

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

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Sunday, December 6, 2020

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345). St Maximus (1280).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/12/06>

NOTES FROM FR. JOHN

Support our Seminaries with a Christmas Donation AND enjoy an online Christmas Concert!

Saint Tikhon's Seminary Choir will hold a virtual, online, Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 7:00 PM. (Some of us have attended, and greatly enjoyed, the live Christmas Concerts presented by this group in previous years at Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT.) The December 6, 2020, Christmas Concert can be joined online at either the [Seminary's YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook Page](#).

Annually, this Christmas Concert is intended to be a fundraising event for the Seminary, however, this year it will be offered for no cost, online. It would be good, though, if we are planning to enjoy the concert, if we, also, planned to make a donation to our seminaries during the month of December, to support Orthodox theological education, in general, and the training of future clergy, specifically. (NOTE: Our parish annually supports the seminaries from an expense line item in the Parish Budget, but it would be good if we all directly supported the seminaries, too.)

Donations supporting theological and pastoral education can be made directly at the websites of our three Orthodox Church in America (OCA) Seminaries. Here are the links:

Saint Herman's Seminary: <https://www.sthermanseminary.org/donate>

Saint Tikhon's Seminary: <https://www.stots.edu/donate>

Saint Vladimir's Seminary: <https://www.svots.edu/support/donate>

Thanks for your consideration!

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Archpriest John Hopko, Pastor

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

Patriarch IRINEJ of Serbia—head of the Serbian Orthodox Church d. 11/20/2020
His Eminence, Archbishop David of Alaska d. 11/27/2020
Madeline “Maddie” Bell—Terryville H.S. student, tragically killed d. 11/13/2020

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Christina Banziruk 12/7/1968
Stella Redman 12/8/2007
Vladimir Shymansky 12/11/1921
John Vanoni 12/11/1930
Emelian Lazarko 12/11/1946
Dimitry Kucirka 12/11/1963
Sydney Isidore Brenner 12/11/1992
Vera Kisiel 12/11/2014
Anna Gamernik-Samdetski 12/12/1914
Maria Belitsa 12/12/1942

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

Archpriest Michael—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness
Archpriest John—Fr. John H.’s uncle through marriage; cancer
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
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recent minor surgery
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
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 O.; battling breast cancer
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; 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
Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer
Christopher—friend of Kathy M.; struggling with cancer
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues
Reader Joseph—recent issue with a painful hip joint
Thomas—Patty N.’s nephew; battling cancer
Wayne—Donna O.’s father
Vickie—a woman for whom we have been asked to pray
Sam—Vickie’s husband, struggling with multiple health issues
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray

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
Anna—Rdr. John Paul Sz.’s mother; resident in long-term care
Maryellen—an acquaintance of Carolyn P.; resident in long-term care

Expectant Mothers

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 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 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
Ian H.—Fr. David K.’s son-in-law; preparing for overseas deployment, U.S. Army

Anniversaries of Marriage

NONE THIS WEEK

Birthdays

Sean Orelup 12/6
Effie Saltourides 12/7
Thomas “Tom” Wingate 12/11

A Prayer to Saint Nicholas

O All-praised and all-honored hierarch, great wonderworker, saint of Christ, Father Nicholas, man of God and faithful servant, man of love, chosen vessel, strong pillar of the Church, most brilliant lamp, star that illumines and enlightens the whole world: You are a righteous man that flourished like a palm tree planted in the courts of the Lord. Dwelling in Myra you have diffused the fragrance of myrrh, and you pour out the ever flowing myrrh of the grace of God. By your presence most holy Father, the sea was sanctified when your most miraculous relics were carried to the city of Bari, from the East to the West, to praise the name of the Lord.

O most superb and most marvelous wonderworker, speedy helper, fervent intercessor, good shepherd that saves the rational flock from all dangers: We glorify and magnify you as the hope of all Christians, a fountain of miracles, a defender of the faithful, a most wise teacher, a feeder of the hungry, the gladness of those that mourn, a clother of the naked, a healer of the sick, a pilot of those that sail the sea, and a liberator of prisoners. We glorify and magnify you as the nourisher and protector of widows and orphans, a guardian of chastity, a gentle tutor of children, a support to the elderly, a guide of fasters, the rest of those that labor, and the abundant riches of the poor and needy.

