

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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Schedule of Services

- 5/5 Thomas Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
~~12:15 PM – Blessing of the Graves~~
in the Parish Cemetery **CANCELLED – RAIN!!!**
- 5/6 Monday**
7:00 PM – Monthly Meeting of the
Terryville Parish Council
- 5/7 Tuesday**
***Feast of Saint Alexis, Confessor
and Defender of Orthodoxy in America***
IN CLINTON, CT: 9:00 AM – Festal Divine
Liturgy, at Saint Alexis Church, Clinton, CT, for
the Parish Feast Day of that Parish
- 5/8 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/10 Friday**
Eve of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius
7:00 PM – Vespers
- 5/11 Saturday**
Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius
9:15 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy, commemorating
our Patron Saints
5:30 PM – Memorial Service for Departed
Members of the Senetcen Family
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/12 Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/15 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/18 Saturday**
5:30 PM – “40th Day” Memorial Service
for Carol Johnson; and 1st year anniversary of
repose of Steve Panasuk
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/19 Sunday of the Paralytic**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/20 Monday**
6:00 PM – Monthly Meeting of the
Waterbury Parish Council
(in the Waterbury Community Center)
- 5/21 Tuesday**
Eve of the Midfeast of Pentecost
7:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Saint Thomas Sunday

The Second Sunday of Pascha

Also, May 5, annually, is the date of the
Commemoration of, among others,
the Great-Martyr Irene of Thessalonica

Notes from Fr. John: From Pascha to Pentecost (and beyond)

Brothers and Sisters: Christ is risen!

Most of us are familiar with the rhythm of liturgical life that leads us from the Pre-Lenten Sundays, through Great Lent and Holy Week, to Holy Pascha. Perhaps, however, we are less familiar with the equally rich period of sacred time that leads from the celebration of Holy Pascha on through to Pentecost and beyond.

Each of the eight Sundays following the Great and Holy Sunday of Pascha has its own special commemoration.

The First Sunday after Pascha is called Saint Thomas Sunday. Each year on that Sunday we remember Saint Thomas the Apostle, who first doubted the resurrection of Jesus and then, having personally witnessed a post-resurrection appearance of Christ, declared the resurrected Lord to be, “My Lord and my God.” Through Thomas’ doubt and Our Lord’s gentle and loving response to that doubt, we are all given the gift of faith.

On the Second Sunday after Pascha, we remember the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women. These faithful women, despite their deep disappointment and grief at the death of Jesus, came in order to render honor to his corpse. Thus they discovered the empty tomb and, rewarded for their humility and love, are the first to receive the good news of the Resurrection.

On the Third Sunday after Pascha we hear the Gospel story of the Paralytic healed by Jesus after being ill for thirty-eight years (John 5:1-15). Jesus asks him that famous question, also addressed to each and every one of us, “Do you want to be healed?” Thus we are reminded that, in the end, the only source of true healing is our Lord Jesus Christ, who not only can heal us physically, but, far, far more importantly, can heal our souls and so make us worthy of salvation.

On the Fourth Sunday after Pascha we hear the Gospel story of the Samaritan Woman, the Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42). Jesus tell her that “whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst,” reminding us all that our spiritual thirst, the deepest and most profound thirst that we have, is only quenched by spiritual union with God the Father, through God the Son, in God the Spirit.

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PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

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

Newly Departed

Raymond—Ashley Paden's father-in-law	d. 5/4/2019
Sheila—friend of Donna Osuch	d. 4/28/2019
Donald—Chezelle Serev's uncle	d. 4/20/2019
Carol Johnson—our fellow parishioner	d. 4/8/2019
Betty—Fr. John Eissman's mother	d. 4/6/2019
Richard Westerberg—Fr. Michael's brother	d. 4/3/2019

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Julia White	5/5/1945
Vasili Bochno	5/5/1932
Afton Muchka	5/6/1963
Theodore Duke	5/8/1948
Eva Leba	5/8/1966
Anna Senetcen	5/8/2005
Sophroni Bayd	5/9/1933
Metro Bilycia	5/9/1954
Mary Shotack	5/9/1980
Michael Gorsky	5/10/1960
Mary Markovich	5/10/1970
Julius Cassius	5/11/1972
Nicholas Demonosow	5/11/1972

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

His Eminence Archbishop Nikon—recent health issues
Archpriest Steven Belonick—C. Belonick's brother; suffering in serious illness
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Vera—Waterbury parishioner; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Eleanor—Rdr. Joseph Boruch's mother; chronic health challenges
Maria Oraschewsky—now requires dialysis three times a week
Charlotte—Chezelle Serev's mother; unwell and in need of prayerful support
Mark—friend of Frank Guba; battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Michael—friend of Frank Guba; rehabbing after bilateral lung transplant
Irene Vassos—member of Diocesan Council; injured in fall
Nina Gorbachev—very unwell
Anna Szepel—recently unwell; Waterbury parishioner
Yelena Massicotte—facing some health challenges at this time
Tanya Beach—recovering from brain hemorrhage; laboring in rehabilitation
Mat. Cindy Voytovich—facing some health challenges at the present time
Barbara—friend of Jack Kriniske; hip replacement surgery followed by complications

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

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods, Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko—recently hospitalized
Robert (Bob)—Patty Nimchek's brother

Expectant Mothers

Breanna and the child to be born of her – The Serevs' niece and her baby

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

John "Jack" Kriniske
Mark Orelup
Elena and Jim Watras
Jacob Janco

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

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic")
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps
Joshua Pcsolyar—fiancé of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army pilot, now in Afghanistan

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

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On the Fifth Sunday after Pascha we hear the gospel story of the Blind Man (John 9:1-36), where Christ heals the man blind from birth. Jesus makes clay from his own spittle and from the dirt of the ground, and seemingly creates new eyes for the blind man. We are reminded that Christ is the Creator of All, the One through Whom and in Whom all is made. As we pray in the Nicene Creed, Jesus is the One "by [or through] Whom all things are made." We pray on this Sunday that we will not be spiritually blind, but that we will see in Jesus of Nazareth the one who is the unique Savior of the world.

