

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, September 5, 2021

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/09/05>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Tuesday evening, September 7, Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, 6:30 PM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy (Vesperal Liturgy) for the occasion of the Feast, beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Wednesday morning, September 8, 9:00 AM:** Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. 9:00 AM: Prayer Service (Moleben) to the Mother of God.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, September 9, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, September 9. (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.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, September 11, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, September 12, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Monday evening, September 13, Eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 6:30 PM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy (Vesperal Liturgy) for the occasion of the Feast, beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Tuesday morning, September 14, 9:00 AM:** Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. 9:00 AM: Akathist to the Holy Cross of Our Lord
- **Wednesday morning Matins, September 15, 8:00 AM:** Wednesday Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM.
- **Thursday evening Council Meeting, September 16, ONLINE (via Zoom), 6:30 PM:** Monthly Meeting of the Terryville Parish Council, ONLINE, via ZOOM, 6:30 PM.
- **NO Bible Study on Thursday evening, September 16:** Due to the requirement to have our Monthly Terryville Parish Council meeting on Thursday evening, September 16, we will NOT have Bible Study that evening.
- **Saturday evening Vigil, September 18, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, September 19, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.
- **Fr. John away on vacation September 20-24. No weekday services or events at Church during his time away.**

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

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky—a prominent priest	d. 8/3/21
Mitred Archpriest Michael Koblosh—Pastor in our Parish (1977 – 1990)	d. 8/18/21
Mitred Archpriest Sergei Glagolev—a prominent priest	d. 9/1/21
Gisela Opalak—Waterbury Parishioner	d. 8/27/21

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Elizabeth Zadvorni	9/5/1947
Metro Panchok	9/5/1957
Anastasia Lyga	9/6/1962
Anna Kablesch	9/6/1966
Ann Plasko	9/8/1950
Martha Witick	9/9/1970
Patrick Gurgigno	9/9/1980
Mary (Koltko) Banziruk	9/11/2003

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

Matushka Ann 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
Darylne—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.
Jeanne M.—recovering from joint replacement surgery (doing well)
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing 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

Recently United in Marriage

Zachary and Tracey—George and Jennifer W.'s son and his wife

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 *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

Jim and Maria Liverman

Birthdays

NONE THIS WEEK

NEWS AND NOTES

Memory Eternal! Gisela Opalak, associated with Waterbury Parish, died on August 27. Fr John provided services at the funeral home and then presided at Gisela's burial in the Waterbury Parish Cemetery on Wednesday morning, September 1. All arrangements were private, at the request of the family. Please, pray for Gisela and for those who mourn her loss, especially her close family members. Memory Eternal!

LOOKING AHEAD: Fr. John will be away on vacation from Sunday afternoon, September 19, through to Saturday afternoon, September 25: With the blessing of our Diocesan authorities, Fr. John will be out of the office from Sunday afternoon, September 19, through to Saturday afternoon, September 25.

We need a Parish Lay Delegate for the Diocesan Assembly: The Annual Diocesan Assembly is scheduled to take place, in-person, at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, CT, on **Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, 2021.** If you are willing to fulfill this role, please, contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Notes from Fr. John: Regarding Funerals

Please be reminded that funerals for Orthodox Christians are meant to be community events, whereby the whole Community of Faith, the entire Church membership, comes together to both mourn and rejoice together, in the context of liturgical worship services wherein we give God glory. Of course, we grieve when a loved one dies, for death is always a tragedy. However, we also rejoice, for we are Christians and we know that our Lord Jesus Christ has “trampled down death by death.” As it were, we hold grief in one hand and gratitude in the other.

The normal order of a funeral in the Orthodox Church is described in this way in our *Parish Handbook*:

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.

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 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 to nor deleted from the service. During the 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, in advance, 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 (either 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.

In the case of a person who has committed suicide the Orthodox Church usually does not allow the full funeral rites to be followed, since suicide is a rejection of life, which 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 with and direction from the Bishop.

If you have any questions or concerns about the matter of funerals in the Orthodox Church, please, make an appointment with me to discuss those matters.

With love in Christ, *Fr. John H.*

Readings from Holy Scripture

Readings for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 9:2-12)

Brothers and Sisters: If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Scripture Readings for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:1-11)

Brothers and Sisters: I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (Matt. 19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came to Jesus, kneeling before him and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? There is no good but One, and that is God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Jesus, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Jesus, "All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."