

The Martyr

St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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December 24, 2017

Up-coming Services and Events

Today: The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 5:00 p.m. Festal Matins and Carol Sing

25: The Nativity of our LORD, Jesus Christ

- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

30: 10:00 a.m. Hirst Baptism

- 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

31: The Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Prayers for the New Year

Jan 2: 7:00 a.m. Matins

3: 7:00 a.m. Matins

4: 7:00 a.m. Matins

5: 7:00 a.m. Matins

6: The Theophany of our LORD, Jesus Christ

- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water
- 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

7: The Sunday after the Theophany

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 9:45 a.m. General Confession
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Prayers for Blessings and Health

Bishops Paul and John of Aleppo, *captive in Syria*.

Those who are sick: Archbishop Nikon; Fr. Steven Belonick; Fr. Daniel Montgomery; Fr. Dimitrie Vincent; Christy & Christina Adams; Mildred & Michael Arendacs; Paul Betts; Eileen Bochino; James Brideau; Debi Broadus; Arlene Bunnell; Jim Cernera; Joyce Chadwick; Frank Chamberlain; Bernard & Annie Christenson; Bobby Christo; Tara Coppola; Anthony Cordero; Peter Costa; Renate Deer; Armando Dias; Pandora Dionis; Kevin Donnelly; Danielle & Mary Galich; Louise Karoli Gallagher; Luba

Geeza; Irene Jordhamo Hughes; Shirley Hunter; Nancy Hurd; Kiril & Patricia Ivanov; Sug Jones; Donald & Shirley Jordan; Christy Lambert; Violet Laska; Bruce Lazar; June Lopen; Carole Lundquist; Steven Malandra; Karen Marlin; Jeannine Masek; Thomas Matthews; Jaimie McCarvill; Serge Mihaly; Michael Moras, Jr.; Theodore Morrison; Andy Nunn; Kimberly Orosz; James Pando; Pat Perrotta, Dena Soter Reardon; Helen Reh; Linda Rich; David Schutte; Andrea Snedegar; Angie Soter; Charles & Joann Soter; Tessie Sotir; Sue & Thomas Spero; Christian Tallcouch; Richard Taylor, Jr.; Thomas Terzakis; Thalia Thomas; William Thomas; Paullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice Vasil; Ann Vitale.

Prayers in Memoriam

40 Days

Valentina Rhodes

Other

Florence Chala

December

- 24 Lena Costa (1972)
- 25 Harry Kamberis (1948)
Thomas Tallcouch (1971)
Theresa Goures (1980)
Andromaqi Guri (1985)
Elaine Marko (1988)
George Polena (2004)
- 26 Kulla George Jordhamo (1988)
Theodore Michael (1991)
- 27 Elpinichi Costa (1969)
Emilia Gregory (1993)
- 30 Andromaqi Bedgio (1993)

Coffee Hour

Today: The Csernica Family for
Luba Geeza's 85th Birthday

31: ???

Jan 7: ???

If you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour, please sign up on the poster in the Church Hall.

Congratulations

On December 10, 2017, **Grace Louise** was born to *Lara (Lazar) and Peter Kokenos*.

We offer our congratulations to the parents, to big brothers *Andrew & Jeremy* and to grandparents *Bob & Linda Lazar*.

Many Years! *Për Shumë Vjet!*

Bequest received

Saint George Church recently received a \$10,000.00 bequest from the estate of **Florence Chala**. In accordance with the terms of her will, \$5,000.00 will be set aside for the beautification of the Church. The other \$5,000.00 will be available for regular expenses. We thank *Florence* for remembering Saint George Church in her will.

Memory Eternal! *I Përjetshim Kujtimi!*

Father Dennis to be away

Father Dennis will be leaving after the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day to visit his family in Philadelphia. He will return on Thursday, December 28th.

Offering Envelopes & Calendars available

The 2018 **Offering Envelopes** and **Wall Calendars** (courtesy of *Commerce Hill Funeral Home*) are now available at the Candle Desk.

Contribution Statements

Partial **Contribution Statements** for 2018 are now available at the Candle Desk.

New Year's Eve Dance

There will be a **New Year's Eve Dance** in the Church Hall on New Year's Eve, December 31st, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Contact *Nardi Tollkuçi* (203-895-4263) or *Aida Kalapo* (203-685-7231) for information and tickets.

General Parish Meeting scheduled

There will be a **General Parish Membership Meeting** on Sunday, January 14, 2018. We will be electing Parish Council members and discussing important needs of our parish community.

Please plan to attend.

Teuta members: Save the Date!

The **Teuta Ladies' Society** has scheduled its **Holiday Luncheon** for Sunday, January 14, 2018, at Ralph 'n' Rich's in Bridgeport. The cost will be \$34 per person.

Contact *Elsie Gartsu* for details or to make your reservations.

News from the Women's Council

The *Orthodox Women's Council's* annual drive for **Pajamas for Kids** (infants to 18-year-olds) is continuing through March. (Please note, sweat pants will work for the 18-year-olds).

If you would like to contribute **new** pajamas, a container is located in the Church Hall. Thank you for your participation.

Charity Collection

This month, our **Charity Collection** will benefit the **Trumbull Food Pantry**, which assists needy persons in our area.

Please be generous!



Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed foundations, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the Prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead restored to them through resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut to pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground. And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary his mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the LORD through the Prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the Virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son; and they shall call His name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us." So Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the LORD had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Hebrenjve 11:9-10, 32-40

Vëllezër: me anë të besimit Abrahami shkoi e ndenji në tokën e premtuar si në tokë të huaj, dhe ndenji në tenda, bashkë me Isakun e me Jakovin, bashkëtrashëgimtarët e po atij premtimi; sepse priste qytetin që kishte themelet, mjeshtër dhe krijues i të cilit është Perëndia. Edhe ç'të them më? Sepse nuk do të më arrijë koha të tregoj për Gedeonin, për Barakun e Samsonin, dhe Jeftanë, për Davidin e Samuilin dhe profetët, të cilët me anë të besimit mundën mbretëri, punuan drejtësi, fituan premtime, thurën gojë luanësh, shuan fuqinë e zjarrit, shpëtuan nga gojët e thikës, morën fuqi nga dobësitë, u bënë të fortë në luftë, thyen ushtritë e të huajve. Gra morën të vdekurit e tyre të ngjallur; dhe të tjerë u munduan, sepse nuk pritën shpëtimin, që të fitonin një ngjallje më të mirë; dhe të tjerë u provuan me të përqeshura e me të rrahura, po edhe me të lidhura e me burg. U vranë me gurë, u sharruan, u nganë, vdiqën prerë prej thike; endeshin lart e poshtë veshur me lëkurë dhensh, e me lëkurë dhish, duke pasur nevojë, duke pasur shtrëngime, duke hequr keq,—ata për të cilët bota nuk ishte e denjë;— duke shkuar andej e këtej nëpër shkretëtira e nëpër male e nëpër shpella e nëpër vrimat e dheut. Edhe këta të gjithë, ndonëse morën dëshmi të mirë me anë të besimit, nuk morën premtimin, sepse Perëndia pati urdhëruar që përpara një gjë më të mirë për ne, që të mos bëhen të përsosur pa ne.

Matheut 1:1-25

Libri i gjenealogjisë së Jisu Krishtit, të birit të Davidit, të birit të Abrahamit. Abrahamit i lindi Isaku; dhe Isakut i lindi Jakovi; dhe Jakovit i lindi Juda dhe vëllezërit e tij; Edhe Judës i lindi Faresi dhe Zarai nga Tamara; dhe Faresit i lindi Esromi; dhe Esromit i lindi Arami; Edhe Aramit i lindi Aminadavi; dhe Aminadavit i lindi Nasoni; dhe Nasonit i lindi Salmoni; Edhe Salmonit i lindi Vozi nga Rahaba; dhe Vozit i lindi Ovidi nga Ruthi; dhe Ovidit i lindi Jeseu; Edhe Jeseut i lindi Davidi, mbreti. Edhe mbretit David i lindi Solomoni nga

gruaja e Uriut; Edhe Solomonit i lindi Roboami; dhe Roboamit i lindi Abiai; dhe Abiait i lindi Asai; Edhe Asait i lindi Josafati; dhe Josafatit i lindi Joram; dhe Joramit i lindi Ozia; Edhe Ozisë i lindi Joatami; dhe Joatamit i lindi Akazi; dhe Akazit i lindi Ezekia; Edhe Ezekisë i lindi Manasiu; dhe Manasiut i lindi Amoni; dhe Amonit i lindi Josia; Edhe Josisë i lindi Jehonia dhe vëllezërit e tij, në kohën e shpërnguljes në Babilonë. Edhe pas shpërnguljes në Babilonë, Jehonisë i lindi Salatieli; dhe Salatielit i lindi Zorobabeli; Edhe Zorobabelit i lindi Aviudi; dhe Aviudit i lindi Eliakimi; dhe Eliakimit i lindi Azori; Edhe Azorit i lindi Saduku; dhe Sadukut i lindi Akimi; dhe Akimit i lindi Eliudi; Edhe Eliudit i lindi Eleazari; dhe Eleazarit i lindi Matani; dhe Matanit i lindi Jakovi; Edhe Jakovit i lindi Josifi, burri i Marisë, prej së cilës lindi Jisui që thuhet Krisht. Gjithë brezat pra, që nga Abrahami e deri në ditët e Davidit, janë katërmbëdhjetë breza; dhe që nga Davidi e deri në shpërnguljen në Babilonë katërmbëdhjetë breza; dhe nga shpërngulja në Babilonë e deri në ditët e Krishtit katërmbëdhjetë breza. Edhe lindja e Jisu Krishtit kështu ka qenë; pasi u fejua e ëma e tij, Maria, me Josifin, përpara se të bashkoheshin, u gjend shtatzënë nga Shpirti i Shenjtë. Edhe Josifi, burri i saj, duke qenë i drejtë, e duke mos dashur t'i nxjerrë asaj zë të lig, deshi ta lëshojë fshehurazi. Po ndërsa ai ishte duke menduar këto, ja një engjëll i ZOTIT tek iu duk në ëndërr, duke thënë: "Josif, bir i Davidit, mos u frikëso të marrësh me vete gruan tënde Mariamin; sepse mbarsja që u bë tek ajo është nga Shpirti i Shenjtë. Edhe do të lindë djalë dhe do t'ia vësh emrin Jisu; sepse ai do të shpëtojë popullin e tij nga fajet e atyre." Edhe gjithë kjo u bë, që të përmbushet e thëna prej ZOTIT me anë të profetit, që thotë: "Ja virgjëresha tek do të mbarset, dhe do të lindë djalë, dhe do t'ia vënë emrin Emanuel", që e përkthyer do me thënë, Perëndia bashkë me ne. Edhe Josifi, si u zgjua nga gjumi, bëri siç e urdhëroi engjëlli i ZOTIT, dhe mori pranë vetes gruan e tij. Edhe nuk e njohu atë, derisa bëri të birin e saj, të parëlin-durin; dhe ia vuri emrin Jisu.