

The Martyr

St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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May 14, 2017

Up-coming Services and Events

**Today: Sunday of the Blind Man
SS. Constantine & Helen**

9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
12:00 p.m. Madelyn Leighton's Baptism

22: 7:00 a.m. Matins

23: 7:00 a.m. Matins

24: 7:00 a.m. Paschal Matins
6:30 p.m. Great Vespers for Ascension

25: The Ascension of our LORD

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

26: 7:00 a.m. Matins

27: 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

28: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

29: 7:00 a.m. Matins

30: 7:00 a.m. Matins

31: 7:00 a.m. Matins

June 1 7:00 a.m. Matins

3: 10:00 a.m. Memorial Divine Liturgy

4: Sunday of Pentecost

9:15 a.m. General Confession
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Prayers

Prayers for Blessings and Health

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

Gregory Buzi II and his family, *testing his vocation.*

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

Those who are sick: Archbishop Nikon; Fr. Daniel Montgomery; Christy Adams; Matushka Suzanne Aleandro; Mildred & Michael Arendacs; Paul Betts; Eileen Bochino; James Brideau; Debi Broadus; Arlene Bunnell; 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 & Mary Galich; Louise Karoli Gallagher; 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; Michael Moras, Jr.; Theodore Morrison; Andy Nunn; Kimberly Orosz; James Pando; Pat Perrotta; Violet Polena, Dena Soter Reardon; Helen Reh; Linda Rich; David Schutte; Andrea Snedegar; Angie Soter; Charles & Joann Soter; Tessie Sotir; Sue & Thomas Spero; Christian Tallcouch; Richard Taylor, Jr.; Thomas Terzakis; Thalia Thomas; William Thomas; Poullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice Vasil; Ann Vitale.

Prayers in Memoriam

40 Days

Jolanda Barber; Cindy Davis;
Georgika Boria; Michael Arendacs

May

- 21 Andrea Cotmil Chala (1967)
Limbjadha Kochi (1967)
Sotir Theodos (1991)
Pandora Buzi Polena (1996)
- 22 Eleanore Polena (2015)
- 23 Scott Louis Sementilli (1985)
- 24 Simon Pappas (1952)
Katherine Kosma (1992)
Charalampos (Harry) Demetri (1993)
- 26 Lemona Rubis (1958)

Coffee Hour

Today: The Nani Family, in honor of Kosta's Nameday

28: ???

June 4: ???

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

Congratulations

Yesterday we welcomed **Sophie Masek** into the Holy Orthodox Church through the mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation.

Sophie is the daughter of *Matthew and Jeannine Masek*, the granddaughter of *Karen and Al Masek* and great-granddaughter of *Zoe Michael*. *Michael Masek* and *Jennifer Waterman* were the godparents.

Many Years! **Për Shumë Vjet!**

Last Day of Church School

We congratulate the students and teachers of our **Church School** as they complete their school year.

Many Years! **Për Shumë Vjet!**

Condolences

We offer our condolences to **Luba Geeza** and her family on the death last week of Luba's brother-in-law, **Michael Arendacs**.

Memory Eternal! **I Përjetshim Kujtimi!**

Notification of illness

When you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, please be sure to let Father Dennis know so he can visit. He can be reached at 203-598-4678.

Cemetery Visitations

On Saturday, May 27th, we will visit our local cemeteries to bless the graves. The schedule will be as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Lakeview Cemetery, Bridgeport (*starting at Fr. Kovachi's grave site*)
- 1:00 p.m. Oaklawn Cemetery, Fairfield
- 2:30 p.m. Gate of Heaven, Trumbull

If there are other cemeteries you would like Father Dennis to visit for grave blessings, please contact him to make arrangements.

Summer Hours

We will be observing **Summer Hours** again this year. Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 a.m. This will continue through Labor Day, September 3rd. Weekday Liturgies will continue to be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Parish Finances

Be sure to take a look at the sign at the Candle Desk which shows our current month's income and expenses.

