

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, September 20, 2020

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation. Greatmartyr Eustathius (Eustace) Placidus, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (ca. 118). Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael and his councilor, Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernigov (1245). Rt. Blv. Oleg, Prince of Briansk (ca. 1280). Monastic Martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete (Mt. Athos—1804).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/09/20>

Bible Study via “Zoom” – Join us on Tuesday evenings!

Dear Members and Friends of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are holding Bible Study sessions via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 7:00 PM and ending at about 8:30 PM. We have now had two sessions, the past two Tuesdays, and so far, the sessions seem to be well-received.

As an entry point into Holy Scripture, we are looking at great figures in the Bible. During our first session we learned about the Archdeacon and Protomartyr Stephen, whose story is recounted in Chapters 6 and 7 of the The Acts of the Holy Apostles. Then, this past week, we considered the figure of Abraham (Abram), whose story is told in Chapters 12 through 25 of the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament and of the Bible. This coming Tuesday evening, we will continue to examine Abraham and his descendants, as their story is described to us in the Book of Genesis.

While we do not endorse without reservation any Bible study materials that are not sourced from within our Orthodox Christian tradition, we are willing to point you to one Protestant source for Bible study that is now available via the Internet. This is an interesting and accessible project entitled “The Bible Project,” that can be accessed at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/>. The makers of this website produce animated videos, which, for people of our time and place, can help us achieve—simply by watching short, engaging, animated videos—an increased level of Biblical literacy, rather quickly and easily. Again, we stress that these videos are not produced by Orthodox Christians. Nevertheless, they can be helpful. So, with that important qualification, we point you towards them.

For an Orthodox source for Bible study materials, we point you to the writings of Fr. Lawrence Farley, and his series of books entitled “The Orthodox Bible Study Companion Series.” These books can be purchased as a set or individually. Here’s a clickable link to the publishers website and online bookstore: <https://store.ancientfaith.com/lawrence-farley/>.

In Christ, *Fr. John H.*

PARISH PRAYER LIST

We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.

+ 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

Priest Peter—a priest in England; friend of the Hopkos	d. 9/11/2020
Antonio—prayed for at the request of Carolyn P.	d. 9/9/2020
Ryan—prayed for at the request of David C.	d. 9/9/2020
Victor—young man killed in car accident; friend of Watras Family	d. 8/23/2020
Harriet Forish—of the Waterbury Parish	d. 8/23/2020
Mary Cartona—a Terryville resident with connections to our parish	d. 8/19/2020
Zita Chaney—once of the Terryville Parish	d. 8/12/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Amelia Pastyrnak	9/20/1975
Anthony Kowaleski	9/21/1963
Helen Hasko	9/24/1985
Wiatschelaw (Slava) Wasyluk	9/24/2007
Peter Hriceniak	9/25/1970
Paul Baychuk	9/25/1973
Anastasia Glowa	9/26/1919
Sava Shakhno	9/26/1951
Michael Witick	9/26/1974

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is 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

His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (*retired*) — very unwell at this time
Fyodor (Frank) Guba—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Donna—Ann Sovyryda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyryda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease
Maria Oraschewsky—dialysis three times a week; recent minor surgery
Yelena "Lenna" Massicotte—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray
Tanya Beach—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage
Mark—a profound diabetic for whom we have been asked to pray
Walter—an elderly man injured in a fall, for whom we have been asked to pray
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna Osuch; battling breast cancer
Mary—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health

Simone—relative of Mike Liverman; requesting prayers for health
Barbara—friend of Patty Nimchek; unwell and in need of prayerful support
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; unwell, though improving lately
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
Vincent—relapse of cancer; relative through marriage of P. Oraschewsky
Rosie D.—recent health issues
Michael "Mike" L.—recent health issues
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
David B.—acquaintance of Fr. John's; recovering from recent surgery
Paul S.—knee injury; recovering from knee surgery
Bill M.—recovering from a fall in which he suffered a shoulder injury
Christopher—friend of Kathy Mihailoff; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim Liverman; struggling with cancer
Cheryl—acquaintance of Carolyn P.; upcoming surgery on 9/15
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
John K.—upcoming hip surgery

Dave—Marilou P.'s cousin; recovering from hip surgery after a fall

Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues

Reader Joseph—recent issue with a painful hip joint

Helen—Mat. Ann S.'s sister; very unwell at this time

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

Robert (Bob)—Patty N.'s brother; recently unwell, doing better, lately

Alex—John D.'s brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Dolores—Bob M.'s mother, resident in long-term eldercare

Anna—Rdr. John Paul Sz.'s mother; resident in long-term care

Mothers and Newly Born Children

Diana & Mariana newly born of her

Jessie & Abigail newly born of her (Ann S.'s granddaughter and great-granddaughter)

Amber and the child newly born of her

(Amber is a woman we have been asked to pray for, as she was enduring a difficult and tenuous pregnancy. Amber's baby has now been born—early and tiny—so, please, continue to pray for Amber and her baby.)

