

The Martyr

St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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December 18, 2016

Up-coming Services and Events

Today: 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

29: 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

30: 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayers

31: 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Jan. 1: The Circumcision of our LORD, Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Prayers
for the New Year

Prayers for Blessings and Health

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

Dimitri Ndini (USMC), *servicing 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 & Pandora 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; Bruce Lazar; 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; Poullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice & William Vasil; Ann Vitale.

Prayers in Memoriam

40 Days

Evangeline Hallas; Archpriest Michael Soter;
Valentina Woliver; Victor Meskhishvili

December

18 Elias Nikola (1977)

Peter Atanas (1970)

19 Mary Albrecht (1972)

Olga Theodos Peters (2001)

20 Andromaqi Kosta Theodos (1939)

23 Peter Athanas (2003)

24 Lena Costa (1972)

Coffee Hour

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

25: Christmas Day

Jan. 1: New Year's 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 today 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 20th, 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 21st, we will celebrate the Akathist Hymn, "**Glory to God for All Things**" at 6:30 p.m. Our Adult Study group will not meet this week or next. It will resume on January 4, 2017.

Spooner House

On Thursday, December 22nd, we will be cooking and serving a meal for the residents of **Spooner House** in Shelton. See *Gregory Buzi II* for details and to volunteer to help.

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 31st, 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. Menu choices include *Rosemary Chicken*, *Grilled New York Steak* or *Baked Salmon*. The cost will be \$26.00 per person. Guests are welcome.

The deadline for reservations is January 8th. See *Elsie Gartsu* for details or to make your reservations.

Charity Collection

This month we are supporting the **International Orthodox Christian Charities** as they work to help the people of the city of **Aleppo** in Syria and other places around the world who have been forced from their homes.

Please be generous!



Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed foundations, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the Prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead restored to them through resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut to pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground. And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah who mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah,

Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary his mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the LORD through the Prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the Virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son; and they shall call His name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us." So Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the LORD had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Hebrenjve 11:9-10, 32-40

Vëllezër: me anë të besimit Abrahami shkoi e ndenji në tokën e premtuar si në tokë të huaj, dhe ndenji në tenda, bashkë me Isakun e me Jakovin, bashkëtrashëgimtarët e po atij premtimi; sepse priste qytetin që kishte themelet, mjeshtër dhe krijues i të cilit është Perëndia. Edhe ç'të them më? Sepse nuk do të më arrijë koha të tregoj për Gedeonin, për Barakun e Samsonin, dhe Jeftanë, për Davidin e Samuilin dhe profetët, të cilët me anë të besimit mundën mbretëri, punuan drejtësi, fituan premtime, thurën gojë luanësh, shuan fuqinë e zjarrit, shpëtuan nga gojë e thikës, morën fuqi nga dobësitë, u bënë të fortë në luftë, thyen ushtritë e të huajve. Gra morën të vdekurit e tyre të ngjallur; dhe të tjerë u munduan, sepse nuk pritën shpëtimin, që të fitonin një ngjallje më të mirë; dhe të tjerë u provuan me të përqeshura e me të rrahura, po edhe me të lidhura e me burg. U vranë me gurë, u sharruan, u nganë, vdiqën prerë prej thike; endeshin lart e poshtë veshur me lëkurë dhensh, e me lëkurë dhish, duke pasur nevojë, duke pasur shtrëngime, duke hequr keq, — ata për të cilët bota nuk ishte e denjë; — duke shkuar andej e këtej nëpër shkretëtira e nëpër male e nëpër shpella e nëpër vrimat e dheut. Edhe këta të gjithë, ndonëse morën dëshmi të mirë me anë të besimit, nuk morën premtimin, sepse Perëndia pati urdhëruar që përpara një gjë më të mirë për ne, që të mos bëhen të përsosur pa ne.