2017 Youth Rally

The **2017 New England Youth Rally** will be held from August 7th through the 12th, and is open to young people who have completed the fifth grade and have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

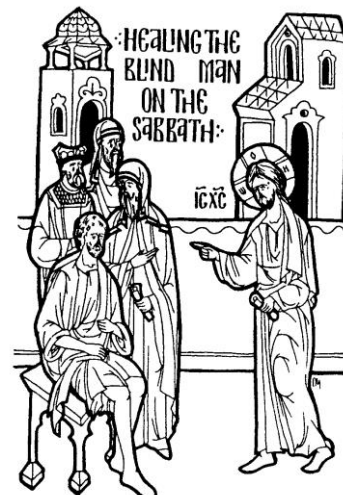
The application packet is now available on line at: <http://www.terryvilleorthodox-church.org/files/YouthRally2017Application-Packet.pdf>

Charity Collection

This month, our Charity Collection will help support the **CROP Hunger Walk** program of *Church World Service* that raises funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Please be generous!

<i>Christ is risen!</i>	<i>Indeed, He is risen!</i>
<i>Krishti u-ngjall!</i>	<i>Vërtet u-ngjall!</i>
<i>Χριστός ανέστη!</i>	<i>Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!</i>
<i>Χριστος воскрес!</i>	<i>Восстину воскрес!</i>
<i>Hristos a înviat!</i>	<i>Adevărat a înviat!</i>



The Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

In those days it came to pass that as we the disciples were going to pray, we were met by a girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her masters much profit by her sooth-saying. Now, she was following Paul and us, and kept crying out loudly, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they announce to you a way of salvation!" This she did for many days. But Paul could not stand it, so he turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ: Get out of her!" And it went out of her that very moment. But seeing that their hope of profit was gone, her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the market-place before the authorities; and bringing them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city. They are Jews, and they advocate practices it is not permitted for us to adopt or observe, since we are Romans." And the crowd opposed them too, and the magistrates tore off their cloaks and ordered them to be beaten with rods. And after inflicting many blows on them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to keep them under safe guard. And he, receiving this command, consigned them to the inner jail and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight, while Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God, the prisoners listened to them. And suddenly, there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and at once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose. But when the jailer woke up and saw all the doors of the jail open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here!" Then calling for a light, he ran in, and trembling with fear, fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. And he let them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they replied, "Believe in the LORD Jesus, and you shall be saved, together with your household." And he spoke to him the word of the LORD, and also to all his household. And he took them at that same hour of the night, and washed their wounds; and he himself was baptized, and all those of his household immediately after. And taking them into his house, he set a table before them, and rejoiced with all his household over his faith in God.

John 9:1-38

At that time as Jesus was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither has this man sinned nor have his parents, but the works of God were to be made manifest in him. I must do the works of the One who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the Light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle, and spread the clay over the man's eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted 'sent')." So he went away, and washed, and returned seeing. The neighbors therefore and those who had seen earlier that he was blind began saying, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said,

"It is." But others said, "He only looks like him." Yet, the man declared, "I am the one." They therefore asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "The man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' And I went and washed, and I see." And they asked him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now, it was a Sabbath on which Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Again, therefore, the Pharisees asked him how he received his sight. But he said to them, "He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner work these signs?" And there was a division among them. Again therefore they said to the blind man, "What do you say of the One who opened your eyes?" But he said, "He is a prophet." The Jews therefore did not believe of him that he had been blind and had got his sight, until they called the parents of the one who had gained his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, of whom you say he was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we ourselves do not know. Ask him; he is of age, let him speak for himself." These things his parents said because they feared the Jews. For already the Jews had agreed that if anyone were to confess Him to be the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. This is why his parents said, "He is of age; question him." They therefore called a second time the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God! We ourselves know this man is a sinner." He therefore said, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see." They therefore asked him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, but you did not listen. Why would you hear a second time? Would you also become His disciples?" They heaped abuse on him therefore and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." In answer the man said to them, "Why herein is the marvel, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. Now we know God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does His will, him He hears. Not from the beginning of the world has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?" And they turned him out. Jesus heard they had turned him out, and when He had found him, said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, LORD, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He it is who speaks with you." And he said, "I believe, LORD." And falling down, he worshipped Him.

