

The Martyr

St. George Orthodox Church

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Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Rector

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January 15, 2012

Up-coming Services/Events

Today: 9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

18: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

22: 9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

29: 9:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Parish Membership meeting

February 1: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

2: Meeting of our Lord (*Papandia*)
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5: 9:30 a.m. General Confession
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Prayers for Blessings/Health

His Grace **Bishop Nikon**; **Christy Adams**;
Kirsten Battachio (USMC); **Paul Betts**; **Eileen Bochino**; **Diana Breaz**; **Jeanne Brideau**; **Elvira Chadwick**; **Eva Demetri**; **Armando Dias**; **Eva Fedash**; **Donald Gode**; **Zoe Gountas**; **Cindy Held**; **David Hirst, Sr.**; **Nicholas Hotova**; **Eva Karajani**; **William Kovachi**; **Meni Kyriacou**;
Christy Lambert; **John Louis**; **Nicolas Lucas**;
Michael Mack; **Thomas Matthews**; **Michael Molnar**; **Kelly Montagna**; **Louise Moran**;
Theodore Morrison; **Michael Nastu**; **Thomas Nicholas, Sr.**; **James Pando**; **Catherine Panoli**;
Pandora Plasa; **Eleanor Polena**; **Violet Polena**; **Sarah & Alexa Rhodes**; **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

Charles Dougiello, Sr.; Robert Forbes

January

15 **Prifteresha Virginia Kovachi (1992)**

Albert Glucksnis (2011)

16 Michael J. Vani (1945)

Costas Adam (1977)

17 Nerenxa Buzi (1947)

Stephen Vangel (1977)

18 Marinkaj Toroveci (1945)

20 Lazo Kosta (1962)

Ilo (Louis) Koli Kovachi

Coffee Hour

Today: The Kote Family

22: Church School and Relay for Life Team

29: "The Lunch Bunch"

February 5: ??????????????????????????????

If you would like to sponsor coffee hour, please notify Kim O'Brien. Phone: 203-877-2286 or email: IBALL007@aol.com.

2012 Wall Calendars and Offering Envelopes

The **Wall Calendars** and **Offering Envelopes** for 2012 have arrived. Pick yours up at the Candle Desk.

Condolences

We recently learned of the death of **Robert Forbes**, husband of our former parishioner and Council President, **Mary Forbes**. May his memory be eternal!

If you would like to send Mary a card, her address is:

Mary Forbes
91 Mountain Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

House Blessings

Father Dennis is currently blessing homes for Theophany. Copies of the visitation schedule are available at the Candle Desk. If you cannot meet Father on the scheduled day or if you would like to have your home blessed but are not on the schedule, call him at (203) 598-4678.

Konizmat 2012

The **Konizmat** list for 2012 has been sent out and is also available at the Candle Desk. Bids must be received by next Sunday, January 22nd. The Icons will be distributed on Sunday, January 29th.

Women's Council news

The Women's Council will hold its **Post-Holiday Luncheon** on Sunday, January 29, 1:00 pm, at Marissa's Restaurant. Cost is \$30 per person. Menu will include cheese and crackers, salad, pasta, choice of beef, chicken marsala, eggplant or salmon, coffee or tea and dessert.

Please see your Church Representative to make reservations.

Parish Membership Meeting

The Parish Council has scheduled our **Parish Membership Meeting** for Sunday, January 29th, following the Divine Liturgy. One of the important items on the agenda will be a report from the committee on installing an elevator in the Church.

Please plan to attend and participate.

Valentine's Day Dance???

We had a wonderful **Valentine's Day Dance** last year. If anyone would like to organize one for this year, please see *Laura Chadwick* or *Father Dennis*.

2012 Relay for Life

The **2012 Relay for Life of Trumbull/Monroe** will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 8th and 9th.

Sharon Buzi is organizing a team from our parish called *The Wonderworkers of Saint George*. Contact Sharon at 203-414-7738 or email her at sharcare1011@aol.com for information.

January Charity Collection

During the month of January, our Charity Collections will help support **Zoe for Life!**, an organization in Ohio that supports women in crisis pregnancies, assists Orthodox Christians in adoption, and provides Orthodox Christian educational resources for pure living.



1 Timothy 1:15-17

My son Timothy, this saying is true and worthy of entire acceptance, that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief. But for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Christ Jesus might show forth all patience, as an example to those who shall believe in him for the attainment of life everlasting. To the King of the ages, who is immortal, invisible, the one only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:18-28

At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?" But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments: 'Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thy father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept ever since I was a child." But when Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, "With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." And they who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" He said to them, "Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God's help."

