

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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March 18, 2018

### Up-coming Services and Events

#### Today: *Sunday of St. John of the Ladder*

9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
4:00 p.m. Vespers at St. John Church,  
Silver Ln., Stratford

19: 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

24: 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

#### 25: *Annunciation to the Virgin Mary* *Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt*

9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
4:00 p.m. Holy Unction at Three Saints  
Church, Ansonia

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

29: 7:00 a.m. Matins

30: 7:00 a.m. Matins

#### 31: *Lazarus Saturday*

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

#### April 1: *Palm Sunday*

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*.

Nicole Dionis, *our Catechumen*.

*Those who are sick:* Archbishop Nikon; Fr. Steven Belonick; Fr. Daniel Montgomery; Fr. Dimitrie Vincent; Christy & Christina Adams; Mildred & Michael Ar-endacs; Thomas Batura; Paul Betts; 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; Richard Crane; 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; Paullette Todisco; Margaret Torre; Alice Vasil; Ann Vitale.

### Prayers in Memoriam

#### 40 Days

Lawrence Beck; Matushka Barbara Kucynda;  
Eileen Bochino; Vangel Michael

#### March

19 Maria Karaja (1984)  
20 James N. Vani (1951)  
Naum Nicholas (1952)  
Ilo Vasil (1980)  
Efthemia (Thimika) G. Vasil (1995)  
21 Theodore Athanas (1977)  
Andrew Yap (2013)  
22 Jimi Vani (1951)

- 23 Costandino Schutte (1958)  
Nicholas Schutte (1980)  
Robert Vissar (1964)  
Archpriest Eugene Vansuch (2008)
- 24 Constandin K. Vassil (1964)

**Coffee Hour**

**Today:** The Dionis Family

**25:** The Galich Family

**April 1:** ?????????????????????????????????

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

**Great Lent 2018**

We are now in the season of **Great Lent**.  
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.

**Readers Wanted**

We are looking for people to read the Epistle during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday.  
If you would like to help with this, please speak with Father Dennis.

**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.

- Today 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.

**Myrrhbearing Women**

It’s that time again for our **Myrrhbearing Women** to gather to decorate the *Petafi* (Christ’s Tomb).

Great and Holy Friday is on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. and the decorating will take approximately 2 hours.

Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact *Pauline Dionis* at 203-261-0611.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

We will have our traditional **Easter Egg Hunt** after Paschal Vespers on Easter Day, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for donations of candy and plastic eggs in preparation. See *Sue Galich* if you can help.

**Memorials and the Paschal Season**

According to Orthodox teaching, from Lazarus Saturday to Thomas Sunday no Memorial Services may be served in the Church—our departed will only be commemorated at the *Proskomedie* (Liturgy of Preparation).

**News from the Women’s Council**

The next meeting of the **Orthodox Women’s Council of Greater Bridgeport** will be held at 1:30 p.m. next Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Church, Oakwood Street in Bridgeport.

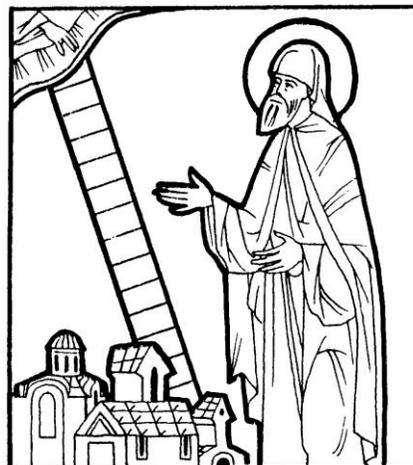
**Trumbull Helps**

**Trumbull Helps** will be using our kitchen starting at 1:00 p.m. this Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, to prepare a meal for the residents of the *Bridgeport Rescue Mission* and *Stern Village* in Trumbull.

**Charity Collection**

This month, our Charity Collection will help support **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**, an organization that assist needy people in our area.

Please be generous!



