

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

5490 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611 ✉ Office: 203-268-1968 ✉ Hall: 203-268-4900

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

749 Garfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606 ✉ email: DennisR648@hotmail.com

Home: 203-345-3504 ✉ Cell: 203-598-4678

December 4, 2011

### Up-coming Services/Events

**Today:** 9:30 a.m. General Confession  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy and  
1-Year Memorial for  
Minnie Phostole

**6: St. Nicholas**

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**10:** 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

**11:** 9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**14:** 7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

**17:** 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

**18:** 9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**24:** 5:00 p.m. Festal Matins and  
Carol Sing

**25:** 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### Prayers for Blessings/Health

His Grace **Bishop Nikon; Protopresbyter Demetrios Recachinas; Christy Adams; Kirsten Battachio (USMC); Paul Betts; Eileen Bochino; Georgika Boria; Diana Breaz; Jeanne Brideau; Elvira Chadwick; Jessica Chadwick; Eva Demetri; Charles Dougiello, Sr.; Eva Fedash; Cindy Held; David Hirst, Sr.; Nicholas Hotova; Diane Hoffmeyer; Leonard Iancale; Eva Karajani; William Kovachi; Meni Kyriacou; Christy Lambert; John Louis; Thomas Matthews; Michael Molnar; Kelly Montagna; Louise Moran; Theodore Morrison; Michael Nastu; Thomas Nicholas, Sr.; James Pando; Pandora Plasa; Eleanor Polena; Violet Polena; Mark Rizzo; Suzanne Russell; Mark Sabatino; Mary Sak; David Schutte; Noella Sidarweck; Gloria Simo; David Snedegar; Vangel Soter; Tessie Sotir; Helen Tallcouch; Jo Anne Tallcouch; Mary &**

**Peter Themel; Michael, Thalia & Leonora Thomas; Aphrodita (Rita) Vangel; William Vasil; Marilyn Vissar; Robert Volpe; Galina Voronin; Alexa Wilson; Kaitlyn Woolard; Quincy.**

*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.*

### Prayers in Memoriam

#### 40 Days

Olga Cutler; Prifteresha Mary Page

#### December

04 Mini Phostole (2010)  
05 **Prifteresha Kaliroi Costa** (1997)  
06 Norman Panoli (1975)  
Mary V. Taylor (1991)  
10 Louis A. Leka (1955)

### Coffee Hour

**Today:** Church School Families

**11:** ??????????????????????????????

**17:** ??????????????????????????????

**25:** Christmas Day

If you would like to sponsor coffee hour, please notify Kim O'Brien. Phone: 203-877-2286 or email:

[IBALL007@aol.com](mailto:IBALL007@aol.com).

### Community Christmas Card

As in years past we will be collecting contributions for our annual **Community Christmas Card**. All entries must be made by next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> for the card to be printed and mailed in a timely manner.

Please fill out one of the forms you received in the mail and give it to *Mary Nikola* or mail it to Church. See Mary also if you did not receive a form in the mail.

### Adult Bible Study

Our **Adult Bible Study Group** will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately 1 ½ hours.

This Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will begin reading the Gospel of *St. Mark*. Participants should obtain a copy of the *Orthodox Study Bible* so that everyone will be reading the same text.

This group is open to all. Please join us!

### Our Church Health Team

The **Church Health Team** has met and has tentatively scheduled the **Natural Church Development Survey** for the first week of January, 2012.

The team will be contacting potential survey takers personally, making sure that all parts of our parish community are represented.

### Advent Unction Service

On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the service of **Holy Unction** will be celebrated in our parish, sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Bridgeport.

As a special blessing, the miracle-working **Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God** will be present in the Church during the service.

The Icon will arrive at the church at 6:45 p.m. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be a presentation on the Icon and refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

### The Nativity Fast

We are now in the midst of the **Nativity Fast** (sometimes known as **Advent**), which began on November 15<sup>th</sup> and lasts through the Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day.

During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the Feast.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, olive oil and wine. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we also abstain from fish. While many people relax these rules, particularly until after Thanksgiving, 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 Nativity.

Also, in keeping with parish tradition, Great Vespers will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. This offers us a way to increase our prayer life and also provides an opportunity for personal confession.

### December Charity Collection

During the month of December, our Charity Collections will help support **Fisher House**, an organization that provides a "Home away from Home" for wounded veterans and their families at VA hospitals around the country.

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

Brethren, I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling by which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, even as you were called to a single hope in your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's imparting.

**Luke 17:12-19**

At that time, as Jesus was entering a certain village, there met him ten lepers, who stood far off and lifted up their voice, crying, "Jesus, master, have pity on us!" And when he saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And it happened as they were on their way, that they were made clean. But one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned, with a loud voice glorifying God, and he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks; and he was a Samaritan. But Jesus spoke to him and said, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Has no one been found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Arise, go on your way, for your faith has saved you."

