

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, February 6, 2022 – Tone 8

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Sunday of Zacchaeus. St. Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100). St. Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople (891). Ven. Barsanuphius the Great and John the Prophet (6th c.). Virgin Martyr Dorothy, two sisters—Christina and Callista, and Theophilus, at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (288-300). Martyr Julian of Emesa (312). Virgin Martyr Fausta, and with her, Evilasius and Maximus, at Cyzicus (305-311). Virgin Martyrs Martha and Mary, and their brother Lycarion, in Egypt.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/02/06>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Cancellation: Wednesday morning, February 9: NO Matins!** (Fr. John will be out of the office all day long on Wednesday, February 9.)
- **Thursday evening, February 10, 7:00 PM: ONLINE,** via “Zoom,” we will have our usual 90-minute long weekly Bible Study session, continuing our reading of The Gospel According to Saint Matthew.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, February 12, 6:30 PM:** Our usual Saturday evening weekly Lord’s Day Vigil Service.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, February 13, 9:15 AM:** Our usual weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM. **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.**
- **Tuesday evening, February 15, 7:00 PM:** The Terryville Parish Council will hold its February 2022 monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, February 15, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM. That meeting will be convened ONLINE, via “Zoom.”
- **Wednesday morning, February 16, 8:00 AM:** Our usual Wednesday morning in-person Matins service, here at Church.
- **Thursday evening, February 17, 7:00 PM: ONLINE,** via “Zoom,” we will have our usual 90-minute long weekly Bible Study session, continuing our reading of The Gospel According to Saint Matthew.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, February 19, 6:30 PM:** Our usual Saturday evening weekly Lord’s Day Vigil Service.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, February 20, 9:15 AM:** Our usual weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM. **Sunday of the Prodigal Son.**

PARISH PRAYER LIST

We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world.

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

First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19.

Newly Departed

Ben—a friend of Mike A.'s d. 1/29/22
Joan Impressa—a friend of Marilou P.'s d. 1/20/22
Dillon—a young man who died, leaving a young family—request of Jacob J. d. 1/18/22
Robert Nethery—once associated with the Waterbury Parish d. 1/16/22

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Evheny Mattson 2/6/1952
Paul Preslopsky 2/6/1987
Francis Biscoe 2/8/1978
Mary Abbotts 2/8/1998
William Lyga 2/9/1985
Joseph Bystry 2/11/1975
Nicholas Koltko 2/11/1994
John Itar 2/12/1937
Elias Prystash 2/12/1965
Doris Witik Raineault 2/12/2007
Vladimir Lukyantsev 2/12/2015

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to 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

Priest John M.—a young priest, suffering with a vexing illness
Matushka Anne Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
Matushka Ann S.—chronic health challenges
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
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
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges and recently widowed
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
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
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray
George Kla.—our fellow parishioner; facing a variety of health challenges
Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease
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
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; very unwell recently
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.
Jeanne M.—recovering from joint replacement surgery (doing well)
Albert ("Al")—in need of prayers for healing; very unwell
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; recent 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
Barbara S.—W'bury parishioner; recovering from surgery
Rosemary—friend of Jack K.; recovering from recent stroke
Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty's nephew; Rick is unwell and in need of prayers
Peter—Deacon Paul and Patty's acquaintance; battling leukemia
Christina—a woman battling cancer; acquaintance of Fr. John H.

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

Tracey and the child to be born of her—Tracey is G. and J. W.'s daughter-in-law
Lucy and the child to be born of her—Lucy C. is our fellow parishioner
Maura and the child to be born of her—Maura is Lucy and David C.'s friend
Katherine and the child to be born of her—relative of the Hopkos

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

Fr. James P., Chaplain (MAJ)—now home from recent deployment
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 helicopter pilot
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division U.S. Army soldier
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier

Wedding Anniversaries

Joel & Julie Kowaleski 2/12

Birthdays this coming week

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek 2/7
Lucy Crosby 2/8

News and Notes

Fr. John out of the office on February 9: Fr. John will be out of the office all day long on Wednesday, February 9. We will not have our usual Wednesday morning Matins service that day.

Terryville Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 PM: The Terryville Parish Council will meet on Tuesday evening, February 15, beginning at 7:00 PM. This meeting will take place online, via video teleconference.

Prayers Requested: One of our parishioners who is a teacher has asked prayers for one of her students. This student is battling a very serious illness. Please, keep this child and their loved ones in your prayers. Thank you. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

A Dozen Sundays: From the Sunday of Zacchaeus to Holy Pascha

Every year, each of the twelve Sundays from the Sunday of Zacchaeus through to the Sunday of Pascha (Easter) has the same theme as it had in previous years. These set themes are as follows:

