

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, May 21, 2023 – Sunday of the Man Born Blind

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5. Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the VLADIMIR Icon of the Mother of God (in commemoration of the saving of Moscow from the invasion of the Crimean Khan, Mekhmet-Girei in 1521).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/05/21>

Services and Events, Upcoming

Wednesday, May 24: *NO* Matins service in the morning.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 PM: Festal Great Vespers for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, preceded by the last singing of the Paschal Troparion (“Christ is risen...”) for this year, as we give away (after 40 days of feasting) the annual Great and Holy Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord (Holy Pascha) for 2023.

Thursday, May 25, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Saturday, May 27, 6:00 PM: Vigil (Great Vespers with the Reading of the Resurrectional Matins Gospel)

Sunday, May 28, Sunday of the Holy Fathers—the Sunday between Ascension and Pentecost, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour

Wednesday, May 31, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 PM, On-line: Terryville Parish Bible Study, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference

Saturday, June 3, the Pre-Pentecost Memorial Saturday, 5:30 PM: A General Memorial Service (“Panikhida”) commemorating all the Faithful Departed

Saturday, June 3, the Eve of the Feast of Holy Pentecost, 6:00 PM: Great Vespers and Litya commemorating the Feast of Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 4, the Feast of Holy Pentecost, 9:15 AM: Festal Divine Liturgy, followed *immediately* by the Reading of the traditional Pentecost Kneeling Prayers, and then followed by our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour

Wednesday, June 7, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Thursday, June 8, 7:00 PM, On-line: Terryville Parish Bible Study, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference

Saturday, June 10, the Eve of All Saints Day, 6:00 PM: Vigil (Great Vespers with the Reading of the Resurrectional Matins Gospel)

Sunday, June 11, the Feast of Holy Pentecost, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour

Wednesday, June 14, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 PM, On-line: Terryville Parish Bible Study, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference

Saturday, June 17, the Eve of the Feast of All Saints of North America, 6:00 PM: Vigil (Great Vespers with the Reading of the Resurrectional Matins Gospel), followed by the our monthly Rite of General Confession.

Sunday, June 18, the Feast of All Saints of North America, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour

In Salisbury Parish! Sunday, June 18, the Feast of All Saints of North America, 4:00 PM: Service of Praise and Thanksgiving (Akathist) before the Icons and Relics of the North American Saints. This service will take place at our sister parish, All Saints of North America Church, 313 Twin Lakes Rd, Salisbury, CT.

Wednesday, June 21, 8:00 AM: Matins (Morning Prayers)

Thursday, June 22, 7:00 PM, On-line: Terryville Parish Bible Study, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference

Saturday, June 24, 6:00 PM: Vigil (Great Vespers with the Reading of the Resurrectional Matins Gospel)

Sunday, June 25, 9:15 AM: Divine Liturgy, followed by our usual Sunday morning Coffee Social Hour

News and Notes

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

A Graduate: Congratulations to Courtney, daughter of Mark and Karry O. who recently graduated with a doctorate in pediatric nursing. Many Years!

Let Fr. John know: If someone in your family is graduating this spring, please, let Fr. John H. know so that we can offer prayerful congratulations and best regards. God bless all the graduates!

Saint John Chrysostom, writing on Prayer: “The greatest weapon of the Christian is prayer. No particular place can hinder prayer from being practiced. It is the adornment of the Christian, the safe harbor of the ship in many storms of life, the treasury-house of every good, the abundant wealth that no one can ever take from us. Prayer is a good and strong ally in our daily dangers and frequent difficulties. Prayer is medicine for every illness, and especially for every sin. Prayer is consolation for the grieving, the weary, and the ill. The spouse of prayer is virtue, which in turn is cared for and provided for by prayer.”

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

Priest Angelo—classmate of Fr. John and Macrina's d. 4/20/23
 Matushka Carol Steffaro d. 4/14/23
 Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty's nephew d. 4/21/23
 MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law d. 4/22/23
 Vincent—acquaintance of Julie K. and her family d. 5/7/23
 Marcia Ann Casey—Julia Markovich Casey's daughter d. 5/10/23
 George Klachany—our fellow parishioner d. 5/13/23
 John Wegh—the late Emery W.'s brother d. 5/15/23

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Archpriest John Markovich 5/24/1989
 Irina Cherkasevich 5/24/1992
 Olga Sobestanovich 5/26/1931
 Vassily Murin 5/27/1915
 Steven Shewchuk 5/27/1983
 Nicholas Andrash 5/27/1985
 Helen "Nellie" Biscoe 5/27/1995

