

The Martyr

January 31, 2010

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Volume 26

Church Office: 203.268.1968

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Haiti

Today is the last Sunday we shall be taking collections for Haiti. Please be generous and we thank you in advance.

Prayers in Memoriam

31 **Archpriest Christo A. Costa*
(1992)

February

01 *Alexandra Cotmil* (1947)

04 *Loni Perestere* (1974)

05 *Anastasia ("Cile") Vissar* (1999)

Up-coming Services/Events

Today: 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 due today.

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

* 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.

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

Our reading today is a masterful creation. There are four people: 1. The worthless son. 2. The good son. 3. The loving father. 4. The reader. Of course, we the readers are silent, but it is always good for us to remember that we are the object of the parable. The worthless son speaks for himself. There really



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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is nothing honorable in him, even in his pragmatic return to his father's household. He acknowledges that he has squandered his inheritance and truly is not worthy of sonship any longer. So he now has life through the mercy of his father. It is now a life of pure grace. The good son while faithful has an unforgiving flaw. He cannot stand his brother and what he has done to his father. For him, his brother's actions are unforgivable – period! His brother is “dead” to him. We the reader, hear and see both brothers. Do we side or relate to either of them? Have we defiled our father, God? Been reckless with the gifts given to us in our baptism? Or are we like the unforgiving brother who seems disturbed about his father's mercy and love as well as his brother's return? And what is it to him that his father should be so generous? Even after he is told by his father that all things now belong to him, and yet, he cannot share in the great celebration of reconciliation. The bottom line seems to be that God will exercise his mercy and love based upon his own decisions and not ours, and thus we should let God do his thing and make sure that we stick our nose only in our own business, lest of course we lose it, eh?

For Your Funny Bone Church Bulletin Bloopers

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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 TBA

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 two rehearsals: Sunday, February 7th and Sunday February 14th 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.

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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