Veprat e Apostujve 16:16-34

Në ato ditë, kur po vinim ne për t'u falur, u takua me ne një shërbëtorë që kishte frymë Pitoni, e cila u jepte shumë fitim zotërinjve të saj duke u rrëfyer njerëzve fatin. Ajo shkoi prapa Pavlit e nesh, dhe bërtiste, duke thënë: "Këta njerëz janë shërbëtorë të Perëndisë së lartë, të cilët na tregojnë udhën e shpëtimit." Edhe këtë e bënte shumë ditë me radhë. Edhe Pavli si u rëndua, u kthye e i tha frymës: "Të urdhëroj në emër të Jisu Krishtit të dalësh prej saj." Edhe doli që atë orë. Edhe zotërinjtë e saj, kur panë se u humbi shpresa e fitimit të tyre, zunë Pavlin dhe Silën e i sollën në treg tek të parët. Edhe si i prunë ata përpara të mëdhenjve, thanë: "Këta njerëz, duke qenë Judenj, turbullojnë qytetin tonë, edhe mësojnë zakone që s'është e udhës t'i pranojmë ne; as t'i bëjmë, sepse jemi Romakë." Edhe turma bashkarisht u sul mbi ta, dhe të mëdhenjtë u grisën rrobat e urdhëruan t'i rrahin me shkopinj. Edhe si i bënë me shumë plagë, i vunë në burg, dhe porositën rojen e burgut t'i ruajë me siguri; i cili si mori një porosi të këtyllë, i vuri në burgun e brendshëm e u shtrëngoi këmbët në dru. Edhe në mes të natës Pavli dhe Sila faleshin e i këndonin lavdërime Perëndisë; dhe të lidhurit u mbanin vesh atyre. Edhe papandehur u bë një tërmet i madh, kaq sa u tundën themelet e burgut; dhe përnjëherë u hapën dyert, dhe të gjithëve iu zgjidhën hekurat. Edhe roja i burgut kur u zgjua, dhe pa dyert e burgut të hapura, nxori thikën e donte të vriste veten, sepse pandehte se kishin ikur të lidhurit. Po Pavli thërriti me zë të madh, duke thënë: "Mos i bëj ndonjë të keqe vetes sate, sepse të gjithë jemi këtu." Atëherë ai lypi dritë e kërceu brenda, dhe duke u dridhur u ra ndër këmbë Pavlit dhe Silës. Edhe si i nxori ata jashtë, tha: "Zotërinj, ç'duhet të bëj unë, që të shpëtoj?" Edhe ata i thanë: "Beso ZOTIN Jisu Krisht, dhe do të shpëtosh ti dhe shtëpia jote. Edhe i folën fjalën e Zotit atij dhe gjithë atyre që ishin në shtëpinë e tij. Edhe ai i mori me vete që në atë orë të natës e u lau plagët; dhe përnjëherë u pagëzua ai dhe gjithë të tijtë. Edhe si u ngjit sipër në shtëpinë e tij, u vuri përpara tryezë, dhe u gëzua me gjithë shtëpinë, sepse besoi Perëndinë.

Joani 9:1-38

Ne ate kohe, duke shkuar Jisui, pa një njeri të verbër që prej lindjes. Edhe nxënësit e tij e pyetën, duke thënë: "Rabi, cili mëkatoi, ky apo prindërit e tij, që të lindë i verbër?" Jisui u përgjigj: "As ky mëkatoi, as prindërit e tij, po që të tregohen punët e Perëndisë tek ai. Unë duhet të bëj punët e atij që më dërgoi, deri sa është ditë; vjen nata, kur asnjë s'mund të punojë. Sa të jem në botë, jam drita e botës." Pasi tha këto, pështyu përdhe dhe bëri baltë prej pështymës, dhe leu sytë e të verbërit me baltën; edhe ai i tha atij: "Shko e lahu në pellgun e Siloamit," që e përkthyer domethënë i Dërguar.

