

# The Martyr

January 10, 2010

Volume 23

Church Office: 203.268.1968

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## Prayers in Memoriam

- 11 *Eleanor Lillian Phillips (1987)*
- 12 *Billy Arthur (1976)*
- 13 *Theodore Leka (1972)*  
*Andromaqi (Anna) Kovachi (1990)*  
*George (A. Thanos) Athanas (2001)*
- 14 *Thimi Bedgio (1951)*  
*Louis A. Leka, Jr. (1944)*
- 15 *Prifteresha Virginia Kovachi (1992)*
- 16 *Michael J. Vani (1945)*  
*Costas Adam (1977)*

## Up-coming Services/Events

- Today: 10 AM Liturgy.
- Jan. 17 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy.
- Jan. 24 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy.
- Jan. 31 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy.

**Please remember that the House Blessing Schedule is on "hold" until a permanent pastor is assigned – this is in accordance with the instructions by Bishop NIKON.**

## Coffee Hour

Even though there is a post-holiday luncheon today, there will be a short coffee hour to welcome Fr. Timothy and his wife, Lisa.

Do you have unwanted cell phones in your house? You can donate them, and in return our soldiers will get free calling cards – check this site out:

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>

## Prayers for Blessings/Health

**Christy Adams; Joyce Athanas; Kirsten Battachio (USMC); Paul Betts; Thomas Buzi; Charles (Basil) Csernica; 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; 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

- \* Post Holiday luncheon is at Tashua Knolls today.
- \* *Bostan Tave* & Stuffed Cabbage will be sold as individual-orders-to-go on January 17. Orders must be placed by January 10. See **Gloria Athanas** or **Helen Tallcouch**.
- \* Memorial Saturday is February 6. Submit names of departed & \$5 donation to **Sue Galich**
- \* *Papandia* Coffee Hour sponsored by Teuta on February 7. Members are asked to contribute baked goods.
- \* Sue Galich is collecting 2010 Teuta Dues
- \* Gloria Athanas is collecting 2010 Eastern Orthodox Women's Council dues.
- \* **The Women's Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Greater Bridgeport will hold its Annual After-Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, January 31, 1:00 pm at the Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford, CT. There is a choice of four entrees (fish, shrimp, chicken or beef) and price is \$32.00. Please see your Church Rep to make reservations.**

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For the next two months 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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## Parish Body Meeting – January 17

Annual meetings are always important in dealing with important business matters that affect the parish. We encourage everyone to be in attendance next week.

Agenda Items:

- Budget 2010
- Elections
- Report on the sale of rectory
- From the Floor

## A Few Thoughts

We are all familiar with the phrase “dumbing down.” Critics of our culture often talk about how we lower our expectations in schools, behavior, and life in general to the point that we all underachieve. I used to joke with some of my children when they were in high school that the bar of expectation and work was so low that they could actually trip and still clear it with a passing grade. In a similar vein I remember chatting with a close friend who had similar aged children and so we were making comparisons about how the oldest ones were the most obsessed with grades and achievements and how we as new parents pushed them in comparison with their later siblings. They of course went on to be the doctors and engineers while their more well-adjusted siblings lagged behind.

In today's epistle, St. Paul talks about how we all are to work for the building up (edifying) of the body of Christ, and that we are not to stop working until we come to the complete unity of faith. He then pushes it further by clarifying what exactly he means by this when he says that we need to come to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature (the level) of Christ.

OUCH! We may think that we are the equal or have attained to a certain level that is perhaps even better than our neighbor, but have we yet to attain to the level of Christ? Have we implicitly accepted a much lower level of status? Have we dumbed down in the areas that are most critical in matters of faith and life?

It is not my position to answer these questions for you, nor is it your position to answer for me. But we can allow St. Paul to challenge us today just as he was challenging his church in Ephesus. And if we accept the challenge, then we have work to do and the last words of today's gospel take on utmost importance: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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