Father Nicholas, hear us that pray to you and flee to your protection. Show your mediation on our behalf with the Most High, and obtain through your God-pleasing intercessions all that is useful for the salvation of our souls and bodies. Keep this holy house, together with this region and every city and town, and every country, and the people that dwell therein, from all

oppression through your help. For we know that the prayer of a righteous man avails much for good; and, besides and beyond the most-holy Theotokos, we have you as a righteous mediator with the All-Merciful God, and to your fervent intercession and protection we humbly hasten.

Do you, as a watchful and good shepherd, keep us from all enemies, pestilence, earthquake, hail, famine, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies, and in all our misfortunes and affliction do you give us a helping hand and open the doors of God's compassion; for we are unworthy to look upon the height of heaven because of the abundance of our unrighteousness. We are bound by the bonds of sin and have not done the will of our Creator nor kept His commandments.

Wherefore, we bow the knees of our broken and humble hearts to our Maker, and we ask your fatherly intercession with Him. Lest we perish with our sins, deliver us from all evil, and from every adverse thing, direct our minds and strengthen our hearts in the Orthodox Faith, which, through your mediation and intercession, neither wounds, nor threats, nor plague, nor the wrath of our Creator shall lessen. Grant that we may live a peaceful life here and see the good things in the land of the living, glorifying the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God glorified and worshipped in Trinity, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

News and Notes

The Nativity Fast – Ongoing: The Nativity Fast, sometimes called Advent, began on Sunday, November 15. This fast lasts for the 40 days until the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) on December 25. This is a time of fasting and prayer in preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Right now, of course, we are living through a public health crisis, which impacts our ability to have as full an expression of parish life as we might prefer. However, this does not mean that we cannot or should not keep the Nativity Fast. We should, certainly, be doing everything that we can to mark and keep the fast, and to prepare ourselves, accordingly, for the celebration of Christmas, the Saving Birth of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wednesday Morning Matins Services, via “Zoom”: Due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 here in our area, we have made the choice to limit in-person activities at the Church. **This means that, for now, we are suspending our in-person Wednesday morning Matins services.** We have replaced that in-person service with an on-line gathering for worship and prayer. Watch your email inbox for details.

Bible Study – Via “Zoom,” Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: We have been holding weekly Bible Study sessions, via video teleconference (“Zoom”) on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This Tuesday, we will be continuing (and maybe concluding) our reading and discussion of the Letter to the Galatians. Soon, we will be starting our consideration of the First Letter to the Corinthians.

Bible Study Companion Book: If you are interested in reading a book that will serve as a companion to the efforts we are presently making in Bible Study, this book may be a resource for you: *Words of Fire: The Early Epistles of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians and the Galatians*. This book is written by Fr. Lawrence Farley, who is a priest in British Columbia, Canada, in a parish of the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Canada. It is published by Conciliar Press, Chesterton, Indiana (<https://store.ancientfaith.com/biblical-studies/>). Fr. Farley writes in his introduction to this book, “This commentary was written...for the average layman, for the nonprofessional...” Thus, it is a book that is accessible to us, Orthodox Christians who regularly attend Church, and who would like to know more about the Bible.

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.)

Confession Appointments, during the Nativity Fast (Advent)

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

It is considered a normal part of our journeys through the fasting seasons of the Church that we would participate in the saving sacrament of Holy Confession. Obviously, this is a difficult and vexing time, as we continue to journey through what we might well call "COVID-time." Nevertheless, I would ask that every parishioner, please, contact me to discuss the matter of participation in the sacraments of the Church. We need to determine what is possible in this regard for every member of the Parish. (Perhaps, we will only be able to meet virtually, in cyberspace, or by phone, but we must be in contact.) This is of vital and increasing importance, not in spite of the present public health crisis, but because of it.

We are all making efforts, even in this difficult time, to have our most important needs met. We are accessing our materials needs, such as for groceries and other items. Many of us are, also, accessing medical and dental care at this time. If we are meeting those important needs, we should, also, be making sure to meet our deepest need—the need for continuing connection to Jesus Christ and His Church. The things of this world will pass away, but the eternal things of God are everlasting, and the sacraments of the Church connect us to eternity.

Please, do be in touch with me. Also, please know that I will be reaching out to you.

With love, and hope, and prayers,

In Christ,

Fr. John H.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost, this year December 6

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (Eph. 5:9-19)

Brothers and Sisters: Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (Luke 17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