Expectant Mothers

Nadia and the child to be born of her—Nadia is Rich and Laura K.'s daughter

Anya S. and the child to be born of her—Anya is one of Fr. John's many nieces

Shelby (Sophia) G. and the child to be born of her

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

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

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

Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82nd Airborne Division soldier deployed abroad

Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Peter Hopko

9/22

Fr. Thomas Hopko: Some Thoughts Stemming from the Study of the Cross of Christ

Theology is stavrology [the study of the Cross of Christ] and Orthodoxy is paradox [a paradox]: the almighty God reveals Himself as an infinitely humble, totally self-emptying and absolutely ruthless and relentless lover of sinners. And men and women made in His image and likeness must be the same. Thus we come to see that as there is no resurrection without crucifixion, there is also no sanctification without suffering, no glorification without humiliation; no deification without degradation; and no life without death. We learn, in a word, the truth of the early Christian hymn recorded in Holy Scripture:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure with him, we shall also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself. (*2 Timothy 2.11-13*)

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According to the Gospel, therefore, those who wish to be wise are constrained to be fools. Those who would be great become small. Those who would be first put themselves last. Those who rule, serve as slaves. Those who would be rich make themselves poor. Those who want to be strong become weak. And those who long to find and fulfill themselves as persons deny and empty themselves for the sake of the Gospel. And, finally, and most important of all, those who want really to live have really to die. They voluntarily die, in truth and in love, to everyone and everything that is not God and of God.

Sourced from a Commencement Address Fr. Thomas delivered at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, returning there after his retirement as Dean of the Seminary.

News and Notes

THIS WEEK: Matins on Wednesday morning, at 8:00 a.m.: We have been given a blessing by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, *Locum Tenens* ("Place Holder") of the Diocese of New England, to add an additional in-person communal liturgical service to our weekly schedule, even as the present public health crisis continues. So, we shall be adding once such service each week. **This coming week, we will serve Matins on Wednesday morning, September 23, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** The usual restrictions shall apply: health screening, social distancing, the use of face coverings, and limiting attendance to 25. (We will NOT require pre-registration, as it is extremely unlikely that 25 people will be both able and wanting to attend this service.) The order of service will be weekday Matins as we had been regularly celebrating that service on Wednesday mornings before the present crisis began, now more than six months ago.

LOOKING AHEAD: Fr. John to be on Vacation from Sunday afternoon, September 27, through to Saturday morning, October 5: With the blessing of our Diocesan authorities, Fr. John is planning to be out of the office from Sunday afternoon, September 27, through to Saturday morning, October 5. Fr. John and his wife, Macrina, are planning to go to Cape Cod for those days, where they have rented a small cabin, so that they can safely isolate and maintain "social distance," while still enjoying the natural beauty that the Cape has to offer. Obviously, this trip is contingent on the conditions as regards the present public health crisis either remaining stable or showing improvement. It will be altered or, even, canceled if those conditions deteriorate.

LOOKING FAR AHEAD: We need a Parish Lay Delegate for the Diocesan Assembly: The Annual Diocesan Assembly is scheduled to take place, via video teleconference due to the ongoing public health crisis, on *Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7, 2020*. If you are willing to fulfill this role, please, contact Fr. John at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Support from the Parish: If you require financial support during this vexing and challenging time, contact Fr. John, personally and confidentially, and he will endeavor to help you get the assistance that you need. For 2020, the Diocese of New England has reduced by 16.7% the annual Fair Share contributions that it usually expects from our Parish. This reduction has been put into place with the specific intention that this money—the money that the Parish will not be sending to the Diocese, but will be retaining locally—will be used for charitable and relief purposes. **Don't be shy: If you need help, contact Fr. John. All such contacts will be treated with strict confidentiality and great sensitivity.**

Donations to the Parish: Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation "button" (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) 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%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost, this year September 20

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 4:6-15)

Brothers and Sisters: It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matt. 22:35-46)

At that time there came to Jesus a lawyer, asking him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." Jesus said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies thy footstool.'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

Scripture Readings for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost, this year September 27

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 6:1-10)

Brothers and Sisters: Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.