
W^{the}onderworker

Saint George Orthodox Church

First Quarter, 2013

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Inside this issue of *The Wonderworker*, you will find some very important things: the *House Blessing Schedule* is on page 2 and the "Konizmat" listing is on page 3.

A few words about these two items.

The *House Blessing Schedule* is based upon the schedule as distributed in past years. If your name is here and you do not wish to have your house blessed or cannot meet me on the scheduled day, please call me as soon as possible. If your name is not here, but you would like your house blessed, please call me as soon as possible so I can add you to the list. My cell phone number is 203-598-4678.

As in past years, the listings in each section are in alphabetical order. I will call to set up the actual time of the visit. No visit will be made without an appointment.

Weekday and Saturday visits will be made throughout the day, beginning at about 10:00 a.m. Sunday visits will be made in the afternoon.

Again, my cell phone number is 203-598-4678.

The "Konizmat" list includes the icons that are offered this year. Please make your selection on the form at the bottom of the page and return it to Church, either in person or by mail.

As always, the format is a "silent auction." In case of a tie bid, the icon will go to the bid placed first.

Bids will be accepted to the end of the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, January 20th*. Distribution will take place after the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, January 30th*. Winners get to keep their icons until the *First Sunday of Great Lent – March 24th*. On that day they are triumphantly returned at the procession of the Great Entrance.

In addition, this issue includes a short selection from the *Spirituality* volume of Fr. Thomas Hopko's *The Orthodox Faith* (both in English and Albanian), a listing of coming events for the next quarter and articles about our recent visitor from a convent in Minsk, Belarus, the next meeting of our *Spiritual Book Club*, the new *Coffee Hour Sign-up Poster* in the Church Hall, and a series of Thank Yous to people to have made contributions to the life of our Parish Community recently.

As we begin this new year of 2013, I ask that God bless all of us and grant us His blessings and every good thing!

Fr. Dennis

House Blessing Schedule 2013

Monday, January 7:

Nursing Homes

Tuesday, January 8:

Fairfield: Bocchino, Dionis, P. Lazar,
C. Lundquist, Z. Michael,
Nauchy, Vissar

Thursday, January 10:

Bridgeport:..... Billings, Brideau, Ndini,
V. Soter, Sotir, Thanas

Fairfield: V. Michael, Morcone

Friday, January 11:

Trumbull: J. Dionis, Panoli, K. Peters,
Reh

Saturday, January 12:

Bridgeport:..... Bindner, Cryan, E. Lundquist

Monday, January 14:

Huntington: Adams, Barmashi, Jordan

Seymour: Tallcouch

Shelton:..... Geeza

Tuesday, January 15:

Fairfield: Christianson, Kovachi

Southport:..... G. Boria

Thursday, January 17:

Stratford: Bode, J. Caliendo, DiIulio,
Hurd, B. Kerma, J. Pando,
K. Pando, Patria, C. Peters,
C. Soter

Friday, January 18:

Easton:..... Dacey, Lazar, Tallcouch,
Vangel, Vasil

Saturday, January 19:

Trumbull: Bowe, Chadwick, Csernica,
Galich, Gartsu, Nikola

Sunday, January 20:

Trumbull: Coughlin, Denisevich,
P. Dionis, Gallagher, Nichio,
Watson

Saturday, January 26:

Milford: Masek, O'Brien, Yapo

Orange: Michael, Moras, Stockel

West Haven:..... P. Caliendo

Sunday, January 27:

Stamford:..... Wight

Weston: Goetz

Westport:..... Lambert, Theodos

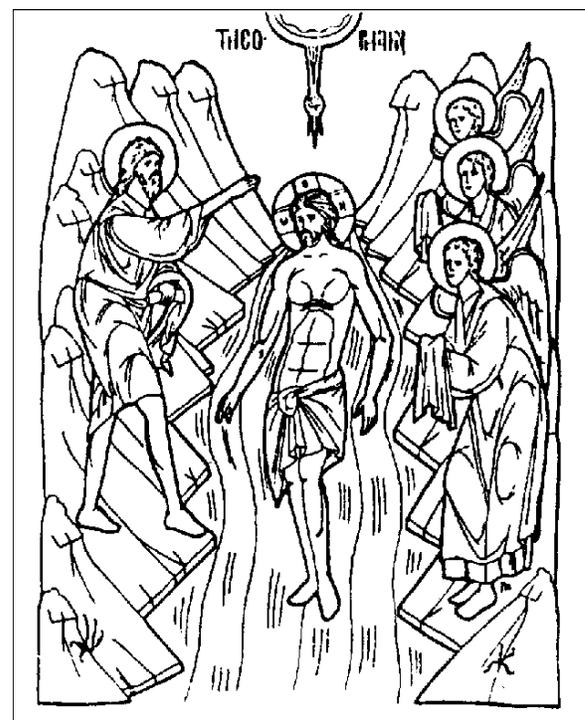
Saturday, February 2:

