

The Martyr

St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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March 12, 2017

Up-coming Services and Events

- Today:** *The Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas*
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Memorial Prayers for James Dionis and John Denisevich
4:00 p.m. Great Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church, Broadbridge Ave., Stratford
- 13:** 7:00 a.m. Matins
14: 7:00 a.m. Matins
15: 6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified
16: 7:00 a.m. Matins
17: 7:00 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Compline & Salutations
18: 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers
19: *The Sunday of the Holy Cross*
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Great Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, Bridgeport
- 20:** 7:00 a.m. Matins
21: 7:00 a.m. Matins
22: 6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified
23: 7:00 a.m. Matins
24: 7:00 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Compline & Salutations
25: *The Annunciation to the Theotokos*
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Great Vespers
26: *The Sunday of St. John of the Ladder*
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Great Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, Stratford

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; James Brideau; Debi Broadus; Henry Gartsu Brunneau; Matushka Mara Burns; Jim Cerner; Joyce Chadwick; Frank Chamberlain; Bernard & Annie Christenson; Bobby Christo; Tara Coppola; Anthony Cordero; Peter Costa; Renate Deer; Armando Dias; Pandora Dionis; Kevin Donnelly; Danielle Galich; Mary Galich; Louise Karoli Gallagher; Matushka Anne Hosking; Irene Jordhamo Hughes; Shirley Hunter; Nancy Hurd; Kiril Ivanov; Sug Jones; Donald & Shirley Jordan; Christy Lambert; Violet Laska; Bruce Lazar; June Lopen; Carole Lundquist; Steven Malandra; Karen Marlin; Albert Masek, Sr.; Thomas Matthews; Jaimie McCarvill; Theodore Morrison; Andy Nunn; Kimberly Orosz; James Pando; Pat Perrotta; Stephen Phillips; Violet Polena, Dena Soter Reardon; Helen Reh; Linda Rich; Mason Ruszkowski; 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 Vasil; Ann Vitale.

Prayers in Memoriam

40 Days

James Dionis; Matushka Sofia Rehbinder;
William Vasil

March

- 12 Konstandina D. Joseph (1962)
13 Charles George (1962)

- Metropolitan Theofan (S. Noli) (1965)
- 14 Catherine Panoli (2014)
- 15 Pandora Nastes Nicholas (1999)
- Thomas William Soter (2011)
- 16 Ligor Lazar (1951)
- Harriet Atanas Lambert (2001)

Coffee Hour

Today: The Dionis Family, in memory of John Denisevich and James Dionis

19: ???

26: Patty & Kiril Ivanov in honor of Kiril's Birthday

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

Jesus Prayer Meditation Group

This Tuesday 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.

Presanctified and Adult Education

This Wednesday, the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m., followed by a potluck Lenten dinner in the Church Hall.

We will have some visitors from **Trumbull Helps** and the **Bridgeport Rescue Mission** who will be discussing their work.

News from the Women's Council

The next meeting of the **Women's Council of Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Inc.**, will be on Saturday, March 18th, at 1:30 p.m., at Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church on East Main Street in Bridgeport. The proposed Bylaws, copies of which were handed out at the February meeting, will be discussed.

The April meeting of the Council will be on Saturday, April 22nd, at St. John's Church on Broadbridge Avenue in Stratford. At this time, the Bylaws will be voted upon.

We are very pleased to announce that our group donated 185 pairs of pajamas to The Pajama Program this year! We look forward to our next collection, beginning in September.

Great Lent 2017

We are now in the season of **Great Lent**.

During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, fish, olive oil and wine. While many people relax these rules, 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 Resurrection.

Sunday Lenten Vespers Services

On the Sundays of Great Lent, **Great Vespers** is celebrated at 4:00 p.m. in various parishes in the Greater Bridgeport area. Here is the list of those services for this year.

- March 12th at St. John the Baptist, Broadbridge Ave. in Stratford.
- March 19th at Saint Nicholas Church in Bridgeport.
- March 26nd at Saint Nicholas Church in Stratford
- April 2nd Unction at Three Saints Church in Ansonia

Lenten refreshments will be served following all services.

Youth Rally dates announced

The annual **New England Youth Rally** for 2017 will be held at St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Center in New Hampshire from August 7th through the 12th.

