parish:** Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation "button" (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) 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%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

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## Readings from Holy Scripture

*Scripture Readings for the Sunday after the Feast of the Theophany, this year January 12*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:7-13)**

Brothers and Sisters: Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 4:12-17)**

At that time: When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."