Danbury:..... Lazos

Newtown:..... Themel, Tollkuçi

Sunday, February 3:

Monroe: Alston, G. Buzi, P. Buzi,
Demetri, Francisco, Jaworski,
J. Rubis, Quinn



Konizmat 2013

Festal Icons

1. Nativity of the Virgin
2. Elevation of the Cross
3. Presentation of the Virgin
4. Nativity of Christ (2)
5. Theophany
6. Theophany Cross
7. Meeting of the Lord ("*Papandia*")
8. Annunciation to the Theotokos
9. Raising of Lazarus
10. Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem ("*Palm Sunday*")
11. Resurrection of the Lord
12. Ascension of the Lord
13. Pentecost
14. Holy Trinity
15. Transfiguration of the Lord
16. Dormition of the Theotokos

Saints' Icons

1. The Virgin Mary (*Kursk-Root Icon*)
2. Adrian & Natalia
3. Anthony the Great
4. Athanasius of Alexandria
5. Athanasius & Cyril of Alexandria
6. St. Basil the Great (2)
7. Catherine of Alexandria
8. Charalampos
9. Christopher
10. Constantine & Helen, Equals to the Apostles
11. Cyril & Methodius, Evangelizers of the Slavs
12. Demetri of Thessalonica (2)
13. Dionysius the Areopagite

14. Dorothea
15. Elias the Prophet
16. Elizabeth (Mother of John the Baptist)
17. George the Martyr (2)
18. Gregory the Great
19. Helen, Equal to the Apostles
20. Herman of Alaska
21. Herman & Innocent of America
22. Innocent, the Evangelizer of America
23. Joachim & Anna, parents of the Virgin Mary
24. John the Baptist and Forerunner
25. John the Evangelist and Theologian
26. John Chrysostom
27. Luke the Evangelist
28. Mark the Evangelist
29. Mary of Egypt
30. Matthew the Evangelist
31. Michael the Archangel
32. Nectarios of Aegina
33. Nicholas, the Wonderworker
34. Nina, Evangelizer of Georgia
35. Olga, Equal to the Apostles
36. Panteleimon, the Healer
37. Patrick of Ireland
38. Paul the Apostle
39. Peter & Paul, the Apostles (2)
40. Romanos the Singer
41. Sergius of Radonezh
42. Spyridon
43. Theodore the General
44. Thomas the Apostle
45. Timothy the Apostle
46. Twelve Apostles

Your Name: _____

Your envelope number: _____

Your selection: _____

Your bid: _____

The Holy Spirit

A person can abide in Christ, accomplish His commandments and be in communion with God the Father only by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in his life. Spiritual life is life in and by the Holy Spirit of God.

If you love me (*says Christ*), you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (*John 14:15-17*)

When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth... He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine... (*John 16:12-15*)

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and is sent into the world through Christ so that human persons can fulfill God's will in their lives and be like Christ. The spiritual fathers of the Orthodox Church say that the Holy Spirit makes people to be "christs," that is, the "anointed" children of God. This also is the teachings of the Apostles in the New Testament writings.

But you have been anointed by the Holy One and you know all things...and the unction (*chrisma*) you have received from Him abides in you...His anointing teaches you about everything and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in Him. (...) And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us. (...) By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His own Spirit. (*1 John 2:20-27, 3:24, 4:14*)

This teaching of Saint John is the same teaching as that of Saint Paul.

...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. (...) Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit which dwells in you... for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (*Romans 5:5, 8:1 ff; Cf. 1 Corinthians 2, 6, 12-14; Galatians 5*)

It is the classical teaching of the Orthodox Church, made popular in recent times by Saint Seraphim of Sarov (19th c.), that the very essence of Christian spiritual life, the very essence of life itself, is the "acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God." Without the Holy Spirit, there is no true life for man.

In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the inextinguishable light of Christ...and when the sinner turns to the way of repentance the light smoothes away every trace of the sins committed, clothing the former sinner in the garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking... (*St. Seraphim of Sarov, "Conversation with Motovilov"*)

from *The Orthodox Faith*,
by Fr. Thomas Hopko

Shpirti i Shenjtë

Një person mund të banojë në Krishtin, të kryejë urdhërimet e tij dhe të jetë në kungim me Perëndinë Atë vetëm me anë të pranisë dhe fuqisë së Shpirtit të Shenjtë në jetën e tij. Jeta shpirtërore është jetë në dhe me anë të Shpirtit të Shenjtë të Perëndisë.

