

The Martyr

February 28, 2010

Second Sunday of Lent

Volume 29

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

28 *Olympia Tallcouch Henry (1989)*
Jeffrey Mark Louis (1999)

March

01 *Charles C. Sotir (1984)*
02 *Miche Sotir (1953)*
03 *Koli Lazar (1960)*
Mike Costa (1964)
04 *Vasilika Rotta (2000)*

Up-coming Services/Events

Today: 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

The new parish council will be installed today at the end of liturgy; Laura Chadwick – President; Nardi Tolkuchi- Vice President; Laura Denisevich –treasurer; Susan Lazos- recording secretary; Jeannie Brideau- Financial secretary; Pete Jordhamo- Trustee; Bob Lazar- Buildings and grounds. Many Years to all of them as they serve the parish this coming year. In addition, Bill Kovachi, Greg Buzi and Joe Chadwick will continue to work with the parish council during this transition period.

Report from Rectory Committee:

Trumbull Town Planner, Bill Levin, has been advised by Town Attorney's Mario Coppola and Robert Nicolla that a First Cut will be allowed for the proposed subdivision of the St. George's Church property into two lots. Our next step is to get approval to move our



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More on the OCMC: <http://www.ocmc.org/>

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parking. This probably will not happen until the Planning and Zoning meeting in April.

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.

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.

2010 PAN-ORTHODOX Lenten Vespers Schedule

- 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

In today's gospel we hear about real power, not the power of military might or the corporate power of money, but the power to forgive sins.

Not everyone has this kind of authority. Our judges do not, rather they have the power to enforce justice, and forgiveness is hardly justice. In fact only the President of the United States has the real power to forgive sins against the nation. But Christ has been given the authority to forgive our sins, even though in today's gospel this causes quite a stir. And if this is true, he becomes a reference point for us in our relationship with God. For clearly when the man shouts out the question today, "Who can forgive sins but God alone", he is not wrong for ultimate judgment and mercy belongs to God. So forgiving is a divine act and as this filters down to us in our everyday lives, we likewise are commanded to exercise that power in relation to those who have wronged us. And in exercising true forgiveness to another person, we taste even if so slightly, a little bit of God himself. And if forgiveness is difficult and painful as it most certainly is at times, then even more so it is with Jesus himself. And of course all of this should lead us more into the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross.

Fr. Timothy and Lisa's Departure

I had announced before Forgiveness Vespers on Feb. 14 that I had been offered a job in Jerusalem, a job that I had interviewed for last November. I tentatively accepted the position dependent upon working out the remaining details of salary and benefits. Those details have now been worked out and our departure date which we thought would be in mid-April has been moved up to March 29, so I can assume the new position starting April 1. I will be the new rector of Tantur Ecumenical Institute (www.tantur.org). Tantur is an ecumenical center for theological research and pastoral studies that welcomes scholars, teachers, clergy, lay people, and students from around the world. The Institute itself is under the guidance and auspices of Notre Dame University, and I will be the first Orthodox priest they have hired to oversee the daily operations and development of its programs.



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