

# The Martyr

February 7, 2010

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Volume 27

Church Office: 203.268.1968

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## Welcome to Visitors

We warmly welcome those who are visiting and praying with us today. You are encouraged to come forward at the conclusion of the Liturgy at the veneration of the cross to introduce yourself to Father Timothy. Please come downstairs as well for coffee hour to meet our parishioners. We look forward to visiting with you.

## Haiti

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the charity fund on behalf of Haiti. A check for over \$800 will be mailed out to IOCC.

## Prayers in Memoriam

- 07 **Olga Ellen Vani (1954)**
- 10 **Philip C. Cotmil (1979)**
- 12 **Vangel Theodos (1985)**
- 13 **Prifteresha Victoria Polena (1947)**

## Up-coming Services/Events

- Today:** 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy
- Feb. 14 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy

**Forgiveness Vespers will follow as Great Lent begins on Monday, Feb. 15.**

- Feb. 20 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession.
- Feb. 21 9:30 AM General Confession & Church School  
10 AM Liturgy
- Feb. 27 Great Vespers & Confession
- Feb. 28 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy

## Prayers for Blessings/Health

**Christy Adams; Joyce Athanas; Kirsten Battachio (USMC); Paul Betts; Thomas Buzi; Eva, Monica**

Demetri; **Charles** Dougiello, Sr.; **Jason** Gartsu; **Richard** Hirst; **Nicholas** Hotova; **Diane** Hoffmeyer; **Meni** Kyriacou; **Katherine** LaBache; **Christy** Lambert; **Elizabeth** Lambro; **Dhimitra** Leka; **Pauline** Longo; **John** Louis, Sr.; **Barbara** Evans Maynard; **Kelly** Montagna; **Louise** Moran; **Theodore** Morrison; **Peter** Naum; **James** Pando; **Minnie** Phostole; **Pandora** Plasa; **Eleanor** Polena; **Mark** Sabatino; **David** Schutte; **Gloria** Simo; Charles (**Basil**) Soter; **Tessie** Sotir; **Joanne** Tallcouch; **Peter** Thanas; **Mary**, **Peter** Themel; **Christy**, **Stephen & Leonora** Thomas; **Vincent** J. Torre; **Aphrodita** (Rita) Vangel; **Galina** Voronin.

As a community of Faith our prime responsibility is to support one another – in both faith and action. Prayer combines both. Please submit the name of the person for whom you wish to pray – and remember that when the prayers have been answered, to take that name off the list as well

## Teuta Ladies News

- \* The parish wants to thank the Teuta Ladies for their hard work in support of the parish and for the *Papandia* Coffee Hour today after Liturgy. May God grant them all many years.
- \* Sue Galich is collecting 2010 Teuta Dues
- \* Gloria Athanas is collecting 2010 Eastern Orthodox Women's Council dues.

## Coffee Hour

We are always in need of people to sign-up and sponsor coffee hour so please call Laura Chadwick, 268-2865 to sign-up.

## Parish Directory

We want to update our parish directory and so to that end a form has been created for this and is at the candle desk. Please take one and fill it out and return it back to the candle desk at your earliest convenience.

## Shut-ins

If you know of someone who is a shut-in or at a healthcare facility or nursing home and would like a visit. Please let Fr. Timothy know.

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For the month of February our Charity Collection is to provide financial support for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's (OCMC) **Mission trip of Fr. Vladimir & his wife**  
**More on the OCMC: <http://www.ocmc.org/>**

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## A Few Thoughts

The gospel reading discusses the coming of Christ in glory to judge the human race. We should view this judgment as a test to see whether we have become authentically human or not. To be human means to be made in the image and likeness of God. We see this in Genesis Chapter one when God creates man. By Genesis chapter 4, man has become less than human when Cain (and it must be noted that he was the firstborn of Adam and Eve) rises up and murders his brother Abel. So you can see from the biblical story that what started off good in chapter one has degenerated to the depths of murder by chapter four. So Christ will come to test us to see if we reacquired our lost humanity. Why you may ask? Well he does not want his kingdom, his new creation, spoiled like the last one was. Why? Because sin will beget sin, then more sin, and what started off good, true and beautiful will end up dark, full of suffering and death.

Now today's gospel serves merely as a warning of this "futuristic impending day." It warns us so that we can make preparations for it. It warns us so that we can be ready and study to pass the test, the test to see if we became human in our life on this world. Fortunately we are given the answers and keys to the test beforehand. Hence there should be no reason to fail the test, unless we totally ignore it altogether. So, have we learned to love our neighbor, the poor, the ill, the naked and imprisoned yet? It is easy to love the beautiful, the kind and gentle, those who need or want nothing from us. Christ so constructs his parable of the last judgment to test us by those in great need whose subsequent need demands something from us, does he not? So where there is indifference or hostility, there cannot be love. When we withdraw from the needs of others, there cannot be love. When we close our eyes and hearts to those around us, there cannot be love. When we live in such a way at the expense of others, there cannot be love.

When we "beggar" others for the sake of our own comfort and pleasure, there cannot be love. If we are to error in life, let us make sure that we error of the side of love – always a safe bet in light of today's gospel.

## 2010 PAN-ORTHODOX Lenten Vespers Schedule

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent– February 21
  - ❖ St. Dimitri Romanian Church - 504 Sport Hill Road – Easton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – February 28
  - ❖ St. John The Baptist Church – 600 Silver Lane - Stratford
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – March 7
  - ❖ St. John the Baptist Church - 364 Mill Hill Avenue - Bridgeport
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – March 14
  - ❖ St. Mary's Church – 10 Oakwood Street – Bridgeport
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – March 21
  - ❖ OCA CT Deanery Unction Service TBA

All Services are at 4:00 p.m.

## Pan Orthodox Choir

The Pan Orthodox Choir is a group of singers from some of the Orthodox churches in the area. They sing for the Sunday Lenten Vespers at the various churches. Karen Masek, Laura Chadwick, and Gina Cook from St. Dimitri's, act as co-directors. Gina Cook will be directing for the next two years. She will be holding two rehearsals: Sunday, February 7th and Sunday February 14th at 2:00 P.M at St. Dimitri's Church. Orthodoxy Sunday will also take place on February 21st at St. Dimitri's Church in Easton.

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