

The Martyr

January 17, 2010

Volume 24

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Haiti

By now we all have seen pictures of the incomprehensible destruction and loss of life in Haiti who are the poorest of the poor. Not everyone is in a position to donate to emergency relief, but if you are, I would encourage you to do so. International Orthodox Christian Charities is always a great avenue for this and you can do so online at www.iocc.org.

Prayers in Memoriam

- 17 *Nerenxa Buzi (1947)*
Stephen Vangel (1977)
- 18 *Marinkaj Toroveci (1945)*
- 20 *Lazo Kosta (1962)*
Ilo (Louis) Koli Kovachi

Up-coming Services/Events

- Today: 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.
- Feb. 2 9:30 AM Festal Liturgy

Bp. NIKON has given his blessing to schedule house blessings at this time. So if you would like to have your house blessed please call Fr. Timothy to set up a time.

Coffee Hour

The Parish Council is hosting coffee hour today. We are in need of people to sign-up and sponsor coffee hour so please call Laura Chadwick, 268-2865 to sign-up.

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

- * 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 three entrees (Prime Rib, Chicken and Shrimp Marsala, and Salmon) and price is \$32.00. Please see your Church Rep to make reservations.**

Parish Body Meeting Today

Agenda Items:

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

A Few Thoughts

Today is the well-known gospel about Zacchaeus the tax collector. It is well-known precisely because it is so odd and child-like. A



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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grown man climbs a tree because he is short simply to get a glimpse of Jesus who seems to have the status of a modern rock star. We usually reserve such behavior for teenagers. But then the event unfolds and gets more interesting as Jesus invites himself over for dinner much to the scandal of some: "He has gone to be a guest of a man who is a sinner." Hmm, sinner. We often hear and are taught that we are all sinners so this does not strike us as scandalous. So what if we say Jesus has gone to eat at the house of a known drug lord or a baseless corrupt politician or a womanizer? This certainly would make it juicier. But still there is more.

The drug lord or baseless corrupt politician decides on the spur of the moment to make an extraordinary charitable act to the poor: "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor." Imagine, if you will, that the now scandal ridden Tiger Woods announced such a plan to the public! But wait, there is still more. Zacchaeus goes on to say: "And if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." This is a rather huge "And if", because he leaves no doubt that he has been corrupt and defrauded others and he is not only coming clean but doing a fourfold restitution, and all of this voluntarily. Have any of us ever heard of such a thing? It is one thing to make a public apology as is now mandatory for our scandalous famous people, but quite another to undo your wrongs and set them right "times four" so to speak.

This gospel reading should leave us amazed but also stunned. Amazed because who has ever witnessed such a change in a drug lord or baseless corrupt politician, and stunned because...well...I really hate to say it...you know what is coming...it makes our efforts at setting things straight with those we have wronged in some fashion, look rather paltry and downright puny. After all, none of us are as corrupt and worthless as Zacchaeus or our modern examples of Zacchaeus. But wait there is one last comment from Jesus!

"Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Ah, now we see clearly. Jesus is out to save the lost, the utterly abhorrent lost. Hmm, if the Lord can somehow save the improbable Zacchaeus, he might just have a chance with us!

So let us simplify our prayers at this point and merely say, "Come Lord Jesus and find me, your lost lamb as you once found your very sinful servant Zacchaeus!"

Konizmat Icons

Attached is the necessary information you will need to place a bid on an icon. Please have these returned by no later than January 31.

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/>



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