1 Timotheut 1:15-17

O bir Timothe, për të besuar është fjala dhe e denjë për t'u pranuar, se Jisu Krishti erdhi në botë që të shpëtojë mëkatarë, prej të cilëve i pari jam unë. Po prandaj u përdëlleva, që të tregojë Jisu Krishti më përpara tek unë gjithë zemërgjerësinë, për shembull mbi ata që kanë për t'i besuar atij për jetë të përjetshme. Edhe mbretit të jetëve, të pavdekshmit, të padukshmit, të vetmit Perëndi të ditur, i qoftë nder dhe lavdi në jetë të jetëve. Amin.

Llukait 18:18-27

Në atë kohë, i erdhi pranë Jisuit një i parë e pyeti, duke thënë: "Mësues i mirë, ç'të bëj që të trashëgoj jetë të përjetshme?" Edhe Jisui i tha: "Ç'më thua i mirë? Asnjë nuk është i mirë, përveçse një, Perëndia. Ti i di porositë: 'Mos shkel kurorën; Mos vrit; Mos vidh; Mos jep dëshmi të rreme; Ndero atin tënd dhe nënën tënde'." Edhe ai tha: "Të gjitha këto i kam ruajtur që në rininë time." Edhe Jisui, kur dëgjoi këto, i tha: "Edhe diçka të mungon, shit gjithë ç'ke dhe ndajua të varfërve, dhe do të kesh thesar në qiell; dhe eja, e ndiqmë pas." Por ai, kur dëgjoi këto, u hidhërua; sepse ishte fort i pasur. Edhe Jisui, kur pa se u hidhërua, tha: "Sa me vështirësi do të hyjnë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë ata që kanë pasuri! Sepse më kollaj është të hyjë gamilja nëpër vrimën e gjilpërës, se një i pasur të hyjë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë." Edhe ata që dëgjuan thanë: "E kush mund të shpëtojë?" Edhe ai tha: "Të pamundurat për njerëzit janë të mundura për Perëndinë."

Truth at Great Personal Cost

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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>.



On January 21 we remember Saint Maximus the Confessor, who was born in the year 580 in Constantinople. He defended the faith so uncompromisingly that he is one of the great Fathers of the Church.

Maximus did not start out to be a monk or priest. His parents were members of the nobility, and he was highly intelligent and well-educated. When offered an important position in the court of the Emperor Heraclius, the young man accepted it and filled it very well.

But Maximus soon realized that the imperial court was not the place for him. He gave up his position and joined a monastic community outside the city. This was the right choice; he loved the monastic life and later became abbot of the monastery. His prayer life guided him to read, study and write about Jesus Christ with great depth of understanding.

Life, though, was not destined to be peaceful. In the year 626 his monastery was invaded and dismantled. The monks were forced to leave, and Maximus fled from Alexandria to Carthage, and from Carthage to Rome.

It was in Rome that he met Pope Martin I, with whom he discovered a very important common interest. Both of these scholarly, pious men opposed a false teaching about Jesus Christ called monothelism. Those who adhered to this teaching said that He had only one will—His divine will.

For Maximus and Martin, this was a dangerous falsehood because it undermined Jesus' complete and real humanity. To be the Savior of humanity, Maximus said, Jesus had to have two wills: His divine will as Son of God, and His human will as truly one of us.

Unfortunately, the Patriarch accepted the Monothelite teaching. Even worse, the Emperor himself accepted it, largely for political reasons. So Maximus was accused of treason, taken back to Constantinople against his will, and thrown into prison where he languished for years. But he staunchly defended the faith, and the true humanity of the incarnate God, throughout all those years.

When he was in his early eighties, Maximus was finally sentenced. His tongue was cut out so that he could no longer speak "treasonous" words, and his hand was cut off so he could no longer write them. He endured all this, as well as exile, public humiliation and beatings, still insisting that Jesus Christ had possessed a human will and a divine will. Many years later, at the Sixth Ecumenical Council which took place about two decades after his death, the Church exonerated him and declared his teachings to be true.

Troparion - Tone 8
Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship,
enlightener of the universe and adornment of hierarchs:
all-wise father Maximus, your teachings have gleamed with light upon all things.
Intercede before Christ God to save our souls.
Troparion - Tone 8
Let us the faithful fittingly praise the lover of the Trinity,
the great Maximus who taught the God-inspired faith,
that Christ is to be glorified in His two natures, wills, and energies;
and let us cry to him: "Rejoice, herald of the faith."

Saint Maximus once wrote, "To harbor no envy, no anger, no resentment against an offender is still not the same as having love for that person. It is possible, without any love, to avoid rendering evil for evil. But to render good for evil—that is the quality of perfect spiritual love." These words have special power because they come from a man who suffered so cruelly for no crime except defending the truth.