**Efesianëve 4:1-6**

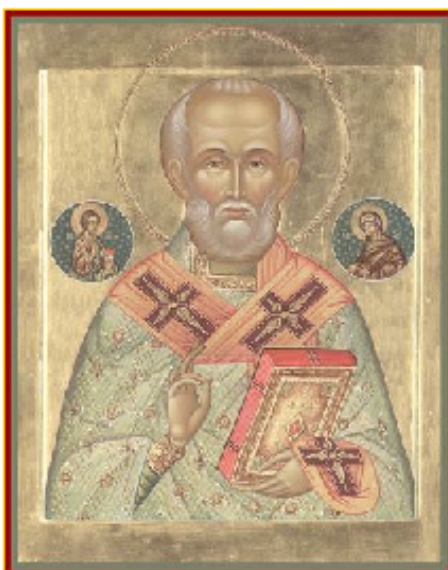
Vëllezër: Ju lutem pra juve unë i burgosuri në Zotin, të ecni denjësisht në thirrjen që u thirrët, me çdo përlësi e butësi, me zemërgjerësi, duke duruar njëri-tjetrin me dashuri, duke u kujdesur të ruani unitetin e Shpirtit me anë të lidhjes së pajtimit. Një trup e një Shpirt ka, sikurse edhe u thirrët me një shpresë të thirrjes suaj; një Zot, një besim, një pagëzim, një Perëndi dhe Atë i të gjithëve, i cili është përmbi të gjithë, dhe me anë të të gjithëve, dhe në të gjithë ju. Edhe gjithësecilit prej nesh iu dha hiri sipas masës së dhuratës së Krishtit.

**Llukait 17:12-19**

Në atë kohë, kur po hynte Jisui në një fshat, takuan me të dhjetë burra leprozë, të cilët qëndruan nga larg. Edhe ata ngritën zërin, duke thënë: "Jisu, mjeshtër, përdëllena". Edhe ai kur i pa, u tha atyre: "Shkoni e rrëfeni veten tuaj tek priftërinjtë". Edhe ata duke shkuar u pastruan. Edhe një nga ata, kur pa se u shërua, u kthye duke lavdëruar Perëndinë me zë të madh, edhe ra përmbys në këmbët e tij, dhe e falënderoi; dhe ai ishte Samaritan. Edhe Jisui u përgjigj e tha: "A nuk u pastruan të dhjetët? Po të nëntët ku janë? Nuk u gjendën të tjerë të kthehen që t'i japin lavdi Perëndisë, veç ky prej tjetër kombi?" Edhe i tha: "Ngrihu, e shko; besimi yt të shpëtoi."

# The Sufferings of Saint Nicholas

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dca.oca.org>.



December 6 is the feast day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of everyone from longshoremen to embalmers, and of places from New York City to Argentina. In fact he is the patron of more occupations, causes, people and places than any other saint we know of.

The stories of his humility and compassion are well-known. He had no ambition to become a bishop, but accepted the office in obedience. When he saved three marriageable and impoverished girls from disaster by providing money, he planned to do it secretly. There are stories of sailors caught on stormy seas, defenseless peasants wrongly accused of crimes, and countless others in need or in danger who were saved by his intercession. His kindness to children helped them to see Christ in him, so that even if their life circumstances were harsh, they knew a Savior cared for them.

But additional aspects of his life give even more luster to his example. Though he was not a martyr, Saint Nicholas suffered greatly in his life, and had to stand up to powerful forces that could have undermined the Church.

He became a bishop at the beginning of the fourth century and during the reign of Diocletian, a Roman emperor who detested Christianity as an enemy of Rome's glory. Nicholas, having become a publicly visible leader of the Christians, was imprisoned and tortured. The incarceration was not brief, either. Not until Constantine ascended the throne were the Christian prisoners released.

It was not only outward threats that faced the Church during Nicholas' time as bishop. Within the Church the Arian heresy, denying that Christ was truly the Son of God, was widely popular. Bishop Nicholas had to work against its falsehoods, and defend his people against its influence.

At the Council of Nicaea the threat of Arianism was made physically present. Arius had eloquence enough to make his "reasonable" version of the faith appealing to listeners and did so at the Council, speaking to those in attendance in his intelligent and engaging manner. How painful it must have been for Nicholas to hear this smooth talker distort everything for which Christ had died and risen. His memories of his own imprisonment and that of so many others who would not compromise the faith only added to the pain.

So Saint Nicholas exemplifies more than loving benevolence. He also shares our experience of suffering, and shows how to carry on without flinching from it. The words of Jesus Christ in Luke 21: 12-19, which are read on this day, apply to Nicholas' life: "...they will lay their hands on you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors...some of you will be put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake."

#### Troparion - Tone 4

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,  
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;  
your humility exalted you;  
your poverty enriched you.  
Hierarch Father Nicholas,  
entreat Christ our God  
that our souls may be saved.

But Christ's final words in this passage are the ones Nicholas would encourage us to remember: "By your endurance you will gain your lives."