



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 25, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE — Tone 5. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople (806).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/02/25>

Services and Events, Upcoming

Sunday, February 25, The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, 8:15 AM: Parish Education, in the Parish Basement Social Hall, from 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM.

Sunday, February 25, The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour.

Wednesday morning, February 28, 2024, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Thursday, February 29, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, On-line: Terryville Parish Bible Study, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference. (*NOTE: This is our last on-line Parish Bible Study until we re-start Bible Study sessions after the Feast of Holy Pascha. We suspend on-line Bible Study, during Lent, so that we can concentrate on our Lenten efforts, which include more attendance at Church, at liturgical worship services.*)

Friday, March 1: Fr. John out of office, attending the Pre-Lenten Retreat of the Connecticut Deanery Clergy

Saturday, March 2, Eve of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 3, Sunday of the Prodigal Son, 8:15 AM: Parish Education, in the Parish Basement Social Hall, from 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM.

Sunday, March 3, Sunday of the Prodigal Son, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour.

Wednesday morning, March 6, 2024, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Saturday, March 9, the Pre-Lenten Memorial Saturday, 5:30 PM: General Memorial Service for all the Departed

Saturday, March 9, Eve of the Sunday of the Last Judgement, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 10, Sunday of the Last Judgement, 8:15 AM: Parish Education, in the Parish Basement Social Hall, from 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM.

Sunday March 10, Sunday of the Last Judgement, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Coffee Social Hour. (**NOTE:** *The Sunday of the Last Judgement is also called "Meat-fare" Sunday, as it is the last day on which we eat meat until Holy Pascha. The fast from meat begins on the Monday after the Sunday of the last Judgement, and the full Lenten fast begins a week later on the Monday which is the first day of Great Lent.*)

Wednesday morning, March 13, 2024, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Saturday, March 16, Eve of Forgiveness Sunday, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 17, Forgiveness Sunday, 8:15 AM: NO Parish Education

Sunday March 17, Forgiveness Sunday, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by an abbreviated Coffee Social Hour, after which we will serve Forgiveness Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness to begin Great Lent. (**NOTE:** *Forgiveness Sunday is also called "Cheese-fare" Sunday, as it is the last day on which we eat dairy products until Holy Pascha.*)

Monday, March 18, 7:00 PM: Compline, with The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM: Compline, with The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, March 20, 10:30 AM: Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts. (This service is being scheduled earlier in the day than usual to allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM: Compline, with The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 22, 7:00 PM: General Memorial Service ("Panikhida") for All Departed

Saturday, March 23, 6:00 PM: Our usual weekly Saturday evening Vigil Service (Great Vespers with elements of Resurrectional Matins).

Sunday, March 24, First Sunday in Great Lent: NO Parish Education

Sunday, March 24, First Sunday in Great Lent, The Sunday of Orthodoxy, Forefeast of the Feast of Annunciation, 9:15 AM: Our usual Sunday morning celebration of the Lord's Day Divine Liturgy, followed by a Lenten Coffee Social Hour.

This spring, our new bishop, His Grace the Rt. Rev. Bishop BENEDICT, will be with us TWICE, to lead services in our parish.

- On Wednesday evening, April 10, 2024, beginning at 6:30 PM, Bishop Benedict will be with us for the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten "bring-and-share" supper.
- On Bright Saturday (the first Saturday following Holy Pascha!), May 11, 2024, beginning at 9:15 AM, Bishop Benedict will be with us for the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM. We will also be hosting the Connecticut Deanery clergy and faithful that day. As is the Church's custom, the Divine Liturgy of Bright Saturday will follow the Paschal order, and be extremely festive! May 11 is also, this year and every year, the Feast Day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who we will especially commemorate that day. After the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will have a festive Paschal brunch.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-fare 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 grown 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.

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.

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.

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!

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

Keith—a man we have been asked to remember d. 01/29/24
Thomas—a man we have been asked to remember d. 01/29/24

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Emelian Mozalak 2/26/1939
Alexander Onepenko 2/26/1970
Fannie Serduk 2/27/1976
Anna Hricenik 2/27/1988
Vasili Biscoe 3/1/1951
Roland Oraschewsky 3/1/2017
Symeon Papko 3/2/1944
Mary Greziuk 3/2/1956
Lillian Hasko 3/2/2008

