

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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December 11, 2016

### Up-coming Services and Events

#### Today: *Sunday of the Holy Forefathers*

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**12:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**13:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**14:** 6:30 p.m. "Glory to God for All Things"

**15:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**16:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**17:** 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

#### **18:** *Sunday before the Nativity of Christ*

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**19:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**20:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**21:** 6:30 p.m. "Glory to God for All Things"

**22:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**23:** 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

**24:** 4:00 p.m. Festal Matins and Carol Sing

#### **25:** *The Nativity of our LORD, Jesus Christ*

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### Prayers for Blessings and Health

Bishops Paul and John of Aleppo, *captive in Syria*.

Dimitri Ndini (*USMC*), *serving in our armed forces*.

*Those who are sick:* Archbishop Nikon; Fr. Daniel Montgomery; Christy Adams; Matushka Suzanne Aleandro; Michael, Mildred & Michael Arendacs; Paul Betts; Eileen Bochino; Serge Bouteneff; James Brideau; Debi Broadus; Matushka Mara Burns; Sharon Buzi; Jim Cerner; Joyce Chadwick; Frank Chamberlain; Bernard & Annie Christenson; Bobby Christo; Tara Coppola; Anthony Cordero; Peter Costa; Renate Deer; Armando Dias; James Dionis; Kevin Donnelly; Danielle Galich; Mary Galich; Louise Karoli Gallagher; Lynn Graceski; Shirley

Hunter; Nancy Hurd; Kiril Ivanov; Sug Jones; Donald & Shirley Jordan; Christy Lambert; Violet Laska; June Lopen; Nicolas Lucas; Carole Lundquist; Steven Malandra; Albert Masek, Sr.; Thomas Matthews; Jaimie McCarvill; Theodore Morrison; Andy Nunn; Kimberly Orosz; Deborah Owen; James Pando; Pat Perrotta; Stephen Phillips; Violet Polena, Dena Soter Reardon; Linda Rich; Mason Ruskowski; David Schutte; Andrea Snedegar; Angie Soter; Charles & Joann Soter; Tessie Sotir; Sue & Thomas Spero; John Szalkowski; Christian & Theodore Tallcouch; Richard Taylor, Jr.; Thomas Terzakis; Thalia Thomas; William Thomas; Paullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice & William Vasil; Ann Vitale.

### Prayers in Memoriam

#### 40 Days

Jane Dionis; Evangeline Hallas;  
Archpriest Michael Soter

#### December

- 12 George C. Goures (1977)  
14 Priest Llambi Michael (1955)  
Nisi Athanas (1959)  
15 Caroline Theodos Kardos  
16 Theodora Spiro (1939)  
17 Theodora (Dhora) M. Polena (2003)  
Aphrodita (Frieda) Jones (2006)

### Coffee Hour

**Today:** The Dionis Family, on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day since Jane Dionis' death

**18:** The Galich & Chadwick Families, in honor of Vi Bowe's Birthday

**25:** Christmas Day

*If you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour, please sign up on the poster in the Church Hall.*

### Winter Clothing Collection

We are now collecting new or gently-used hats, gloves and scarves for the **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**. There is a donation box in the Church Hall.

### Community Christmas Card

As in years past we will be collecting contributions for our annual **Community Christmas Card**. All entries must be turned in by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for the card to be printed and mailed in a timely manner.

Forms are available at the Candle Desk.

### Jesus Prayer Meditation Group

This Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and each Tuesday until Christmas, there will be a **Jesus Prayer Meditation Group** at the home of *Gregory Buzi II*, 60 Brookdale Rd. in Seymour. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Evening Prayers followed by recitation of the Jesus Prayer and a period of silence. A meal will be provided after the meditation.

Contact *Gregory* at (203) 273-0103 for more information and to let him know you will be attending.

### Akathist and Adult Education

This Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Akathist Hymn, "**Glory to God for All Things**" at 6:30 p.m. with our Adult Study group following at approximately 7:00 p.m.

This week, we will continue our exploration of the basics of the Orthodox Faith by looking at **The Nicene Creed**.

Come for the service. Come for the study group. Come for both.

### Christmas Concert at Holy Ghost Church

**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**, 1510 East Main Street, Bridgeport, CT will host its **Second Annual Christmas Concert** today at 3:00 p.m. The concert, which will feature the 130-member *Fairfield University Glee Club*, is FREE and will be held in the Church proper. Please bring your family and friends and celebrate the Nativity Season with Holy Ghost parish and their neighborhood friends.