Shkoi pra e u la, dhe erdhi duke parë. Fqinjët pra, dhe ata që e kishin parë më përpara se ishte i verbër, thoshin: "A nuk është ky ai që rrinte e lypte?" Të tjerë thoshin se ky është; dhe të tjerë se i shëmbëllen; por ai u thoshte se unë jam. I thoshin pra: "Si t'u hapën sytë?" Ai u përgjigj e tha: "Një njeri që quhet Jisu bëri baltë dhe më leu sytë e më tha: Shko në pellgun e Siloamit dhe lahu. Edhe si shkova e u lava, hapa sytë." I thanë pra: "Ku është ai?" Thotë: "Nuk e di." E sjellin te Farisenjtë atë që ishte njëherë i verbër. Edhe ishte e shtunë, kur bëri baltën Jisui dhe i hapi atij sytë. Përsëri pra e pyesnin edhe Farisenjtë: "Si i hapi sytë?" Edhe ai u tha atyre: "Vuri baltë mbi sytë e mi, dhe u lava, dhe shoh." Disa pra prej Farisenjve thoshin: "Ky njeri nuk është nga Perëndia, sepse nuk ruan të shtunën." Të tjerë thoshin: "Si mund të bëjë të tilla çudira një njeri mëkatar?" Edhe kishte një përçarje në mes tyre. I thonë përsëri të verbërit: "Ti ç'thua për atë, sepse të hapi sytë?" Edhe ai tha se është profet. Judenjtë pra nuk besuan për atë se ishte i verbër dhe hapi sytë, deri sa thërritën prindërit e atij që iu hapën sytë. Edhe i pyetën duke thënë: "Ky është biri juaj, për të cilin ju thoni se ka lindur i verbër? Si sheh pra tani?" Prindërit e atij iu përgjigjën atyre, e thanë: "E dimë se ky është biri ynë, dhe se ka lindur i verbër. Po si sheh tani nuk e dimë; ose cili i hapi sytë, ne nuk e dimë; ai moshën e ka, pyeteni. Ai do të flasë për veten e tij." Këto thanë prindërit e tij, sepse kishin frikë nga Judenjtë; sepse Judenjtë tani kishin lidhur fjalë, që ai që ta pohojë për Krisht të nxirret jashtë sinagogës. Prandaj prindërit e tij thanë se moshën e ka, pyeteni. Thirrën pra për së dyti njeriun që kishte qenë i verbër, dhe i thanë: "Jepi lavdi Perëndisë; ne e dimë se ky njeri është mëkatar." Ai pra u përgjigj e tha: "Në është mëkatar, nuk e di; një gjë di, se qeshë i verbër, dhe tani shoh." Edhe i thanë përsëri: "Ç'të bëri? Si t'i hapi sytë?" Iu përgjigj atyre: "Tani jua thashë juve, dhe nuk dëgjuat; ç'doni përsëri të dëgjoni? Mos edhe ju doni të bëheni nxënës të tij?" E shanë pra, dhe thanë: "Ti je nxënës i atij, po ne jemi nxënës të Moisiut. Ne dimë se Perëndia i foli Moisiut, po këtë nuk e dimë nga është." Njeriu u përgjigj e u tha atyre: "Në këtë është me të vërtetë çudia, se ju s'e dini nga është, dhe mua më hapi sytë. Edhe e dimë se Perëndia nuk dëgjon mëkatarë; po në pastë ndonjë frikë Perëndie dhe të bëjë dëshirën e tij, këtë e dëgjon. Oë prej fillimit të jetës nuk është dëgjuar se hapi njeri sytë e ndonjërit që ka lindur i verbër. Po të mos ishte ky nga Perëndia, nuk do të mund të bënte asgjë." U përgjigjën e i thanë: "Ti ke lindur i tërë në mëkate, dhe ti na mëson?" Dhe e nxorën jashtë. Jisui dëgjoji se e nxorën jashtë; dhe si e gjeti, i tha: "I beson Birit të Perëndisë?" Ai u përgjigj e tha: "Cili është ai, ZOT, që t'i besoj?" Edhe Jisui i tha: "Edhe e ke parë, dhe ai është që flet bashkë me ty." Edhe ai tha: "Besoj, o ZOT," dhe iu fal.