

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

860.582.3631 • email: terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org • www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch



Sunday, February 20, 2022 – Tone 2

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 2. St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780). Ven. Agafón (Agathon), Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th -14th c.). Beheading of Ven. Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves (1570). Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342-344). St. Agathon, Pope of Rome (682).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/02/20>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Wednesday morning, February 23, 8:00 AM:** Our usual Wednesday morning in-person Matins service.
- **Thursday evening, February 24, 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, February 26, 6:00 PM, General Memorial Service:** On Saturday evening, February 26, beginning at 6:00 PM, we will serve a General Memorial Service for all the Departed, with the occasion being the pre-Lenten Memorial Saturday.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, February 26, 6:30 PM:** Our usual Saturday evening weekly Lord’s Day Vigil Service.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, February 27, 9:15 AM:** Our usual weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM. **Meat-fare Sunday. Last Judgment.** [NOTE: Fr. John Hopko will be presiding at Divine Liturgy in the Hartford Parish on Sunday morning, February 27, and then presiding at a general meeting there, in his capacity as Pastoral Administrator of that parish while Fr. James Parnell is on a Leave of Absence. Fr. John Jillions will be presiding here in Terryville on Sunday morning, February 27, in Fr. John Hopko’s place.]
- **Wednesday morning, March 2, 8:00 AM:** Our usual Wednesday morning in-person Matins service.
- **Thursday evening, March 3, 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, March 5, 6:30 PM:** Our usual Saturday evening weekly Lord’s Day Vigil Service.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, March 6, 9:15 AM:** Our usual weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM. **Cheese-fare Sunday. Forgiveness.**
- **Sunday morning, March 6, approximately 10:45 AM:** Abbreviated Forgiveness Vespers, with the Rite of Forgiveness to begin Great Lent.
- **Monday, March 7:** Great Lent begins!

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

Archpriest Michael Fortounatto—acquaintance of Hopkos	d. 2/19/22
Dorothy—Mat. C. Voytovich's mother	d. 2/17/22
Roy—Jacob J.'s grandfather	d. 2/17/22
Robert—an acquaintance of the Hansons	d. 1/30/22
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!

Roman Zhyr	2/20/1946
Anna Rosko	2/20/2017
Andrew Letitia	2/21/1952
Akim Dubnansky	2/21/1968
Eva Pavelchak	2/21/1992
John Hriceniak	2/21/2010
Eva Mihailoff	2/21/2016
Sophia Ivanchuk	2/22/1929
Alexei Gys	2/22/1937
Nellie Koltko	2/22/1998
Tekla Grayson	2/23/1960
Andrew Kaschak	2/23/1977
Mary Sarofin	2/23/2003
Anna Skalaban	2/24/1961
Ellen (Hasko) Williams	2/24/2001
Olga Rewak	2/24/2006
Emelian Mozelak	2/26/1939
Alexander Oneperko	2/26/1970

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
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.
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; very unwell recently

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

Newly Illunined through Holy Baptism

child Julia—baptized 2/19/2022; John and Nina D.'s granddaughter

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

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays this coming week

George Klachany	2/20
Mark Orelup	2/20

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!)

Lenten Mission Services in the Connecticut Deanery: We will be having Sunday afternoon/evening Lenten Mission Services in the Connecticut Deanery again this year. This is a longtime custom in the Deanery that we were not able to keep in 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 event. A full schedule of those services will be shared via email and, also, in next weekend's Parish Bulletin.

Notes from Fr. John: Russia and Ukraine

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Many of us have been following the troubles between Russia and Ukraine, which have recently become more acute. Statistics vary (given how the question is framed), but we can say, with reasonable accuracy, that about three-quarters of those who identify ethnically or culturally as Russian and two-thirds of those who identify ethnically or culturally as Ukrainian, also identify themselves, in the category of religion, as being Orthodox Christians.

The politics of the present difficulties between Ukraine and Russia are complicated, because the matter of how any given person identifies ethnically, culturally, or religiously, does not necessarily track neatly with how that same person identifies nationally or politically. It is possible for people who are equally committed and faithful in their Orthodox Christian Faith to differ about the politics of this matter.

However, all of us should be praying—whatever these troubles are right now in that part of the world, and whatever our thoughts are about just solutions—that peace will reign, and that violence will be avoided.

History teaches us that when war comes, profound human suffering inevitably comes with it. Thus, war-making must always be the very last of the options that we consider for action when there are difficulties between us. May the God of Peace, grant us peace. Lord, hear our prayer.

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

Adjustments to the Health Safety Protocols at the Terryville (CT) Parish – A Letter dated February 18, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the consensus of our Terryville Parish Council, we are once again adjusting our health safety protocols here at Church. We have health safety protocols because of COVID-19, and other communicable diseases.

First, do not come to Church if you are sick or have been significantly exposed to sickness. It is not “heroic” to ignore obvious symptoms of communicable disease, and then attend Church events, regardless. If you are sick, please, stay home until you are well.

Second, we are no longer requiring people attending services and events here at Church to wear facemasks (facial PPE). Anyone who feels safer wearing a mask is welcome to do so. However, masking is now optional.

Third, we are restoring the use of the full Choir to Parish life. The Choir will, as usual and customary, sing the hymns and responses at our liturgical services. Any Choir member who would still prefer not to sing in the Choir is free, of course, not to rejoin the Choir until such time as they feel more comfortable doing so.

Fourth, we will no longer be using a sign-in sheet at Church. We are able to keep track of who has been at Church by observation. We do not need a written record.

Fifth, beginning with gatherings following the evening celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts during the weeks of Great Lent, we will begin to reintroduce into our Parish life fellowship gatherings following the conclusion of liturgical services. At first, these fellowship gatherings will be very simple in nature. For the Lenten gatherings, we will be asking one family to provide some Lenten soup and bread for those who choose to stay and take part in these gatherings. We will set up the tables and chairs in our downstairs social hall in such a way that there is plenty of room to spread out and keep some distance between family groups. Once we experience these gatherings, if we find them satisfactory, we will consider adding more such gatherings to our schedule, such as Sunday morning Coffee Social Hours.

Finally, we do ask everyone attending services and events at our Parish Church to respect other peoples’ personal space. Do not assume that any person is comfortable with your close presence. Some of us are more comfortable keeping distance from others. Conversations and other communications can be had from a distance of six to eight feet, quite easily. Respect other people’s space. Again, some of us prefer, always (not just when there is a lot of illness prevalent in the community), to have our personal space honored. Also, do not assume that someone is comfortable shaking your hand or other physical contact. Ask permission to stand near people or to contact them in any physical way. Do not make assumptions. (A personal note: As some of you know, I, for one, prefer not to shake peoples’ hands or contact anyone physically. I would rather, myself, interact from a distance.)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with all of the above. If you have any questions or concerns, please, contact me at your earliest convenience.

With love in Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

Readings from Holy Scripture

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

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

Brothers and Sisters: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Lk. 15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"