### The Nativity Fast

We are now in the midst of the **Nativity Fast**. During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the Feast.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, olive oil and wine. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we also abstain from fish. While many people relax these rules, particularly until after Thanksgiving, it is important that we do as much as we can, so that we can properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the Great Feast of our LORD's Nativity.

### New Year's Eve Dance

There will be a **New Year's Eve Dance** in the Church Hall on New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 per person.

Contact *Nardi Tollkuçi* (203-895-4263) or *Aida Kalapo* (203-685-7231) for information and tickets.

### General Parish Meeting scheduled

There will be a **General Parish Membership Meeting** on Sunday, January 8, 2017. We will be electing Parish Council members and discussing important needs of our parish community.

Please plan to attend.

### Teuta members: Save the Date!

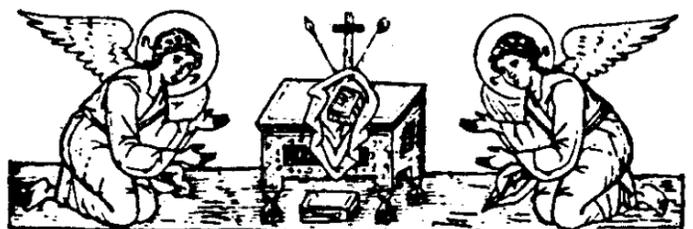
The **Teuta Ladies' Society** has scheduled its **Holiday Luncheon** for Sunday, January 15, 2017, at Gusto's in Milford. The cost will be \$26.00 per person.

More details to follow.

### Charity Collection

This month we are supporting the **Binky Patrol**.

This is an organization that makes small blankets for critically ill and traumatized children in our area. Please be generous!



**Colossians 3:4-12**

Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your way of life. But now, you too put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed towards perfect knowledge according to his Creator's image. Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and freeman, but Christ is all things, and in all.

**Luke 14:16-24**

The LORD told this parable: "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper. For many are called but few are chosen.'"

**Kolosianëve 3:4-12**

Vëllezër: Kur të shfaqet Krishti, jeta jonë, atëherë edhe ju bashkë me të do të shfaqeni në lavdi. Bëni pra të vdekura pjesët e trupit tuaj që janë mbi dhe, imoralitetin, ndyrësinë morale, epshin, lakminë e keqe dhe pangopësinë, që është idhujtari, gjëra për të cilat vjen zemërimi i Perëndisë përmbi të bijtë e pabindjes. Në këto edhe ju ecët dikur, kur rronit në to. Po tani hidhini tej edhe ju të gjitha këto, mërinë, zemërimin, ligësinë, blasfeminë, fjalët e ndyra prej gojës suaj. Mos i thoni gënjeshtër njëri-tjetrit, pasi zhveshët njeriun e vjetër bashkë me punët e tij, edhe veshët të riun që përtërihet në njohje sipas shembëllesës së atij që e ka krijuar; ku s'ka Grek e Judeas, rrethprerje e parrethprerje, barbar, Skit, shërbëtor, të lirë, por të gjitha e mbi të gjitha është Krishti.

**Llukait 14:16-24**

ZOTI u tha këtë paravoli: "Një njeri bëri një darkë të madhe dhe ftoi shumë. Edhe në kohën e darkës dërgoi shërbëtorin e tij që t'u thoshte atyre që ishin ftuar. Ejani, se tani të gjitha janë gati. Por të gjithë zunë si prej një mendjeje të hiqeshin mënjane. I pari i tha: 'Bleva një arë dhe kam nevojë të dal e ta shoh; të lutem të më kesh të hequr nga darka.' Edhe një tjetër tha: 'Bleva pesë pendë qe dhe po shkoj t'i provoj; të lutem, të më kesh të hequr nga darka.' Edhe një tjetër tha: 'Mora grua dhe prandaj nuk mund të vij.' Edhe ai shërbëtori erdhi dhe ia tregoi të zotit këto. Atëherë i zoti i shtëpisë u zemërua, e i tha shërbëtorit të tij: 'Dil shpejt nëpër rrugët e nëpër udhët e qytetit, dhe sill këtu brenda të varfërit e të paralizuarit e të çalët e të verbërit.' Edhe shërbëtori tha: 'Zotni, u bë siç urdhërove, po ende ka vend.' Edhe zotëria i tha shërbëtorit: 'Dil nëpër udhët e nëpër gardhet dhe nxiti të hyjnë, që të mbushet shtëpia ime. Sepse po ju them juve, se asnjë nga ata njerëzit që qenë ftuar nuk do të provojë darkën time.'"