On the Sixth Sunday after Pascha, we remember the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. These holy men met in the year 325 AD at Nicea in the Byzantine Empire at the bidding of Saint Constantine the Emperor in order to address certain theological controversies concerning the person of Jesus Christ. The result of their work (and the subsequent Ecumenical Council, the Second, held in 381 AD at Constantinople) was the promulgation of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed that we Orthodox use liturgically to this day. This Creed, this Confession of Faith, this affirmation of what we believe, is absolutely central to the keeping and living of the Orthodox Christian Faith to this present day.

On the Seventh Sunday after Holy Pascha, fifty days after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Pentecost. On this day we commemorate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and, in and through them, to the Church. On this day we especially remember the beginnings of Church life. Also, on this day we return to kneeling humbly and penitentially in prayer after having spent the whole Paschal season joyfully standing on our feet in prayer.

The two Sundays immediately following Pentecost are devoted to the commemoration of the saints. The first Sunday after Pentecost is All Saints Day, and the second Sunday after Pentecost is All Saints of North America Day. We return to normal time, outside of Paschal time, by remembering the holy and pious saints who sanctified time through their commitment to Christ and His Church. The model and classic saint is the martyr, the "witness," who bears faithful and ideal witness to God through his or her ultimate sacrifice on this earth.

There are also several other commemorations during this holy season following Pascha, which occur on weekdays. Twenty-five days after Pascha, halfway to Pentecost, we celebrate Mid-Feast, which is a commemoration of God's Wisdom. Forty days after Pascha, on Ascension Thursday, we commemorate the departure of the resurrected Christ from this earth to heaven. He leaves promising his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is given ten days later on Holy Pentecost. Also, it happens in our parish that our patronal feast day usually occurs in this festive period of post-Pascha, for every year on May 11 we commemorate Saints Cyril and Methodius.

May God grant us to keep this holy post-Paschal season of the year with attention at least equal to, if not surpassing, the attention that we gave to the time leading up to Pascha. Our tradition is rich and edifying, we should know it and uphold it.

With love in the risen Lord, Fr. John

News and Notes

A Request for Prayers: On Saturday, May 4, Ashley Paden's father-in-law, her husband Dan's father, died suddenly and unexpectedly. Please keep the newly departed servant of God, Raymond, and all those who mourn his loss, in your prayers. Memory Eternal!

Monday, May 6 – May Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council: The May Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, May 6, beginning at 7:00 PM.

IN CLINTON: Tuesday, May 7 – Festal Divine Liturgy at Saint Alexis Orthodox Church on the occasion of that parish's patronal feast day: On Tuesday, May 7, beginning at 9:00 AM, Festal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Saint Alexis Orthodox Church, 108 E Main St, Clinton, CT, on the occasion of that parish's patronal feast day. Fr. John will be participating there in his capacity as District Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, and anyone who would like to accompany him that morning is welcome to do so.

May 10th and 11th – Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius: We will celebrate our parish's patronal feast day with the following schedule: On Friday evening, May 10, the Eve of the Feast, we will celebrate Vespers beginning at 7:00 PM. On Saturday morning, May 11, the actual Feast Day, we will celebrate the Festal Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:15 AM. Please plan to participate in the commemoration of our Patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Monday, May 20 – May Meeting of the Waterbury Parish Council: The May Meeting of the Waterbury Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, May 20, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Needs of the Food Pantry—May we all remember the needs of others at Holy Pascha! On an almost constant basis, for the purpose of distribution to its clients, the Plymouth Community Food Pantry needs personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, hair brushes, etc. Also, the Food Pantry just about always requires donations of condiments and spices, such as ketchup, mustard, vinegar, cooking oil, BBQ sauce, pickle relish, table salt, black pepper, onion and garlic powder, dried herbs, etc. You can drop off your donations in the basket in the Narthex of our Church, or in the big green bin located by the exit staircase in the Church Basement Social Hall. Every time any of us goes grocery shopping, it would be appropriate and worthy of a blessing for us to purchase some items for donation to the Food Pantry.

Online Donations to the Parish: A PayPal Donation "button" 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% + \$0.30 per transaction and no monthly fee. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

LOOKING AHEAD: Graduates: If you or a member of your family is graduating this spring, please let us know, so that we might share the news with our Parish Family, and offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

LOOKING AHEAD: A Wedding: Ron Kramer and Tatiana Zolotarevych will be married in our Church on Sunday afternoon, June 30. Please keep Ron and Tatiana in your prayers. Many Years!

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday of Pascha, called St. Thomas Sunday

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 5:12-20)

At that time, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (Jn. 20:19-31)

At that time, on the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Scripture Readings for the Third Sunday of Pascha, called the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

At that time, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (Mk. 15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back--it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.