**Hebrews 6:13-20**

Brethren, when God made His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you, and will surely multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreements. Hence God, meaning to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the firmness of His will interposed an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to deceive, we may have the strongest comfort—we who have sought refuge in holding fast the hope set before us. This hope we have, as a sure and firm anchor of the soul, reaching even behind the veil where our forerunner Jesus has entered for us, as He became a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek.

**Mark 9:17-31**

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to him saying, "Master, I have brought to You my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And He, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me."

And they brought him to Him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And He said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and He did not wish anyone to know it. For He was teaching His disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and having been killed, He will rise again on the third day."

### Hebrenjve 6:13-20

Vëllezër: Perëndia, kur i premtoi Abrahamit pasi s'kishte asnjë më të madh, mbi të cilin të betohej, u betua mbi veten e tij, duke thënë: "Vërtet duke bekuar do të të bekoj, dhe duke shumëuar do të të shumoj". Edhe kështu Abrahami, duke pritur me durim, fitoi premtimin. Sepse njerëzit betohen mbi më të madhin, dhe betimi mbi ata është fundi i çdo kundërshtimi për të vërtetuar. Kështu Perëndia, duke dashur t'u tregojë më tepër trashëgimtarëve të premtimit pakthyeshmërinë e vullnetit të tij, vuri ndërmjetës betimin, që me anë dy gjërash të pakthyeshme, në të cilat është e pamundur të gënjejë Perëndia, të kemi ngushëllim të fortë ne që u sulëm që të mbajmë shpresën që kemi përpara, të cilën e kemi si spirancë të shpirtit të sigurt e të vërtetë, dhe që depërton përbrenda perdes, atje ku Krishti hyri për ne e na hapi udhën, pasi u bë kryepriфт sipas rregullit të Melkisedekut.

### Marku 9:17-31

Në atë kohë, një prej turmës u përgjigj, e tha: "Prura tek ti tim bir që ka frymë të pagojë. Edhe kudo ta zërë, e hedh poshtë dhe shkumëzon, e kërcëllin dhëmbët e tij, dhe thahet. Edhe u thashë nxënësve të tu ta nxjerrin, por nuk mundën." Edhe ai iu përgjigj e tha: "O brez i pabesë, deri kur do të jem bashkë me ju? Deri kur do t'ju duroj ju? Silleni

atë tek unë." Edhe e prunë tek ai; dhe kur pa atë, përnjëherë fryma e shkleu; dhe ai ra përdhe, dhe rrokullisej duke shkumëzuar. Edhe ai pyeti të atin e atij: "Sa kohë ka qëkurse i ngjau kjo?" Edhe ai tha: "Qëkurse ishte djalë i vogël. Edhe shumë herë e hodhi edhe në zjarr dhe në ujëra, që ta humbasë; po nëse mund të bësh gjë, le të të dhimbset për ne dhe ndihmona." Edhe Jisui i tha këtë: "Nëse mund të besosh, të gjitha janë të mundura për atë që beson." Edhe përnjëherë i ati i djalit të vogël thirri me lot, duke thënë: "Besoj, Zot. Ndhmoi pabesisë sime." Edhe Jisui kur pa se po shtohet turmë, qortoi frymën e ndyrë, duke i thënë: "Frymë e pagojë dhe e shurdhër, unë të urdhëroj, dil nga ai, dhe të mos hysh më tek ai." Edhe fryma duke bërtitur e duke e shklyer atë fort, doli; dhe djali u bë si i vdekur, kaq sa shumë veta thoshin se vdiq. Edhe Jisui e kapi për dore dhe e ngriti; edhe u ngrit. Edhe kur hyri në një shtëpi, nxënësit e tij e pyesnin veçan se pse ne nuk mundëm ta nxjerrim. Edhe ai u tha atyre: "Ky farë kombi s'mund të dalë me tjetër gjë, veçse me falje e me agjërim." Edhe si dolën andej, shkonin nëpër Galile, dhe s'donte ta marrë vesh njeri. Sepse mësonte nxënësit e tij, e u thosh atyre se i Biri i njeriut u dorëzohet njerëzve, dhe do ta vrasin, dhe si të vritet, të tretën ditë do të ngjallet.