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

Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit—in ill health, in need of prayers
Archpriest Andrew Tregubov—priest in New Hampshire; unwell
Archpriest Vasili G.—unwell and in need of prayers; a diocesan priest
Archpriest Vladimir A.—unwell and in need of prayers; a diocesan priest
Archpriest Vladimir H.—unwell and in need of prayers; a diocesan priest
Archpriest Mark Sh.—at request of Lynn H.
Archpriest John E.—recent back surgery
Subdeacon John Paul—chronic and debilitating back pain
Matushka Ann Sh.—at request of Lynn H.
Matushka Anne Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
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
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.'s father
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering health problems
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
Kathy (Katherine) 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; health issues
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; serious health challenges
Stephen—facing long-term health challenges; at request of Marilou P.
Emily—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; facing serious illness, courageously
Michael "Mike" A.—battling health challenges
Robert Jos.—dealing with some health issues
Elizabeth—suffered acute and chronic health issues; friend of Helena G.
Rosemary—member in the New Britain Parish; long-term health challenges
Kirk—nephew of Joan M. and Jeanne M., recovering from cardiac surgery
Andrea—mourning loss of loved one; req. of Helena G.
Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., recovering from brain surgery
Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.

Sonya K.—former W'bury parishioner, unwell
Nyla and Don—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Jesse—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Jeffrey—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Ninoos—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
Harry—at request of Joan M.; joint replacement surgery
Brittany—relative of Pdn. Paul; young woman facing cancer
Ruth S.—friend of the Hopkos; badly injured in a fall
Alexandra—Fr. John H.'s sister; suffers with Neurofibromatosis Type 2 (NF2)
Reader Matthew—friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; in need of prayers
Oleg—friend of Subdeacon John Paul S.; very worrying diagnosis of health issue
John—a man suffering from cancer (Justine S.'s father)
Bill ("Vasilios") L.—relative of the Sovyrda Family; unwell and in need of prayers
Joan and Robert—mother and son coping with chronic illness—req. of Helena G.
Marilou P.—our fellow parishioner; still recovering from surgical repair of broken leg
Paul S.—recovering from recent medical procedure
Holly—an acquaintance of Peter H.; unwell and in need of prayers
Laura—friend of Lenna M.; battling brain cancer
Amber—Louine K.'s granddaughter-in-law.
Ferda ("fair-dah")—acquaintance of Mark and Karry O.; battling a serious illness
Matthew—someone for whom we have been asked to pray
Larissa—daughter of Fr. Michael and Nadia K.; we have been asked to pray for her
Alice—Mike A.'s mother—recently unwell
Brett—Mike A.'s son—recent unwellness
Elizabeth S.—mother of an acquaintance of Fr. John's; battling cancer
Alan—at the request of Cynthia B.; unwell and in need of prayers
Mima—wife of one of Lewis H.'s coworker; unwell and in need of prayers
Alice—parishioner Mike A.'s mother; unwell and in need of prayers
Robert—Fr. Justin Gri.'s brother; unwell and in need of prayers
Aaron—Fr. Steven H.'s son; unwell and in need of prayers
Tamara "Tammy" B. – our fellow parishioner; experiencing recurrent health challenges
Timothy—a man we have been asked to pray for; cancer

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

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
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner
Matushka Ann S.—our fellow parishioner; now living in residential care
Forrest H.—our fellow parishioner, now living in residential care

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Kate and the child to be born of her—Lynn H.'s family member
Justine and the child to be born of her—a frequent visitor to our Parish
Melanie and the child to be born of her—George and Jenn. W.'s daughter-in-law
Diana and the child to be born of her—Julie and Joel K.'s daughter-in-law
Meredith and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife
Courtney and the child to be born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s daughter
Maura and the child to be born of her—close friend of Lucy C.
And all the expectant mothers and their children

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

John (Jack) K. – away in Florida
Christyn O. – away on study fellowship
And all those who are or will be traveling

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

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")
Shelby—Joel O.'s wife; also a U.S. Navy medic
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps pilot
Zachary W.—Fr. Zachary W.'s son; U.S. Air Force pilot
David—at request of Fr. David K.; U.S. Army medic

Wedding Anniversaries

None this week

Birthdays

None this week



Pray for Peace!

Please pray for all those throughout the world, known and unknown to us by name, who have died and who are suffering due to armed conflict.

Presently there is significant warfare, causing tens of thousands of deaths and incredible suffering, ongoing in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Myanmar, in the Maghreb, in Ethiopia, and in Sudan. There are lesser conflicts going on in many other places, as well, costing thousands more deaths. To give but one example, the ongoing drug war in Mexico has cost thousands of lives.

Please, pray for peace. Pray for those who have died. Pray for those who yet still live, but who have been victimized. Pray for all those who have suffered loss. Lord, hear our prayer!

News and Notes:

Parish Sisterhood Meeting, Sunday March 10: On Sunday, March 10, during the Coffee Social Hour following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Parish Sisterhood will meet. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new leadership for the Sisterhood, and to make plans for future activities.

All women who are members and friends of the Terryville Parish are invited to attend and take part in this meeting.

Scripture Readings, etc.

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>

The End! Glory be to God!

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