

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, January 22, 2023

The Annual Sanctity of Life Sunday in the Orthodox Church in America

(For resources, CLICK here: <https://www.oca.org/sanctity-life-resources>)

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. New Martyrs and Confessors of the 20th Century under the Soviet Yoke. Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (96). Monastic Martyr Anastasius the Persian (628). Monastic Martyr Anastásii, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Makáry of Zhabynsk, Wonderworker (1623). 377 Martyred Companions in Bulgaria (ca. 817).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/01/22>

Services and Events, This Weekend and Upcoming

Saturday, January 21, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins), followed by our Monthly Rite of General Confession.

Sunday, January 22, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour.

Wednesday, January 25, 8:00 AM: Our usual and customary Wednesday morning Matins service.

Thursday, January 26, 7:00 PM: Our usual weekly online Thursday evening Bible Study session, via teleconference (ZOOM).

Saturday, January 28, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, January 29, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour.

Wednesday, February 1: We will NOT have our usual and customary Wednesday Matins (Morning Prayers) Service.

Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 PM: Great Vespers and Litya (the Blessing of the Five Loaves, with the Wheat, Wine, and Oil) for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem.

Thursday, February 2, 9:15 AM: Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem.

Thursday, February 2, 7:00 PM: Our usual weekly online Thursday evening Bible Study session, via teleconference (ZOOM).

Saturday, February 4, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, February 5, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour.

Wednesday, February 8, 8:00 AM: Our usual and customary Wednesday morning Matins service.

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News and Notes

Coffee Hour Hosts: Please, consider signing up to host one (or some) of our Sunday morning Coffee Social Hours. Thank you!

House Blessings are Ongoing: If you want Fr. John to make a home visit in order to bless your home as is customary at this time of year, and if he has not yet already contacted you to set up an appointment for such a visit, please contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

2023 Pledge Forms: If you have not yet completed and returned your annual Pledge Form for 2023, please do so. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please, see Fr. John. The pledge form can be accessed at this link:

<https://terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/files/PledgeForm2023.pdf>

LOOKING AHEAD: Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in Temple at Jerusalem:

We will celebrate the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem on Wednesday, February 1, which is the Eve of the Feast, and on Thursday, February 2, the actual Feast Day.

On Wednesday, February 1, beginning at 7:00 PM, will we serve Festal Great Vespers with Litya (the Blessing of the Five Loaves, with the Wheat, Wine, and Oil, followed by Anointing with the Blessed Oil, as is usual and customary on feast days).

On Thursday, February 2, the actual feast day, beginning at 9:15 AM, we will serve the Festal Divine Liturgy.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem commemorates the occasion (as related in Chapter 2 of the Gospel According to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke) when Jesus, being forty days old, was taken by his mother Mary, the Most-Blessed Theotokos, and by Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem. There they offered the traditional sacrifices for him and encountered the Elder Simeon and the Prophetess Anna. Please, make every effort to participate in the Feast.

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2023 – Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

Sunday, January 22, 2023

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic *Epistle to Diognetus*, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians “marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh” (See, Chapter 5 of the *Epistle to Diognetus*).

Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).

Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, *Sanctity of Life Sunday* has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning.

We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, they used that voice to speak against the enormities that the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes, abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions.

But we must never, ever, allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America

(For Sanctity of Life Resources, CLICK here: <https://www.oca.org/sanctity-life-resources>)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Again we pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, warfare, and acts of terror and senseless violence throughout the world—both those who have died and those who have suffered and yet still live. We especially pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, hear us and have mercy!

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

Newly Departed

Mitred Archbishop Sergius Kuharasky—a prominent clergyman d. 1/5/23

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Isodore Kablesch	1/22/1960
Joseph Duke	1/23/1935
Mary Duke	1/23/1985
Julia Biscoe	1/24/1944
Fotia Veshman	1/24/1939
Michael Susla	1/24/1963
Steven “Steve” Thomas Eazarsky	1/24/2020
William Glowa	1/25/1987
Olga Wrettick	1/25/2008
Dorothy Gryguch	1/26/1988
Theodore Duke	1/27/1997
Julia Pavelchak	1/27/1935
Steven Pohlod	1/27/1958
Maria Yakowitz	1/28/1949
Pauline Osuch	1/28/2001
June F. Pavelchak	1/28/2009

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 Andrew Tregubov—priest in New Hampshire; recently unwell
Matushka Anne Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
Matushka Ann S.—chronic health challenges
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS); recent surgery, too
Donna—Ann S.’s niece, Deb W.’s cousin; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann S.’s niece, Deb W.’s cousin; kidney disease-awaiting transplant
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 & daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges and now widowed
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Michael “Mike” L.—ongoing health issues
child George—young son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
Bill M.—struggling with health issues, please keep in prayer
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
Thomas—Patty N.’s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.’s father
George Kla.—our fellow parishioner; facing a variety of health challenges
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers
Dianna—Jennifer W.’s mother; suffering some health problems
Thomas—fighting cancer; father of a friend of the Parish (S.H.)

