

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, August 1, 2021

6th Sunday after Pentecost – First Day of the Annual Dormition Fast

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5. Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Lifegiving Cross of the Lord (First of the three “Feasts of the Savior” in August). Holy Seven Maccabean Martyrs: Abimus, Antoninus, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusabonus, Alimus, and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia, and their teacher, Eleazar (166 B.C.). The Martyrs of Perge in Pamphylia: Leontius, Attius, Alexander, Cindeus, Minsitheus (Mnesitheus), Cyriacus, Mineon (Menæus), Catanus, and Eucleus (3rd c.). "Foreteller" Icon of the Mother of God.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/08/01>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Wednesday morning Matins, August 4, 8:00 AM:** Wednesday Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM.
- **NO Thursday evening Bible Study this week.** Instead, we will be celebrating the Feast of Transfiguration with services here at Church. (See bullet points below, for details about those services.)
- **Thursday evening, August 5, Eve of the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration, 6:30 PM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy (Vesperal Liturgy) for the occasion of the feast, with the traditional blessing of fruits and vegetables, beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Friday morning, August 6, Feast of the Holy Transfiguration, 9:00 AM:** Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving (“Moleben”) to mark the occasion of the Feast, beginning at 9:00 AM.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, August 7, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, August 8, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord’s Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Monday evening, August 9, 6:30 PM, Monthly Terryville Parish Council Meeting:** The monthly meeting of the Terryville Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, August 9, beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be convened via Zoom video teleconference.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, August 11, 8:00 AM:** Wednesday Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, August 12, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, August 12. (Watch for the ZOOM invite in your email inbox.) Presently, we are reading and discussing the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Please, consider joining us for Bible Study.

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. Memory Eternal!

Newly Departed

Charles—Fr. Joshua Mosher's father-in-law	d. 7/24/21
Sarah—a young woman for whom we have been praying; victim of cancer	d. 7/22/21
Michael—friend of Frank G.	d. 7/20/21
Elizabeth Dirgo—wife of Andrew, listed below	d. 7/16/21
Deborah—acquaintance of Dennis K.	d. 7/8/21
George Krawczyk—Bob M.'s brother-in-law	d. 7/5/21
Andrew Dirgo—a man we have been asked to pray for	d. 6/26/21
Genevieve—Carolyn P.'s aunt	d. 6/24/21
Fleurette—Lenna M.'s mother-in-law	d. 6/24/21

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Nicholas Grella	8/2/1999
Barbara Christophy	8/3/1973
Mary (Pohlod) Maichack	8/3/2016
Ann Shular	8/4/1939
Dimitri Markovich	8/4/1967
Julia Kucirka	8/4/1981
Maria Karpitsky	8/5/1950
Tatiana Kaidalow	8/5/2010
Rosemary Fetzko	8/5/2010
Lydia Hussey	8/7/1990

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

Archpriest Michael K.—former pastor of our parish; serious recurrence of illness
Matushka Ann Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers
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
Darilyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
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 for whom prayers have been asked
John A.—husband of Claudia A., for whom prayers have been asked

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
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week
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
Joan—dear and close friend of Carolyn P.; recovering from serious back surgery
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
Brittney—facing possibly severe health issues; at the request of Kathy M.
Matushka Ann S.—chronic health challenges

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

Nicole and the child to be born of her—at the request of Bob M.
Courtney and the child to be born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s family

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

John K.
Paul and Claudia S.
And 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)—deployed to Africa with the CT ARNG
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
Ian H.—Fr. David K.'s son-in-law; overseas deployment, U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Elena Watras	8/2
Timothy Osuch	8/2
David Crosby	8/4

News and Notes

The Dormition Fast, August 1 to August 14: The fourteen days from August 1 through August 14 constitute the Dormition Fast. We keep this short, two-week-long, fast each year to prepare ourselves for the commemoration of the death of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, which we commemorate each year on August 15, on the Feast of the Dormition (the Falling Asleep) of the Most-Holy Theotokos. The Feast of Dormition marks the day that the Virgin Mary died and, also, commemorates the fact that, after her blessed repose, the Virgin Mary was received bodily into the Kingdom of Heaven by her Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. During this period of fasting, special prayers are offered to the Mother of God asking her motherly intercession before her Son, and Our God, Our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that it is often the case that the intercessions of a mother have great influence with a son, so we ask the Mother of God to intercede for us before the Lord, Jesus Christ, her Son.