Charity Collection

This month we are supporting **LifeBridge**, an organization that assists many people in our area.

Please be generous!

Hebrews 1:10-2:3

"You in the beginning, O LORD, did found the earth, and the heavens are works of Your hands. They shall perish, but You shall continue; and they shall all grow old as does a garment, and as clothing shall You change them, and they shall be changed. But You are the same, and Your years shall not fail." Now to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies the footstool at Your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for service, for the sake of those who shall inherit salvation? That is why we should all the more earnestly observe the things we have heard, lest perhaps we drift away. For if the word spoken by angels proved to be valid, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? For it was first announced by the LORD and was confirmed to us by those who heard it.

Mark 2:1-12

At that time Jesus entered Capernaum, and it was reported that He was at home. And immediately many gathered together, so that there was no

longer room, not even around the door. And He spoke the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four. And since they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was, and, having made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Now some of the Scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man blaspheme in this way? Who can forgive sins, besides God?" And at once Jesus, knowing in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet, and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the paralytic — "I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house." And immediately he arose and, taking up his pallet, went forth in the sight of all, so that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "Never did we see anything like this!"

Hebrenjve 1:10-2:3

“Ti në fillim, o ZOT, themelove dhenë, dhe punë të duarve të tua janë qiejt. Ata do të prishen, po ti mbetesh; dhe të gjithë si rrobë do të vjetërohen, edhe si të veshur do t’i mbështjellësh ata, dhe do të ndërrohen; por ti je po ai, dhe vitet e tua nuk do të shterojnë”. Edhe cilit prej engjëjve i tha ndonjëherë: “Rri në të djathtën time, deri sa të vë armiqtë e tu nënkëmbje të këmbëve të tua”? A nuk janë të gjithë frymë punëtore, që dërgohen për shërbesë për ata që kanë për të trashëguar shpëtim? Prandaj duhet ne më tepër t’ua vëmë veshin atyre që dëgjuam, se mos shkasim ndonjëherë. Sepse nëse doli e vërtetë fjala që u fol me anë të engjëjve, dhe çdo shkelje porosie e mosdëgjim mori shpërblim të drejtë, atëherë si do të shpëtojmë ne, në mos u kujdesshim për një shpëtim kaq të madh? i cili, pasi zuri të flitet prej ZOTIT, u vërtetua ndër ne prej atyre që e dëgjuan.

Marku 2:1-12

Në atë kohë, hyri Jisui në Kapernaum; dhe u dëgjua se është në shtëpi. Edhe përnjëherë u mblodhën shumë veta, kaq sa as vendet pranë

derës s’i nxinin më; dhe ai u predikonte atyre fjalën. Atëherë vijnë tek ai e sjellin një të paralizuar që e ngrinin katër veta. Edhe pasi s’mund të afroreshin tek ai nga turma e madhe, zbuluan kulmin ku ishte ai, edhe si bënë një vrimë, zbritën shtratin, mbi të cilin dergjej i paralizuari. Edhe Jisui, kur pa besimin e tyre, i thotë të paralizuarit: “Bir, t’u falën mëkatet e tua.” Edhe ca nga shkruetit ishin atje duke ndenjur, dhe duke menduar në zemrat e tyre: “Ç’flet ky kështu blasfemira? Cili mund të falë mëkate, përveçse një, Perëndia?” Edhe Jisui menjëherë si e mori vesh me shpirtin e tij se po mendohen kështu me veten e tyre, u tha atyre: “Përse i mendoni këto në zemrat tuaja? Ç’është më kollaj t’i them të paralizuarit: ‘T’u falën mëkatet,’ apo t’i them: ‘Ngrihu, e merr shtratin tënd, dhe ec’? Po që ta dini se i biri i njeriut ka pushtet të falë mëkate mbi dhe,” — i thotë të paralizuarit: — “Ty të them, ngrihu dhe merr shtratin tënd e shko në shtëpinë tënde.” Edhe ai u ngrit menjëherë dhe mori shtratin, dhe doli përpara të gjithëve, kaq sa të gjithë çuditeshin dhe lavdëronin Perëndinë, duke thënë se kurrë s’kemi parë kështu.