

# The Martyr

February 14, 2010

Sunday of Forgiveness

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.

## Prayers in Memoriam

- 14 Vincent Theodos (1973)  
Vasilio (Olga) Schutte (2002)
- 15 Marianthi Vasil (1992)
- 17 Cile Thanos (1966)
- 18 Dorothy Kovachi Sementilli (1975)
- 19 James Soter (1988)  
Marguerite Ligouri (A. Thanos) Thanos (2000)  
Paul V. Thanos (2003)  
Jean M. (Ryan) Thanos (2009)

## Up-coming Services/Events

**Today:** 9:30 AM Church School  
10 AM Liturgy

*There will be a memorial service today for John Babich who passed to the Lord one year ago tomorrow.*

**Forgiveness Vespers will also 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

## Forgiveness Vespers

**Forgiveness Vespers** by its very title is a service of community reconciliation with each other and God. It is a chance for us to practice in a public and general way our Christian faith and mercy towards each other, or if you prefer, it gives an opportunity for God to act in our midst as the forgiving, merciful God through our faith. Great Lent is not about our fasting, Christian giving and prayer but rather through our fasting, Christian giving and prayer, God accomplishes his work in us and others.

## 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 Thanos; 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 Women's Council of Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches of Greater Bridgeport will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Saturday, February 27, 1:30 pm at St. Dimitrie Romanian Orthodox Church, 504 Sport Hill Road, Easton.
- \* Sue Galich is collecting 2010 Teuta Dues
- \* Gloria Athanas is collecting 2010 Eastern Orthodox Women's Council dues.

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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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## Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is being sponsored by the Babich family in memory of John Babich.

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.

## A Few Thoughts

**“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** This last verse of today's gospel seems to be one of those absolute laws of the universe. It is about what we value. It is about what we are willing both to live and die for. Many of us certainly like the idea of some things more than the actual doing of them. It is the old axiom that words and thoughts are rather cheap when it comes down to it. We imagine we like our neighbor until he annoys us. We imagine that we are generous and patient until real sacrifice and long-suffering is asked of us. Forgiveness can flow from us as long as we were not hurt too deeply or betrayed in a costly manner. Life can be tricky and people messy to the point that we are tempted to avoid them both at times.

The Gospel always demands from us to have God as our reference point instead of other mortal human beings like ourself. Instead of looking sideways, we as Christians are obliged to look God-wards. Undoubtedly this can be impossible at times, more than we certainly want or are able to give or do. It can even lead

to a crisis of faith and despair. God knows all of this and it brings to mind the great and simple plea of the father in the gospels when he comes to Jesus for help and is asked if he believes: “Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.” A very honest and yet useful prayer to remember.

## 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 – Three Saints Church – 26 Howard Avenue - Ansonia

**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 a rehearsal today 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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