

The Martyr

January 24, 2010

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Volume 25

Church Office: 203.268.1968

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Haiti

Our charity collections for the next two weeks will be for Haiti. Please be generous.

Prayers in Memoriam

- 24 *George Bejuri (1952)*
28 *Psalt Stavros (Steve) C. Tallcouch (1997)*
29 *Maria Koli Kovachi (1960)*
30 *Heracli Theodos (1970)*
Archilea (Archie) P. Themel (1997)

Up-coming Services/Events

- Today:** 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
Feb. 7 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

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.

Konizmat Icons

Forms for bidding on the Konizmat Icons are at the back of the church. Please have these returned by no later than January 31.

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

- * The Memorial Saturday for Feb. 6 has been canceled. The next Memorial Saturday is scheduled for May 22.
- * *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.**



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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Please see your Church Rep to make reservations.

Coffee Hour

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

A Few Thoughts

Today we hear again about the Publican (tax collector) and Pharisee. I have come to the conclusion that these are the two basic "people" groups in the world. If you look at the gospel you find something very interesting. The point of reference for the Publican is God. He does not even look up, but simply asks for mercy. The point of reference for the Pharisee is the Publican. "God, I thank you that I am not like that publican..." So who is your point of reference? God or someone you consider "less" than you? Ultimately of course all of this is the silliness of us sad strange little humans in a sometimes large and unhappy world. God will see to it at some point that he is the reference. He will be "all in all" to use the biblical phrase. Then those who took the time to humble themselves will be lifted up, and those who spent a life exalting themselves at the expense of others will be knocked down a peg or to, perhaps forever. Something to think about!

A Few More: "...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." This punch line from Christ's parable seems to be one of those "fundamental laws of the universe." Arrogance will always, at some point, meet its match. Now there are many forms of arrogance and many situations as people, but today Christ tackles specifically "religious arrogance." It seems the basic premise of religious arrogance is that of being righteous while the "other" whoever he or she may be, of course is not. Yet who is the one to proclaim that we are righteous? Is it God? Has God proclaimed us righteous? Is it self-proclaimed? Always a problem, this problem

of who is righteous, regardless of the need to always take the "high moral ground" in daily issues of life. All in all, we need to watch that slippery snake of arrogance that is always quick to raise its head and bare its fangs at the expense of the sinners of the world, for as we heard today, all the "self-exalters" will one day be humbled, not just by life itself, but by God.

For Your Funny Bone Church Bulletin Bloopers

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

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/>

Please note that Fr. Timothy will be visiting his father in Lincoln, NE from January 26-30.



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