

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, October 11, 2020

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council. Ven. Philotheus, Patriarch of Constantinople (1379). Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the Seven Deacons (1st c.). St. Theophanes the Confessor and Hymnographer, Bishop of Nicæa (ca. 850). Ven. Theophanes, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Ven. Leo of Optina (1841). Synaxis of the Optina Elders. Martyrs Zenaïs (Zinaída) and Philonilla, of Tarsus in Cilicia (1st c.).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/10/11>

The Saintly Elders of Optina, commemorated in the Church, annually, on October 11

Among the saints whom we commemorate on October 11 are a group of saints referred to as the “Optina Fathers” or the “Optina Elders.” The actual name of this feast of the Optina Elders is *The Synaxis (the “Coming Together”) of the Optina Elders*. Who were these people?

Optina Hermitage (in Russian, *Optina Pustyn*) is an Orthodox monastery for men located on the outskirts of the town of Kozelsk in Russian, which is about 45 miles southwest of the large Russian city of Kaluga, which in turn is about 120 miles southwest of Moscow. So, Optina is about 165 miles southwest of Moscow. In the 19th century this monastery became, arguably, the most vital center of Orthodox spiritual life in Russia. In the 20th century the Optina Pustyn monastery was suppressed by the atheistic Soviet regime, but today it is once more a significant center of Russian Orthodox life and spirituality.

In the 19th and early 20th century the monastery became well known for a series of holy men, monastic elders (in Russian, *startsi*), who were members of the monastic community there. Specifically, the Elders of Optina Monastery are the Holy Fathers Moses, Antony, Leonid (Lev), Macarius, Hilarion, Ambrose, Anatolius the Older, Isaac the Older, Joseph, Barsanuphius, Anatolius the Younger, Nectarius, Nikon the Confessor, and Hieromartyr Isaac the Younger. Hieromartyr Isaac the Younger was shot by the atheistic Soviet authorities on December 26, 1937, bringing the line of elders to a close.

During the time of the Optina Elders, Optina Pustyn became an important center of pilgrimage in Russia, attracting and influencing some of the prominent persons of the time, such as the well-known writers Fyodor Dostoevsky, Nikolai Gogol, and Ivan Turgenev. One from among the elders, Elder Ambrose (in Russian, *Starets Amvrosy*), is understood to be the model for the prominent fictional character Father Zossima in Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*. Indeed, some even read the material concerning and attributed to the fictional Father Zossima, as conveyed in Part II, Book 6, of that novel, as being an accurate reflection of the teachings of the actual Elder Ambrose, and, thus, useful for an Orthodox Christian to read.

Among the teachings of the Optina Elders was an emphasis on the use of the Jesus Prayer—“*O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*”—not only by monks and nuns, but by all faithful Christian people. (Note: Not all advice on the use of the Jesus Prayer is helpful. For most of us, this one-sentence prayer should be used in...

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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
Paul—a young man we have been asked to pray for	d. 9/22/2020
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

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Olga Nimchek	10/11/2007
Anna Kaschak	10/12/1938
Ida Rozum	10/12/1982
John Pawelchak	10/12/2000
Anna Duke	10/13/1932
Peter Kopcha	10/14/1931
John Ketero	10/15/1934
John Kowalchuk	10/15/1972
Philip Kisiel	10/15/1980
Adam Habrukowich	10/17/1984
Alexander Kucirka	10/17/1993
Tatjana Jakimenko	10/17/2002

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
His Eminence, Archbishop David of Alaska—renal cancer
Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness
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
Daryne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
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; 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
Richard—a person 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; chronically unwell
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery
Vincent—relapse of cancer; relative through marriage of P. Oraschewsky
Rosie D.—ongoing health issues
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell
Paul S.—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.; recent surgery
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
John K.—recovering from recent hip joint replacement 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
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer
Judy—a woman suffering with dementia for whom we have been asked to pray

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
Anyia S. and the child to be born of her—Anyia 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 now home from abroad
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Jennifer Wegh

10/15

FOLLOW-UP: National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) Fundraiser: Some weeks ago, our fellow parishioner John "Jack" Kriniske organized the annual fundraiser that he operates each year on behalf of NOCC in memory of his late wife Donna (Memory Eternal!). This year the "Team Donna" fundraiser raised \$1,285.00, and the seven-year total of funds raised by "Team Donna" (as Jack calls his annual effort) is an admirable \$15,255.00. Jack sends his love and thanks to all those who have contributed, not only this year, but also over the last seven years to this worthy cause, which is important and significant to him. Thank you and God bless you! (P.S. Jack continues his recovery and rehabilitation following his recent hip joint replacement surgery. Jack is doing well, and hopes, soon, to be cleared to drive his car. Thereafter, Jack hopes to join us in Church, sometime soon, for the celebration of the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. Jack is grateful for everyone's prayerful support of him at this time, during his recuperation.)

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...a simple and humble way, as a short prayer, easily memorized, that can be used throughout the day and at times when the usual practice of prayer—the reciting of the traditional Orthodox prayers from an Orthodox Prayer Book—is not available to us. Our Parish Prayer Book is available on our Parish website at this “clickable” link: [Parish Prayer Book](#). Physical copies of our Parish Prayer Book are available, too, on request. We should each access a copy of the Parish Prayer Book and use it regularly. For example, the digital form of the Prayer Book can be downloaded from our Parish website to have a permanent and easily accessed place on our cell phone.)

A beautiful prayer is attributed to the Optina Elders, for use each morning. Here is the text of that prayer, as it appears in our Parish Prayer Book:

The Morning Prayer of the Optina Elders

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray; and You, Yourself, pray in me. Amen.

News and Notes

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.

Bible Study Sessions Continue on Tuesday Evenings: We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Based on some feedback we have received, and some experiences we have had, we are going to begin this coming week to study the life and writings of Saint Paul the Apostle. This coming Tuesday, we will review the biography of Saint Paul, and, then, begin reading and commenting on his First Epistle to the Thessalonians, which is understood to be his earliest extant letter. For further information about Bible Study, or to convey your comments or ask questions about it, please, contact Fr. John, directly.

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% (one-sixth) 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 18th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 11

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 9:6-11)

Brothers and Sisters: The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 7:11-16)

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Scripture Readings for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, this year October 18

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:31-12:9)

Brothers and Sisters: The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."