Yvonne K.—a person we have been asked to pray for; multiple myeloma
Mark—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); critically ill
Domenic—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Louis—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness
Brittney—facing possibly severe health issues; at the request of Kathy M.
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.’s mother; health issues
Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.’s family member; heart surgery
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.’s; recent serious health challenges
Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty’s nephew; Rick is unwell and in need of prayers
Peter—Deacon Paul and Patty’s acquaintance; battling leukemia
Marisa—a young girl, acquaintance of the Nimcheks, who is quite unwell
Stephen—facing health challenges; at request of Marilou P.
Emily—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a person facing serious illness, courageously
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of our prayers
Michael “Mike” A.—battling some health challenges
Robert J.—dealing with some health issues
Geraldine—acquaintance of Helena G.; battling lung cancer
Forrest H.—husband of Elaine H.; ongoing health challenges
John B.—acquaintance of Jeanne M.; facing health challenges
Elizabeth—suffered acute and chronic health issues; friend of Helena G.
Rosemary—dedicated member in the New Britain Parish; health challenges
Olga—John K.’s sister-in-law; unwell and in need of our prayers
Kirk—nephew of Joan M. and Jeanne M., recovering from cardiac surgery
Johnathan—son of Alison and Mike A.; severely injured in tree trimming accident
Paul S.—underwent medical procedure on December 6; still in need of prayers
Mary—relative of David C.; recently unwell
Cameron—relative of David C.; in need of prayerful support
Joshua—relative of Carolyn P.; recently diagnosed with a vexing illness
Andrea and Alexandra—mother & daughter who need prayers; req. of Helena G.
Daniel—a man for whom we have been asked to pray; req. of the Hopkos
Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., recovering from brain surgery
Courtney—Louine K.’s brother; suffering in illness
Jeffrey—a man for whom we have been asked to pray
Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.
Subdeacon Joseph B.—recovering from joint replacement surgery

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

Alex—John D.’s brother; suffering permanent effects of stroke
Dolores M.—Bob M.’s mother; resident in long-term eldercare
Vera M.—now at Anthology in Farmington
Roberta K.—a Waterbury parishioner living in long-term care

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Kristen and the child to be born of her
Katrina and the child to be born of her
Alexis and the child to be born of her
Rose and the child to be born of her

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

John (Jack) K.

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
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division U.S. Army soldier
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps pilot

Birthdays

Joan Markovich	1/28
Jeanne Moore	1/28

Prayers Requested: Maryna B., friend of our Terryville Parish, and a native of Kharkiv, Ukraine, asks prayers for the health and salvation of her family and friends in Ukraine, including, specifically, her grandmother **Larissa**. Larissa, and others dear and known to Maryna, are still in Kharkiv, a city whose people have been suffering greatly, due to attacks by the military of the country of Russia. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

Prayers Requested: Lenna M., our fellow parishioner, also asks prayers for the health and salvation of family members in and from Ukraine, including, specifically, her second cousin **Ludmilla**, Ludmilla’s daughter **Nadia**, Nadia’s husband **Alexei**, and their children **Sofia** and **Anna**. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

Prayers requested: For Maryna B.’s brother **Dmytro**, sister-in-law **Yuliia**, and their child **Milana** (born May 6, 2022). (Lord, Jesus Christ, King of Peace, hear our prayers! Lord, have mercy.)

Prayers Requested, related to the troubles created by the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine: Elena Watras asks prayers for her Goddaughter **Vera** and her family members **Pavel, Timothy, Nina, Anya, Mitya, Petya, and all their extended family**.

Prayer Request Announcement

We are grateful to report that the infant child Thomas, Elena W.'s grand-nephew, for whom we have been praying, is doing so well that his name can be removed from our Prayer List. Little Thomas was born very prematurely, but is now healthy and at home. We are grateful for everyone's prayers and for this happy outcome.

Scripture Readings, etc.

For decades, it has been our custom to share Scripture Readings the Parish Bulletin. However, it seems better now to provide links to the Daily Scripture Readings and other resources located on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America, www.oca.org:

Follow this link, to be taken to a section of the official Orthodox Church in America website at which you can access the Daily Scripture Readings, the Lives of the Saints arranged day-to-day throughout the year, catechetical (instructional) material about the Orthodox Faith, and section featuring Questions and Answers about the Orthodox Faith:

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy>

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The End! Glory be to God!