- 1. Zacchaeus Sunday:** On Zacchaeus Sunday we hear the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) the remorseful tax collector who was forgiven and blessed because of his exemplary desire to see the Lord and his subsequent commitment to repentance with its accompanying pledge to make amends for his sins.
- 2. The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee:** On the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee we hear the Parable of these two men (Luke 18:10-14), the first a repentant sinner and the latter a prideful and judgmental doer of good deeds. We are reminded by this parable to emulate the humble repentance of the Publican, while at the same time committing ourselves to imitate the good works of the Pharisee, but with humility rather than pride.
- 3. The Sunday of the Prodigal Son:** On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son we hear the Parable of this wayward young man (Luke 15:11-32) who comes to realize the error of his ways and returns in a humble way to the home of the father he had abandoned. There he is greeted by his father with love and forgiveness. By this powerful story, we are reminded about God the Father's perfect, forgiving and abiding love and the need to turn away from our own sins in order to receive God's love and forgiveness.
- 4. The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat-fare Sunday):** On the Sunday of the Last Judgment we hear Christ's recounting of the Last Judgment as recorded in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matthew 25:31-46). We are reminded that we will be judged in the end not for our intentions or even our beliefs, but for our actions. We will be judged not in reference to what we have said, but rather for what we have done. We are also reminded that we must treat every fellow human being with dignity and respect, as we would hopefully treat Jesus Christ, our Lord, Himself. The Sunday of the Last Judgment is also called Meat-fare, because it is the last day on which we eat meat products until the celebration of Holy Pascha.
- 5. Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-are Sunday):** On the Sunday of Forgiveness we are reminded of the essential quality of forgiveness: that we are forgiven our sins by God insofar as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. Forgiveness is a decision we make not to allow sin to break down the bounds of love that we must nurture and maintain with one another and with God. Forgiveness Sunday is also called Cheese-fare, because it is the last day on which we eat dairy products until the celebration of Holy Pascha.
- 6. The First Sunday in Great Lent—The Sunday of Orthodoxy:** The First Sunday in Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy on which we commemorate the permanent return of the Holy Icons to the Church in the year 842 AD, after a period of time in 8th and 9th centuries when they had been removed from the Churches of the Byzantine Empire. We celebrate iconography because icons are an affirmation of the fact that, in the person of Jesus Christ, God has become a man for us and our salvation. Icons are essential in the Church for this reason, and so we honor and venerate them especially on the First Sunday of Great Lent.

7. **The Second Sunday in Great Lent—The Commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas:** On the Second Sunday of Great Lent we commemorate Saint Gregory Palamas, a 14th century Greek bishop who articulated and defended the correct Orthodox teaching concerning how we know God through prayer. The knowledge and experience of God made possible through prayer and defended by St. Gregory Palamas is an essential part of the Orthodox tradition and, so, we rightly commemorate St. Gregory and his correct theology concerning this vital matter.
8. **The Third Sunday in Great Lent—The Lenten Veneration of the Holy Cross:** On the Third Sunday of Great Lent, the middle Sunday, we venerate the Holy Cross. We remember the Cross at this time because Lent is our journey to the Cross of Christ and in this veneration we are given a foretaste of where we are going, a foretaste of the journey to and through the Cross that we will make with our Lord Jesus Christ a few weeks later, during Holy Week.
9. **The Fourth Sunday in Great Lent—The Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder:** On the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent we commemorate Saint John of the Ladder, a 6th century monk and writer who wrote a famous book called *The Ladder*. *The Ladder* describes “steps” in the spiritual life that we should be endeavoring to take as we grow spiritually in our lives, as we grow away from sin and towards God and His righteousness. *The Ladder* is traditionally read by Orthodox Christians during Great Lent and, therefore, Saint John of the Ladder is especially commemorated every year on this Fourth Sunday in Great Lent.
10. **The Fifth and Last Sunday in Great Lent—The Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt:** Saint Mary of Egypt is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent because she is the classic example of a repentant sinner. Mary started her life enslaved to the ways of this world and then, finding herself in Jerusalem in the presence of a relic of the True Cross of Christ, repented and became a tremendous ascetic, fasting and repenting of her sins in the deserts outside Jerusalem. Her life story is traditionally read by Orthodox Christians during the first week of Great Lent as an example of the manner in which we should seek to turn away from our sins and return to Christ and His Church during the Great Fast. Great Lent ends on the Friday following this Fifth and Last Sunday in Great Lent. Thus, for Orthodox Christians, Great Lent consists of six weeks of weekdays (thirty days) and five weekends (ten days), for a total of forty days.
11. **Palm Sunday—The Commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem:** On Palm Sunday we commemorate the Triumphal Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, when He is received as the Messiah, indeed, as the King, of Israel. This event takes place the day after Christ raises His friend Lazarus to life from four days dead. On Palm Sunday we see Christ acknowledged as King, because he is truly a king. A king is one who leads his people into battle against their greatest enemy and wins and, just as David the King, the ancestor of Christ, killed Goliath, the enemy of David’s people, so Christ, our King, is victorious over the ultimate enemy of all people—Death! Although Christ is honored as a king on Palm Sunday, during His Entrance into Jerusalem, He will be most truly revealed as King when He dies and rises again a week later, on the Feast of Holy Pascha.
12. **The Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha (Easter Sunday), the Feast of Feasts:** On Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, we celebrate the central festival of Christianity and of Christians, Christ’s “trampling down [of] death by death.” In and with Christ we live forever in peace and joy and love and harmony. Praise God! Amen!

Readings from Holy Scripture

The Scripture Readings for each day of the year are available at this link on the Orthodox Church in America website: <https://www.oca.org/readings>

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Zacchaeus, Sunday, February 6, 2022

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 4: 9-15)

My Son Timothy: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee, Sunday, February 13, 2022

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (2 Tim. 3:10-15)

My Son Timothy: You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