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
 Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
 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
 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
 Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
 Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
 Wayne—Donna O.'s father
 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
 Britney—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; serious health challenges
 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
 Michael "Mike" A.—battling health challenges
 Robert Jos.—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
 Richard—acquaintance of David C.; hopefully now enjoying improving health
 Delores—relative of David C.; in need of prayerful support
 Andrea—mourning loss of loved one; req. of Helena G.
 Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., recovering from brain surgery
 Jeffrey G.—John G.'s father; recovering from surgery
 Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.
 Bettye—acquaintance of the Hopkos, very unwell
 Sonya K.—former W'bury parishioner, recovering from surgery
 Nyla—at request of John G.; unwell and in need of prayers
 Beverly—important person in Lewis H.'s life; in need of prayers
 Harry—at request of Joan M.; joint replacement surgery
 Matushka Deborah Belonick—badly broken leg, requiring surgical repair
 Paul S.—ongoing health issues
 Matushka Evelyn K.—fell and broke wrist; requires surgical repair
 James—Louine King's son; injured recently

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
 Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner
 Matushka Ann S.—our fellow parishioner; chronic health challenges

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Rose and the child to be born of her
 Emma and the child to be born of her
 Juliana and the child to be born of her—Fr. John K.'s daughter and her child
 Hailey and the child to be born of her—Fr. Peter P.'s daughter-in-law
 And all the expectant mothers and their children

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

Mark O. and his sons
 John "Jack" K.
 Laura K.—traveling to her Uncle John's funeral
 Stefan K.—traveling abroad

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
 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
 Zachary W.—Fr. Zachary W.'s son; a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot

Wedding Anniversaries

Elena & James Watras 5/22
 Salvatore & Cynthia (Belonick) Giuliano 5/23

Birthdays

Deborah Wegh 5/25

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**. She also asks prayers for her 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: 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, 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**, **Anyia**, **Mitya**, **Petya**, and all their extended family. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

How Funerals and Memorial Services usually and customarily take place at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

Funerals

The Funeral Service of the Orthodox Church is for practicing Orthodox Christians, those who regularly participated during their lives in the sacraments of Confession and Communion and who, at the time of their deaths, were in communion (“good standing”) with the Church.

The order of services for the funeral of an Orthodox Christian may follow one of two patterns. Which pattern is followed will be determined at the discretion of the pastor, following consultation with the family of the departed. Departures from these patterns require the blessing of the priest.

In our parish the more usual pattern is as follows: On the eve of burial, usually in the evening, a memorial service is sung over the body of the departed. This usually takes place at the funeral home, though it may happen—with permission—that the body of the departed is brought to the Church for this service. Then, on the day of burial the Funeral Service over the body of the departed is sung in Church, followed by burial. A memorial supper usually follows the burial.

A second possible pattern is as follows: The body of the departed is brought to the Church on the eve of the day of burial and the Funeral Service is sung at that time. Then, the next morning, the day of burial, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated in the presence of the body of the departed. Then the burial and memorial supper follow, as usual and customary. This practice may be followed as long as the liturgical calendar allows for the celebration of Divine Liturgy (Divine Liturgies are not celebrated on Lenten weekdays) and as long as the family members of the departed are members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion on the day of burial.

In any case, the Funeral Service takes place in the Church and—in keeping with traditional Orthodox Christian practice—the casket is to remain open until the end of the service when it is formally “sealed” with the reading of the assigned prayer from the Funeral Service and the accompanying blessing of Holy Water.

The Funeral Service follows the Church’s set order for this Rite. Items may not usually be added or deleted to or from the service.

During the Funeral Service the Sermon will be delivered by the pastor. Any other remarks may be delivered only by persons who have received the blessing of the pastor and who have submitted their remarks to him for his approval.

Funerals are not to be served and the bodies of the departed are not to be brought to the Church on Sundays (that is from late in the day on Saturday until the evening on Sunday) or on major feast days of the Church. This is also the case on Holy Friday, Holy Saturday, and Pascha Sunday.

The burial of departed persons other than practicing Orthodox Christians may take place as follows: In the case of a person who was an Orthodox Christian, but not in communion with the Church at the time of his or her death for reasons of willfulness or discipline, the burial and solemnities preceding it are to take place at and from the funeral home. The priest, vested in stole (*epitrachelion*) only, may serve a memorial service including the reading of scriptural readings for the dead.