More News and Notes

Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, August 5-6: Each year on August 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, which commemorates the occasion (as told in the Holy Gospels) when Our Lord Jesus Christ took his disciples Peter, James, and John up on to a mountain and was transfigured in glory before them. We will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord with two Church services: On the Eve of the Feast, Thursday evening, August 5, beginning at 6:30 PM, we will celebrate Vespers and Divine Liturgy (Vespereal Liturgy) for the Feast, at the conclusion of which we will, as is customary, bless fruits and vegetables. On Friday morning, August 6, the actual day of the Feast, we will celebrate a Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving, beginning at 9:00 AM. (Please, be reminded that if you are planning to receive Holy Communion at the Vespereal Divine Liturgy on Thursday evening, August 5, that you should prepare yourself for that through prayer and fasting, and abstain from all food and drink from midday onwards that afternoon until after you have received Holy Communion in the evening.)

NO Bible Study this week: We will not have Bible Study this coming Thursday evening, August 5, since August 5 is the Eve of the Feast of Transfiguration and we will be having Vespers and Liturgy for the Feast here at Church that evening. Bible Study will return on Thursday evening, August 12, at 7:00 PM, via Zoom video teleconference.

Preparing the Basement Social Hall of Church Building for renewed use: For quite a while now, we have been using the Parish Basement Social Hall as storage space. We are storing items down there brought from the Waterbury Parish, and, also, items brought over from the Terryville Parish Community Center, during its recent renovation. We have now made some progress clearing out that space. After we finish preparing that space, we will be able to share about how and when we will use that space for renewed social, educational, and administrative activities. Watch for more news about this soon, in future issues of the Parish Bulletin, and shared via our Parish Email list. For further information about this matter, please, see Fr. John. (And, thanks for your patience!)

Notes from Fr. John: The Blessing of “First Fruits” at the Feast of the Transfiguration

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is traditional in the Church to bless the “first fruits” at the Feast of the Transfiguration. The “first fruits” are the earliest results of the harvest of the fruits and vegetables that have been growing from the spring through the summer. Obviously, different items come to fruition at different times in different places, but the month of August is certainly a fruitful time in the parts of the world where the Christian Faith originated and, also, is a fruitful time right here in Connecticut. Right now, berries, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other produce are coming into season here in our region.

It is always appropriate to offer gratefully to God, for His further blessing, everything that He gives us. However, it is especially appropriate to do this on the Feast of the Transfiguration, given the nature of what we are celebrating. As we sing in the festal hymns and hear about in the Gospel accounts, the event of the Transfiguration is the moment when our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the midst of His earthly ministry, took Himself apart with three of His disciples and was transfigured (transformed, altered, changed) before them. In this change, He was still recognizable as the man Jesus, but at the same time He manifested in a miraculous manner the glory of God in a wonderful way that was marked particularly by bright light coming forth from His person.

When we meditate on the Transfiguration and then think about the custom of blessing the “first fruits” on this feast, we are reminded of the miraculous transformation that occurs in nature each and every time something grows and develops. In the case of fruits and vegetables, what begins as a seed grows into a plant, and then produces that which we later enjoy as food for our health and wellbeing.

Particularly important to think about are the grapes that are especially singled out for blessing at Transfiguration. The grape, as it makes its passage from seed, to vine, to flower, to fruit, and then to food and drink, often ends that journey as wine. Significantly and poignantly, some of that wine is offered in the Holy Eucharist to be miraculously made and revealed to be the life-giving Blood of Christ that we receive in Holy Communion! Let us meditate upon that marvelous transfiguration as we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, may each and every one of us be blessed on this wonderful Feast of the Transfiguration to sense and to know the presence and glory of God, He Who both gives us life and transforms our lives. Glory to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! Glory to His Father, our God from all the ages! Glory to the Spirit of God sent to comfort, guide and transform us! Glory to God for all things!

With love in Christ, *Fr. John*

Readings from Holy Scripture

Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 12:6-14)

Brothers and Sisters: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Readings for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (Rom. 15:1-7)

Brothers and Sisters: We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint. Matthew (Matt. 9:27-35)

At that time, when Jesus was passing by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity of the people.