Nëse më doni (*thotë Krishti*), zbatoni urdhërimet e mia. Dhe unë do t'i lutem Atit dhe Ai do t'ju japë një Ngushëllues tjetër, që do të qëndrojë përgjithmonë me ju, Frymën e së Vërtetës, që bota nuk mund ta marrë, sepse nuk e sheh dhe nuk e njeh; por ju e njihni, sepse qëndron me ju dhe do të jetë në ju. (*Joani 14:15-17*)

Por, kur të vijë Ai, Fryma e së vërtetës, Ai do t'ju prijë në çdo të vërtetë... Ai do të më përlëvdojë, sepse do të marrë prej meje dhe do t'ju kumtojë. Të gjitha gjërat që ka Ati janë të miat... (*Joani 16:13-15*)

Shpirti i Shenjtë buron prej Atit dhe është dërguar në botë me anë të Krishtit, kështu që personat njerëzorë mund të përmbushin vullnetin e Perëndisë në jetët e tyre dhe të bëhen të ngjashëm me Krishtin. Etërit shpirtërorë të Kishës Orthodhokse thonë se Shpirti i Shenjtë i bën njerëzit që të jenë "krishtëra", domethënë, bijtë "e lye" të Perëndisë. Ky është, gjithashtu, mësimi i apostujve në shkrimet e Dhiatës së Re.

Por ju keni vajosjen nga i Shenjti dhe dini çdo gjë...vajosja (*krisma*) që keni marrë prej tij qëndron në ju...vajosja e tij ju mëson çdo gjë dhe është e vërtetë e nuk është gënjeshtër, qëndroni në të ashtu sikurse ju mësoi. (...) Dhe prej kësaj ne dimë se Ai qëndron në ne: nga Fryma që Ai na dha. (...) Nga kjo ne njohim se qëndrojmë në të dhe Ai në ne, sepse Ai na ka dhënë nga fryma e tij. (*1 Joani 2:20-27, 3:24, 4:13*)

Mësimi i Shën Joanit është i njëjti me mësimin e Shën Pavlit.

Sepse dashuria e Perëndisë është derdhur në zemrat tona me anë të Frymës së Shenjtë që na është dhënë. (...) Nëse Fryma e Perëndisë banon në ju, ju nuk jeni më në mish, por në Frymë. Por, në qoftë se ndokush nuk ka Frymën e Krishtit, ai nuk i përket atij. Nëse Krishti është në ju, trupi patjetër është i vdekur për shkak të mëkatit, por Fryma është jetë për shkak të drejtësisë. Dhe në qoftë se Fryma e atij që ringjalli Krishtin prej së vdekurish banon në ju, Ai që e ringjalli Krishtin prej së vdekurish do t'ju japë jetë edhe trupave tuaj vdekatarë me anë të Frymës së tij që banon në ju...sepse, po të rroni sipas mishit, ju do të vdisni; por, nëse me anë të Frymës i bëni të vdesin veprat e trupit, ju do të rroni. Sepse të gjithë ata që udhëhiqen nga Fryma e Perëndisë janë bij të Perëndisë. (*Romanët 5:5, 8:9-14; Kr. 1 Korinthianët 2, 6, 12-14; Galatianët 5*)

Ky është mësimi klasik i Kishës Orthodhokse, i bërë popullor kohët e fundit nga Shën Serafimi i Sarovit (*shek. 19*), që esenca e vërtetë e jetës shpirtërore të krishterë, esenca e vërtetë e vetë jetës, është "përftimi i Shpirtit të Shenjtë të Perëndisë". Pa Shpirtin e Shenjtë, nuk ka jetë të vërtetë për njeriun.

Pavarësisht nga mëkatshmëria jonë, pavarësisht nga errësira që i rrethon shpirtat tanë, Hiri i Shpirtit të Shenjtë, i dhënë në pagëzim në emrin e Atit dhe Birit dhe Shpirtit të Shenjtë, ndriçon akoma në zemrat tona me dritën e pashuar të Krishtit... dhe kur mëkatari kthehet në rrugën e pendimit drita fshin çdo gjurmë të mëkateve të kryera, duke e veshur mëkatarin e mëparshëm me rroben e paprishjes, endur nga Hiri i Shpirtit të Shenjtë. Është ky përftimi i Shpirtit të Shenjtë për të cilin unë po flas.... (*Shën Serafimi i Sarovit, Biseda me Motovilovin*).

nga Besimi Ortodoks (*The Orthodox Faith*)
i At Thomas Hopko

Coming Events

January

- 1: New Year's Day
Saint Basil the Great
- 6: The Theophany of our Lord
10:00 a.m. — Divine Liturgy and Blessing
of Water
- 13: Teuta Holiday Luncheon at Ricardo's
Restaurant in Monroe, Conn.
- 27: General Parish Meeting

February

- 2: Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
9:30 a.m. — Divine Liturgy
- 24: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
The period of the Lenten Triodion begins

March

- 9: First Memorial Saturday of 2013
9:30 a.m. — Divine Liturgy
- 10: Meatfare Sunday (*Last day to eat meat be-
fore Pascha*)
- 17: Forgiveness Sunday
- 18: Great Lent begins
- 24: The Sunday of Orthodoxy (*Konizmat
Icons returned to Church*)
- 23: Holy Martyr Nikon:
Archbishop Nikon's Nameday
- 25: The Annunciation to the Virgin Mary
9:30 a.m. — Divine Liturgy
- 31: Western Easter

Looking ahead...

