

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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February 18, 2018

### Up-coming Services and Events

#### Today: *The Sunday of Forgiveness*

- 9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Rite of Forgiveness

#### 19: *Great Lent begins*

7:00 a.m. Matins

20: 7:00 a.m. Matins

21: 7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified

22: 7:00 a.m. Matins

23: 7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Compline & Salutations

#### 25: *The Sunday of Orthodoxy*

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Icon Procession and 3-year Memorial Prayers for Tanya Valis.

4:00 p.m. Vespers at St. Dimitrie, Easton

26: 7:00 a.m. Matins

27: 7:00 a.m. Matins

28: 7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified

Mar 1: 7:00 a.m. Matins

2: 7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Compline & Salutations

3: 11:00 a.m. Moras Baptism

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

#### 4: *St. Gregory Palamas*

9:30 a.m. Church School

9:45 a.m. General Confession

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers at St. George

### Prayers for Blessings and Health

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

Nicole Dionis, *our Catechumen*.

*Those who are sick:* Archbishop Nikon; Fr. Steven Belonick; Fr. Daniel Montgomery; Fr. Dimitrie Vincent; Christy & Christina Adams; Mildred & Michael Arendacs; Thomas Batura; Paul Betts; Eileen Bochino; James Brideau; Debi Broadus; Arlene Bunnell; Sharon Buzi; Jim Cerner; Joyce Chadwick; Frank Chamberlain; Bernard & Annie Christenson; Bobby Christo; Tara Coppola; Anthony Cordero; Peter Costa; Renate Deer; Armando Dias; Pandora Dionis; Mary Galich; Louise Karoli Gallagher; Deborah Garofalo; Luba Geeza; Irene Jordhamo Hughes; Shirley Hunter; Nancy Hurd; Kiril 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; Katherine Pando; Pat Perrotta, Judi Petro; Dena Soter Reardon; Helen Reh; Linda Rich; David Schutte; Andrea Snedegar; Angie Soter; Charles & Joann Soter; Tessie Sotir; Sue & Thomas Spero; Christian Tallcouch; Thomas Terzakis; Thalia Thomas; William Thomas; Poullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice Vasil; Ann Vitale.

### Prayers in Memoriam

#### 40 Days

Richard Taylor, Jr.; Nico Mallozzi;  
James Pandeli; James Balta;  
Lawrence Beck; Matushka Barbara Kucynda

#### February

- 18 Dorothy Kovachi Sementilli (1975)  
19 James Soter (1988)  
Marguerite Ligouri Thanas (2000)  
Paul V. Thanas (2003)  
Jean M. (Ryan) Thanas (2009)

- 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 Efthalia Tallcouch (1983)
- Margarita Nikola (1997)

### Coffee Hour

**Today:** ?????????????????????????????????

**25:** The Valis Family, in memory of Tanya.

**Mar. 4:** ?????????????????????????????????

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

### Condolences

We learned this week of the deaths of **Lawrence Beck**, Father-in-Law of Fr. Peter Paproski, and **Matushka Barbara Kucynda**, the wife of the Pastor of Jennifer Goetz' home parish and an old friend of Father Dennis'.

**Memory Eternal! I Përjetshim Kujtimi!**

### Lenten Retreat in Hartford

Next Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Albert Rossi** will offer a retreat on the theme, "*Becoming Fire: Christian Living in Turbulent Times*" at *All Saints Church*, 205 Scarborough Street in Hartford.

The retreat will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. with meals provided. See the poster in the Church Hall for complete details.

Registration is \$25.00 in advance online at <https://allsaintshartford.org/lentenretreat.html>, or \$30.00 at the door on Saturday.

There will be no services at St. George that day so that we can attend the retreat. If you would like to attend, speak with Father Dennis.

### Sunday of Orthodoxy

Next Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, is the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**. On this day, Icons which were distributed as part of our annual **Konizmat** are returned to the Church. A procession with them and others will be held at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

### Parish Stewardship

At the General Meeting of our parish membership last Sunday, it was decided that the minimum annual stewardship contribution is raised to \$9.00 per person per week, for an annual total of \$468.00.

Those who give more are asked to increase their contribution by a minimum of %10.

Please take note of this change.

### Great Lent 2018

The season of **Great Lent** begins tomorrow.

During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, fish, olive oil and wine. While many people relax these rules, it is important that we do as much as we can, so that we can properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the Great Feast of our LORD's Resurrection.

### Special Lenten Services

On Wednesdays, **The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. during the Lenten season, followed by a pot-luck Lenten supper.

Those who plan to receive Holy Communion at the evening Presanctified should prepare by fasting from all food and drink at least from noon of that day.

