

The Martyr

February 21, 2010

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Volume 28

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

- 21 John Argir Lazar (1978)
- 22 Anastasia Adams (1964)
Theodore A. Thanos (1993)
- 23 Dhori Vero (1959)
Pandi Constantine (1963)
Nicholas Panayotes Adam (1991)
- 24 Eftalia Tallcouch (1983)
Margarita Nikola (1997)
- 25 Zoitsa Misto Boria (1994)
- 26 Anastas Kosta (1963)
- 27 George Tochy (1954)
Dorothy Atanas Louis (2000)
Todd Christopher Buzi (2001)

Up-coming Services/Events

- Today: 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Feb. 27 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Feb. 28 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Mar. 6 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Mar. 7 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Mar. 13 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Mar. 14 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Mar. 20 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Mar. 21 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

- * Sue Galich is collecting 2010 Teuta Dues
- * Gloria Athanas is collecting 2010 Eastern Orthodox Women's Council dues.
- * The next Teuta meeting will be March 14 following Liturgy. Teuta will also be sponsoring coffee hour, so members are asked to bake.

Other Announcements

As a parish we offer our condolences to Helen Tallcouch on the passing of her sister Olga. May her memory be eternal.

The parish donated \$869.00 to the IOCC on behalf of Haiti. We thank all of you for your acts of kindness and charity.

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.



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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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.

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Today is called the "Sunday of Orthodoxy" which celebrates the return of Icons to the Church after a prolonged struggle on their acceptability in the Church during the 8th and 9th centuries. It was actually a rather fierce, heated and sometimes bloody debate. The Judaeo-Islamic tradition rejected the use of images wholesale and during this time when the Byzantine Empire was being squeezed by the Islamic surge on its borders it also erupted into a religious debate, partly because of abuses as well in piety among some Christians who related to the icons in a heretical and superstitious way. On the First Sunday of Lent we always celebrate Vespers to commemorate this event. This will take place at St. Dimitri Romanian Church in Easton at 4:00 p.m.

2010 PAN-ORTHODOX Lenten Vespers Schedule

- 1st Sunday of Lent– February 21
- ❖ St. Dimitri Romanian Church - 504 Sport Hill Road – Easton
- 2nd Sunday of Lent – February 28
- ❖ St. John The Baptist Church – 600 Silver Lane - Stratford
- 3rd Sunday of Lent – March 7
- ❖ St. John the Baptist Church - 364 Mill Hill Avenue - Bridgeport
- 4th Sunday of Lent – March 14

- ❖ St. Mary's Church – 10 Oakwood Street – Bridgeport

5th 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.

A Few Thoughts

"We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Lent originally was focused as an instruction time for those seeking to be received into the church. The above quote from Philip to his brother Nathaniel in today's gospel summarizes point one of our experience as Christians of who is Jesus. But of course this presupposes that we are knowledgeable of the Old Testament and after teaching a course in Old Testament to graduate students these past few years, I have concluded that most do not know the Old Testament. And then when they read it, they often do not know what to do with it afterwards, that is, how to understand and interpret it. It seems that the whole notion of actually studying our sacred texts is simply not popular or relevant to our busy lives.

Nathaniel is quite skeptical about his brother's announcement the Jesus is "the one". Philip can only invite him to check Jesus out for himself. Believe it or not, this is the point of our evangelical work. We may not know the answer to someone's religious question, but we can certainly point them in the right direction and invite them to check it out. Today the Gospel "re-invites" us to discover this Jesus proclaimed by Moses and the Prophets. The rest is up to us as we journey through another lenten season.



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