Matheut 1:1-25

Libri i gjenealogjisë së Jisu Krishtit, të birit të Davidit, të birit të Abrahamit. Abrahamit i lindi Isaku; dhe Isakut i lindi Jakovi; dhe Jakovit i lindi Juda dhe vëllezërit e tij; Edhe Judës i lindi Faresi dhe Zarai nga Tamara; dhe Faresit i lindi Esromi; dhe Esromit i lindi Arami; Edhe Aramit i lindi Aminadavi; dhe Aminadavit i lindi Nasoni; dhe Nasonit i lindi Salmoni; Edhe Salmonit i lindi Vozi nga Rahaba; dhe Vozit i lindi Ovidi nga Ruthi; dhe Ovidit i lindi Jeseu; Edhe Jeseut i lindi Davidi, mbreti. Edhe mbretit David i lindi Solomoni nga gruaja e Uriut; Edhe Solomonit i lindi Roboami;

dhe Roboamit i lindi Abiai; dhe Abiait i lindi Asai; Edhe Asait i lindi Josafati; dhe Josafatit i lindi Jorami; dhe Joramit i lindi Ozia; Edhe Ozisë i lindi Joatami; dhe Joatamit i lindi Akazi; dhe Akazit i lindi Ezekia; Edhe Ezekisë i lindi Manasiu; dhe Manasiut i lindi Amoni; dhe Amonit i lindi Josia; Edhe Josisë i lindi Jehonia dhe vëllezërit e tij, në kohën e shpërnguljes në Babilonë. Edhe pas shpërnguljes në Babilonë, Jehonisë i lindi Salatieli; dhe Salatielit i lindi Zorobabeli; Edhe Zorobabelit i lindi Aviudi; dhe Aviudit i lindi Eliakimi; dhe Eliakimit i lindi Azori; Edhe Azorit i lindi Saduku; dhe Sadukut i lindi Akimi; dhe Akimit i lindi Eliudi; Edhe Eliudit i lindi Eleazari; dhe Eleazarit i lindi Matani; dhe Matanit i lindi Jakovi; Edhe Jakovit i lindi Josifi, burri i Marisë, prej së cilës lindi Jisui që thuhet Krisht. Gjithë brezat pra, që nga Abrahami e deri në ditët e Davidit, janë katërmëdhjetë breza; dhe që nga Davidi e deri në shpërnguljen në Babilonë katërmëdhjetë breza; dhe nga shpërngulja në Babilonë e deri në ditët e Krishtit katërmëdhjetë breza. Edhe lindja e Jisu Krishtit kështu ka qenë; pasi u fejua e ëma e tij, Maria, me Josifin, përpara se të bashkoheshin, u gjend shtatzënë nga Shpirti i Shenjtë. Edhe Josifi, burri i saj, duke qenë i drejtë, e duke mos dashur t'i nxjerrë asaj zë të lig, deshi ta lëshojë fshehurazi. Po ndërsa ai ishte duke menduar këto, ja një engjëll i ZOTIT tek iu duk në ëndërr, duke thënë: "Josif, bir i Davidit, mos u frikëso të marrësh me vete gruan tënde Mariamin; sepse mbarsja që u bë tek ajo është nga Shpirti i Shenjtë. Edhe do të lindë djalë dhe do t'ia vësh emrin Jisu; sepse ai do të shpëtojë popullin e tij nga fajet e atyre." Edhe gjithë kjo u bë, që të përmbushet e thëna prej ZOTIT me anë të profetit, që thotë: "Ja virgjëresha tek do të mbarset, dhe do të lindë djalë, dhe do t'ia vënë emrin Emanuel", që e përkthyer do me thënë, Perëndia bashkë me ne. Edhe Josifi, si u zgjua nga gjumi, bëri siç e urdhëroi engjëlli i ZOTIT, dhe mori pranë vetes gruan e tij. Edhe nuk e njohu atë, derisa bëri të birin e saj, të parëlindurin; dhe ia vuri emrin Jisu.