- April 28: Palm Sunday — The Entrance
of our Lord into Jerusalem
- May 5: Pascha — Orthodox Easter
- May 6: Bright Monday
Saint George Day (*transferred*)
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 27: Memorial Day observed
- June 13: The Ascension of our Lord
- June 16: Father's Day
- June 23: Pentecost



Parish Council 2013

On Sunday, January 6, 2013, the members of the Parish Council for 2013 were installed in office at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Later that day, during their first meeting, they elected officers for the year.

They are:

- James Bowe, *President*
- Peter Dacey, *Vice President*
- Kim O'Brien, *Treasurer*
- Luba Csernica, *Financial Secretary*
- Louise Karoli Gallagher, *Recording Secretary*
- Mary Nikola, *Corresponding Secretary*
- Bob Lazar, *Building and Grounds*
- Joseph Galich, *Assistant Building and Grounds*
- Joann Soter, *Trustee*

Congratulations to our Parish Council members. We wish them Many Years! and a successful and fruitful time in office!

Belarusian visitor comes to Saint George

On Wednesday, December 19th, Sister Maria, a lay sister from Saint Elizabeth Convent in Minsk, Belarus, visited Saint George Church and spoke about the work the sisters and monastics of the community do with severely handicapped children and adults as well as recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.

About 20 parishioners gathered to hear her and to see the video presentation she gave. Then they were able to examine the many items she brought which had been produced in the Convent's workshops, and shop to their hearts' content.

Book Club schedules next session

The **Spiritual Book Club** that was begun as part of our *Natural Church Development* process will hold its second meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at the home of **Karen Masek**.

The group will continue its discussion of *Bread and Water, Wine and Oil*, by Father Meletios (Webber). Guests are welcome!

Contact Karen or Laura Caughlin for complete details and to let them know how many to expect.

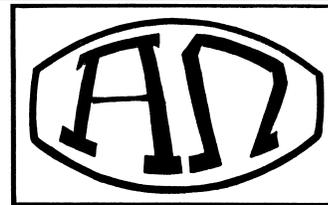


Thank You!

We extend our gratitude to everyone who has helped recently with various activities and events in our Parish community:

- ◆ The **Teuta Ladies' Society** who donated \$10,000 to the Church from the proceeds of their annual **Bazaar** in October, and who helped to support our **Church School's Saint Nicholas Day** celebration in December.
- ◆ **Greg Buzi, Jr.**, and those who helped him prepare and serve a dinner at **Spooner House** in Shelton, **Cheryl Themel, Joann Soter, Greg Buzi, Sr., Kim O'Brien**, and **Laura Chadwick**.
- ◆ **Cheryl Themel** and **Laura Chadwick** who helped with our first **Tuesday and Saint George**.
- ◆ **Nardi Tollkuçi, Liliana Kërma** and **Mimoza Vala** who organized our **Albanian Independence Day** and **New Year's Eve** celebrations.
- ◆ Our **Choir, Chanters, Readers, Altar Servers**, and **decorators** who helped to make our Christmas celebrations so beautiful and meaningful.

Thank you all! Your contributions have enriched our Parish life.



Coffee Hour Sign-up Poster

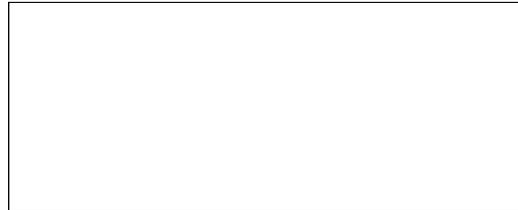
Hanging on the bulletin board in the Church Hall is a new poster where people can sign up to host **Coffee Hour** on Sunday mornings.

This is a way for us all to see if there are available Sundays and to plan ahead for any special occasions we might want to share with our Parish family: birthdays, namedays, memorials, etc.

Be sure to take a look at it and put your name down to host in the near future.

Saint George Orthodox Church
5490 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611-2932

FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION



The Wonderworker

The Wonderworker
is a quarterly publication of
Saint George Orthodox Church,
Trumbull, Connecticut
a parish of the
Albanian Archdiocese
of the
Orthodox Church in America
Archpriest Dennis R. Rhodes,
Rector
James Bowe
Council President