

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, November 14, 2021

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip (1st c.). Ven. Philip, Hermit of Irap near Novgorod (1527). St. Justinian the Emperor (565), and his wife, St. Theodora (548). St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica (ca. 1360).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/11/14>

Services and Events, Upcoming

- **Monday, November 15, First Day of the Nativity Fast (Advent):** The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins each year on November 15, forty days before Christmas, the Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. May we all keep a good fast, and prepare ourselves through fasting (ascetic effort), prayer, and self-sacrificial acts of charity, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 17, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Bible Study, Thursday evening, November 18, 7:00 PM, ONLINE:** We will have Bible Study, online, at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, November 18. Presently, we are reading and discussing the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Please, consider joining us for Bible Study.
- **Saturday evening, November 20, 6:30 PM:** Festal Great Vespers and Litya (The Blessing of the Five Loaves, and Wheat, Wine and Oil, with Anointing) for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, November 21, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM, on this occasion celebrated as a Festal Divine Liturgy commemorating the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, which happens each year on November 21.
- **Sunday afternoon, November 21, 12:30 PM, Online General Meeting of the Waterbury Parish:** On Sunday afternoon, November 21, beginning at 12:30 PM, there will be an online ("virtual") meeting the entire membership of the Waterbury Parish. For further details about that meeting, see the notes further on in this bulletin.
- **Wednesday morning Matins, November 24, 8:00 AM:** Morning Prayers Service (a simplified order of Matins), beginning at 8:00 AM, on Wednesday.
- **Thursday, November 25, is Thanksgiving Day:** Thursday, November 25, is Thanksgiving Day, so we will not have our usual Thursday night Bible Study that day. May we all give thanks to God for all the ways in which He has blessed us. (Note: Fr. John will be away on November 25 and November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.)
- **Saturday evening Vigil, November 27, 6:30 PM:** Saturday evening Vigil (Great Vespers, with the Reading of the Matins Gospel), beginning at 6:30 PM.
- **Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, November 28, 9:15 AM:** The weekly Sunday morning Lord's Day celebration of the Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:15 AM.

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.

Newly Departed

Maria Oraschewsky—our fellow parishioner d. 11/1/21
Marian Klatt Markovich McIlvin—spouse of former parishioner d. 11/3/21

Anniversaries of Repose – *Memory Eternal!*

Xenia Shakhno 11/14/1939
Ignaty Sobestanovich 11/14/1963
Anna Wazorko 11/15/1953
Michael Myshka 11/16/1945
Paraskeva Glowa 11/17/1917
Mary Uckin 11/18/1982
John Fomenko 11/18/1998
Theodore Senetcen 11/19/1948
Walter Pastymak 11/19/1974
Infant Alec Jon Omichinski 11/19/1993
Olga Kowal 11/19/2013

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

Priest John M.—a young priest, suffering with a vexing illness
Matushka Anne 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
Daryne—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
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)
Albert ("Al")—in need of prayers for healing
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges
Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; recent health issues
Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.'s family member; heart surgery
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; recent serious health challenges
Barbara S.—W'bury parishioner; recovering from recent surgery
Richard—acquaintance of Fr. John's; hip replacement surgery on November 4
Rosemary—friend of Jack K.; recovering from recent stroke
Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty's nephew; Rick is unwell and in need of prayers
Peter—Deacon Paul and Patty's acquaintance; battling leukemia

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

Mothers and Newly Born Children

Nicole and the daughter newly born of her—at the request of Bob M.

Expectant Mothers

Courtney and the child to be born of her—Mark and Karry O.'s family
Tracey and the child to be born of her—Geo. and Jenn. W.'s daughter-in-law

Newly Illumined through Holy Baptism and Chrismation

Christopher and his children, Alex and Emma

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

Carolyn P. – our fellow parishioner
Richard and Laura K. (until 11/20)
Lucy and David C. (until 11/15)

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

Birthdays this coming week

Caroline Marie Paden 11/18

News and Notes

Sunday, November 14, Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) Sunday: Each year in November, the Orthodox Church in America designates a Sunday as Stewards of the OCA Sunday. On this specified Sunday we are encouraged to give to the Orthodox Church in America in support of the departmental and program work of the OCA. For further information, please, see this link: <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/stewards-of-the-oca-launch-2021-annual-appeal>. The letter about this occasion sent to us by His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON, Metropolitan (Presiding Archbishop) of the Orthodox Church in America, is printed further on in this bulletin. We will take a special basket collection at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 14, in support of this initiative.

More News and Notes

Prayers Requested: One of our parishioners who is a teacher has asked prayers for one of her students. This student is battling a very serious illness. Please, keep this child and their loved ones in your prayers. Thank you.

Fr. John out of the office, Monday, November 15: Fr. John will be out of the office all day long on Monday, November 15, the first day of the Nativity Fast.

General Meeting of the Waterbury Parish, Sunday, November 21, at 12:30 PM, via video and voice teleconference: The full membership of the Waterbury Parish will meet virtually on Sunday, November 21, beginning at 12:30 PM, via video and voice teleconference, to discuss matters necessary to the legal and canonical consolidation of the Waterbury and Terryville Parishes. A notice via email has been sent out to the members of the Waterbury Parish, and a mailed notice will follow via USPS.

Fr. John away for Thanksgiving, November 25 and 26: Fr. John will be away from the Parish for the annual Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26.