Non-Orthodox persons may be buried by the pastor from the funeral home. An appropriate memorial service may be served by the priest at the funeral home before burial.

There are some special cases that should be mentioned:

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In the case of a person who has committed suicide, the Orthodox Church usually does not allow the full funeral rites to be followed. This is because suicide is a rejection of life, and life is a gift we have been given by God. Nevertheless, special pastoral considerations may allow a determination to be made, in consultation with the Bishop, to permit the use of the Funeral Service.

The practice of Freemasonry constitutes an impediment to full communion with the Church. Thus, those Orthodox Christians who chose to be Freemasons, when they die, if they have not repented and returned to the communion of the Church, are not buried from the Church with the Church's full funeral rites. They may be buried from the funeral home as described above in the sections concerning the burial of those not in communion with the Church.

Cremation is not an accepted practice in the Orthodox Church and cremated remains are not to be brought to the Church. Cremated remains may be prayed over and buried only after consultation and direction from the Bishop.

(For further details and elaboration, please see the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of New England's Diocesan Guidelines for Funerals. Among other places, the Diocesan Guidelines for Funerals are available on the official Internet Website of the Diocese of New England.)

Memorial Services

Memorial Services ("Panikhidas") are served by appointment on Saturday afternoons before the celebration of the weekly Saturday evening Parish Vigil. On those Saturdays designated in the Church calendar as "Memorial Saturdays," a general memorial service commemorating all departed faithful Christians is served.

During Great Lent, since in our Parish we, generally, do not serve the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts on Friday evenings, we instead have the practice of serving Daily Lenten Vespers with additional memorial elements, or of just serving the Memorial Service ("Panikhida"). We do this because during Great Lent most Saturdays are designated as Memorial Saturdays.

Please note that, in the Orthodox Christian tradition, Sundays are given over to the commemoration of the Resurrection. Thus, Memorial Services are not generally served on Sundays.

On-line Bible Study to Resume Soon: Starting up again on Thursday evening, June 1, 7:00 PM.

Our Terryville Parish On-line Bible Study was on break for the Lenten and Paschal seasons. It will be starting up again on Thursday evening, June 1, at 7:00 PM. Bible Study will, as has become usual, run for 90 minutes, on-line, via Zoom video teleconference, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Our new theme will be "Understanding the Bible, An Overview."

Rather than reading one book, we will read select passages in order to obtain an overview of the entire Bible. This will likely keep us occupied for many sessions!

We will begin by reading the first three chapters of the Book of Genesis (Genesis 1-3), the beginning (the Prologue) of the Gospel according to Saint John the Theologian (Gospel of John 1:1-18), the sermon given by the Apostle Peter on the Day of Holy Pentecost (Acts 2), and the speech given by the Protomartyr Steven just before he was stoned to death (Acts 7).

For any questions or concerns, please, see or contact Fr. John H.



A Wonderful Pilgrimage Opportunity!!!

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

Let's make a joyful, hopeful, and prayerful pilgrimage to venerate the relics of the North American saints on Sunday afternoon, June 18!

Here's more information about that opportunity:

The very first Orthodox Christian parish named to commemorate the memory of all the saints of North America is our neighboring parish of All Saints of North America Church, 313 Twin Lakes Rd, Salisbury, CT 06068. That's up in the northwest corner of Connecticut.

Annually, on the Sunday of All Saints of North America, which is always the second Sunday after Pentecost (June 18, this year), that parish hosts Orthodox Christians from our region for a service of prayer and thanksgiving celebrated before the icons and relics of the North American saints that are present in that parish. Fr. John Kreta, pastor of that parish (as well as the Chancellor of our Diocese of New England) tells us that the Salisbury parish now stewards holy relics of ten of the North American saints. This is quite remarkable. I know of no other place where such a gathering exists.

On Sunday, June 18, at 4:00 PM, at All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, CT, an Akathist Service (a service of praise and thanksgiving) will be celebrated before the icon and relics of the North American saints. That service will be followed by a fellowship reception with refreshments.

It is about an hour's drive up to Salisbury from here in Terryville. The trip for this occasion on June 18 is well worth our time, and the drive up passes through some beautiful countryside. Perhaps, some of us can carpool, and make the trip together.

Holy Saints of North America, pray to God for us!

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

Scripture Readings, etc.

It has been our custom in the past 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>

The End! Glory be to God!