**Little Compline and Salutations to the Virgin** will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays.

### News from the Women's Council

The meeting of the *Orthodox Women's Council* scheduled for February has been cancelled.

The Council's annual drive for **Pajamas for Kids** (*infants to 18-year-olds*) is continuing through March. If you would like to contribute **new** pajamas, a container is located in the Church Hall. Thank you for your participation.

### Flu Season

This year's flu season seems to be quite severe. Let's all be especially careful not to spread the virus.

### Sunday Lenten Vespers Services

On the Sundays of Great Lent, Vespers is celebrated at 4:00 p.m. in various parishes in the Greater Bridgeport area. Here is the list of those services for this year.

- February 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Dimitrie Church in Easton.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> at our own St. George Church.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> at St. John Church on Mill Hill Ave. in Bridgeport.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> at St. John Church on Silver Ln. in Stratford
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Unction at Three Saints Church in Ansonia

Lenten refreshments will be served following all services.

### News from the Teuta Ladies' Society

The **Teuta Ladies' Society** treasurer, *Sue Galich*, is currently collecting 2018 Society dues in the amount of \$10.00.

### Youth Rally dates announced

The annual **New England Youth Rally** for 2018 will be held at St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Center in New Hampshire from August 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Trumbull Helps

**Trumbull Helps** a local organization that assists many people in need in our area, will be using our kitchen on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, to prepare a meal for the residents of the *Bridgeport Rescue Mission*.

If you would like to help them, watch *The Martyr* for details.

### Charity Collection

This month, our Charity Collection will help support **Spoooner House**, an organization in Shelton that assist needy people in our area.

Please be generous!



**Romans 13:11-14:4**

Brethren, now our salvation is nearer than when we came to believe. The night is far advanced; the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly as in daytime, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in debauchery and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the LORD Jesus Christ, and as for the flesh, pay no attention to its lusts. But whoever is weak in faith, receive him without arguing about opinions. For one believes he may eat all things – but another who is weak, let him eat vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who does not; and let not the one who does not eat judge the one who does, for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls – but he will stand, for God is able to make him stand.

**Matthew 6:14-21**

The LORD said, "If you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive you your offenses. And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces in order to appear to men as fasting. Amen I say to you, they have had their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not be seen by men to fast, but by your Father, who is in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where worm and rodent consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither worm nor rodent consumes, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart."

**Romakëve 13:11-14:4**

Vëllezër: duke ditur kohën se tashmë është ora të zgjohemi nga gjumi; sepse tani shpëtimi ynë është më afër sesa kur besuam. Nata u thye dhe dita u afrua; le të hedhim pra, tej veprat e errësirës, dhe le të ngjeshim armët e dritës. Le të ecim hijshëm si ditën; jo në argëtime e dehje, jo në shtretër imoraliteti e ndyrësira, jo në grindje e smirë, po vishni ZOTIN Jisu Krisht, dhe mos bëni kujdes për mishin që t'i plotësoni lakmitë. Edhe atë që është i dobët në besim, priteni me të mirë, pa grindje për mendime. Sepse dikush beson se mund të hajë nga të gjitha, kurse ai që është i dobët ha lakra. Ai që ha le të mos përbuzë atë që s'ha; dhe ai që s'ha le të mos gjykojë atë që ha; sepse Perëndia e ka pranuar. Cili je ti që gjykon shërbëtorin e huaj? Prej të zotit të vet ai qëndron ose bie; por do të qëndrojë; sepse Perëndia është i fortë ta qëndrojë atë.

**Matheut 6:14-21**

ZOTI u tha: "Nëse ua falni njerëzve fajet e tyre, do t'juja falë edhe juve Ati juaj qiellori. Po nëse nuk ua falni njerëzve fajet e tyre, as Ati juaj nuk do të falë fajet tuaja. Edhe kur të agjëroni, mos u bëni të vrenjtur si hipokritët; sepse ata prishin fytyrat e tyre, që të duken ndër njerëzit se agjërojnë. Me të vërtetë po ju them juve, se ata e kanë marrë pagën e tyre. Por ti, kur të agjërosh, lyej kryet tënd, dhe laj fytyrën tënde; që të mos dukesh tek njerëzit se agjëron, por tek Ati yt, që është në të fshehtë; dhe Ati yt që sheh fshehurazi, do të ta shpërblejë ty haptas. Mos mblidhni thesarë për veten tuaj mbi dhe, ku krimbi dhe ndryshku i prish, dhe ku vjedhësit rrëmojnë dhe vjedhin. Po mblidhni thesarë për veten tuaj në qiell, ku nuk i prish as krimb as ndryshk, dhe ku vjedhësit nuk rrëmojnë as vjedhin. Sepse ku është thesari juaj, atje do të jetë edhe zemra juaj."