Looking Ahead: The Annual General Meeting of the Terryville Parish, Sunday, December 12, at 12:30 PM, via video teleconference: The Annual General Meeting of the Terryville Parish, will take place, via ZOOM video teleconference, beginning at 12:30 PM, on Sunday, December 12. Further information will be made available to you about the meeting, as the date draws near.

Our Lord gave up the spirit at 3:00 PM on Great and Holy Friday, for us and for our salvation...

Our Lord gave up the spirit at 3:00 PM for us and for our salvation, dying on The Cross in the mid-afternoon on the first Great and Holy Friday. Each day at 3:00 PM, there is a prayer that we can pray commemorating this awesome moment, the moment when Our Lord Jesus Christ achieved our salvation, by giving up His life for us. Here is that prayer, which is called *The Prayer of the Ninth Hour*, because—using the system by which the Church traditionally keeps time, counting the hours beginning from sunrise—the ninth hour of the day occurs at about 3:00 PM, as identified by our present time-keeping system:

O Christ our God, at the ninth hour You tasted death in the flesh for our sake: mortify the rebellion of our flesh and save us! In the midst of two thieves, Your Cross was revealed as the balance-beam of righteousness. For while the one was led down to hell by the burden of blaspheming, the other was lightened of his sins to the knowledge of things divine. O Christ our God, glory to You!

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, You have led us to the present hour, in which, as You hung upon the life-giving Tree, You made a way into Paradise for the penitent thief, and by death destroyed death. Cleanse us, Your unworthy servants, for we fall into sin continuously and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the heights of heaven. Forgive us for departing from the path of righteousness and following the desires of our own hearts. We implore Your unending goodness: Spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercies, and save us for Your holy name's sake, for our days are passing away in vanity. Take us from the hand of the adversary and forgive our sins, and mortify in us all impure thoughts. Help us to lay aside our old ways so that we may be clothed with new resolve and may dedicate our lives to You, our Master and Benefactor, so that by following Your commandments, we may come to the eternal rest which is the abode of all those who rejoice. For You are the true joy and exultation of those who love You, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory, together with the Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Notes from Fr. John: Participate in the Sacrament of Confession

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is usual and customary for Orthodox Christians regularly to participate in the Sacrament of Confession. Unfortunately, for many of us, the ongoing COVID-19 event has disturbed our regular rhythm of participation in this essential and saving sacrament of the Church. I would suggest—in the strongest possible way—that we all make an appointment now to participate in the Sacrament of Confession between now and the Feast of the Birth of Our Lord (Christmas, December 25).

It is, of course, our usual custom to participate in the Sacrament of Confession during the Nativity Fast (Advent), the forty-day period leading up to Christmas. The Nativity Fast begins each year on November 15.

So, please, contact me, at your earliest convenience, so that we can get an appointment for you into the calendar, and then prepare ourselves to participate in the essential and saving Sacrament of Confession.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon for Steward Sunday 2021 Sunday, November 14, 2021

Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ. (Col 3:23-24)

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

Christ is in our midst!

I greet you today on this Sunday, November 14, 2021 which has been designated as Steward Sunday for 2021.

I am grateful for the hard and diligent work of the many men and women who serve the Orthodox Church in America in its many departments, offices, and boards. Without their efforts, we would not be blessed with the many resources that are regularly made available to us. The music downloads, brochures, weekly liturgical texts, and various other resources have become staples in our parishes.

In addition, we see special projects such as the Clergy Synaxis groups, the Clergy Wives Ministry, Church Planting Grants, Music training sessions, Clergy Continuing Education seminars, all made possible by many different groups all working towards a common purpose: “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12).

It is this work which I am inviting you to support on this Sunday, November 14, 2021 and I ask that parishes take a special collection for the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America. For those of you who want to offer your support but are unable to do so financially I encourage you to support the ministries of the Orthodox Church in America by getting involved in other ways. Most especially, I ask that you continue to pray for all those who labor in Christ’s vineyard.

May the Lord continue to bless your efforts for His Church.

Tikhon

Metropolitan Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple at Jerusalem

Commemorated each year on November 21

The second great feast of the Theotokos, after the celebration of her nativity (birth), is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple. This feast is commemorated on November 21, each year. Like the feast of her nativity, this feast of Mary is without direct biblical and historical reference. However, like the nativity, it is a feast filled with important spiritual significance for the Christian believer.

The texts of the service tells how Mary was brought as a small child to the temple by her parents in order to be raised there among the virgins consecrated to the service of the Lord until the time of their betrothal in marriage. According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to be "nourished" there by the angels in order to become herself the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her.

The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance to the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the living temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence. (Ezekiel 37:27; John 14:15-23; Acts 7:47; II Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Peter 2:4; Revelation 22:1-4)

Thus, the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is the feast which celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. When the child Mary enters the temple, the time of the temple comes to an end and the "preview of the good will of God" is shown forth. On this feast we celebrate—in the person of Christ's mother—that we too are the house and tabernacle of the Lord.

... We are the temple of the living God, as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (II Corinthians 6: 11; Isaiah 52:1 1)

This article "Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple" is a much shortened adaptation of the article of the same name authored by Fr. Thomas Hopko, which appears among the education materials that are available for reading on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America, www.oca.org

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, this year November 14

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (Gal. 2:16-20)

Brothers and Sisters: We know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (10:25-37)

At that time a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."