

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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January 22, 2012

### Up-coming Services/Events

**Today:** 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  
**12:** 9:30 a.m. Church School  
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**; **Akaki Kvitashvili**;  
**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**; **Erin Ryan**; **Mark Sabatino**; **Mary Sak**; **David Schutte**; **Noella Sidarweck**; **Gloria Simo**;  
**David Snedegar**; **Vinnie 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

24 George Bejuri (1952)  
28 Psalt Stavros (Steve) Tallcouch (1997)

### Coffee Hour

**Today:** Church School and Relay for Life Team

**29:** "The Lunch Bunch"

**February 5:** The Themel Family

**12:** ??????????????????????????????

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).

### Sanctity of Life Sunday

Today, on the Sunday closest to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, we observe **Sanctity of Life Sunday** and pray for all the victims of abortion.

### 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.

### 2012 Wall Calendars and Offering Envelopes

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

### Konizmat 2012

Today is the last day to submit bids for **Konizmat 2012**. Icons will be distributed next Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and will be returned on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Women's Council news

The Women's Council will hold its **Post-Holiday Luncheon** next 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 next Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:sharcare1011@aol.com) for information.

### December Charity Collection results

Our December Charity Collection brought in a total of \$216.00 for the Fisher House, an organization that provides a "Home away from Home" for wounded veterans and their families at VA hospitals around the country.

Thank you for your generosity!

### 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 18:35-42**

At that time, when Jesus came close to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the wayside, begging; but hearing a crowd passing by, he inquired what this might be. And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going past. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who went in front angrily tried to silence him. But he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then Jesus stopped and commanded that he should be brought to him. And when he came close, he asked him, saying, "What would you have me do for you?" And he said, "Lord, that I may see!" And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." And at once he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people upon seeing it gave praise to God.

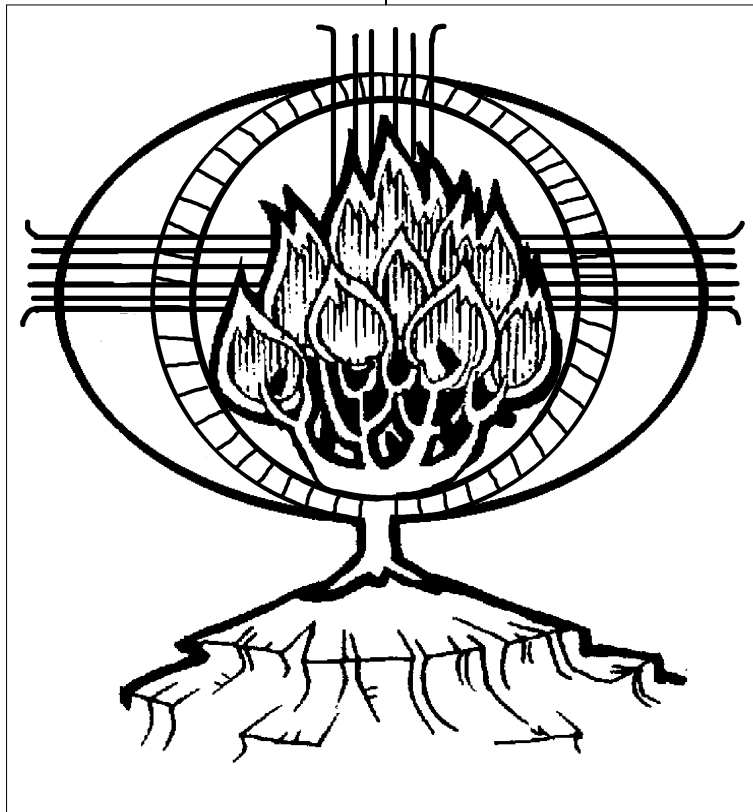
**1 Timotheut 1:15-17**

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 18:35-43**

Në atë kohë, kur Jisui u afrua në Jeriko, një i verbër po rrinte pranë udhës duke lypur, edhe kur dëgjoji turmën duke shkuar, pyeste: "Ç'është kjo?" Edhe i treguan se po shkon Jisu Nazaretasi. Edhe ai thirri duke thënë: "Jisu, bir i Davidit, përdëllemë." Edhe ata që shkonin përpara e qortonin që të pushojë; po ai shumë më tepër thërriste: "Bir i Davidit, përdëllemë." Edhe Jisui qëndroi, dhe urdhëroi ta sjellin tek ai; dhe ai, si u afrua, e pyeti, duke thënë: "Ç'do të të bëj?" Edhe ai tha: "Zot, të hap sytë e të shoh." Edhe Jisui i tha: "Hap sytë e shih; besimi yt

të shpëtoi." Edhe menjëherë hapi sytë e pa, dhe i vinte pas duke lavdëruar Perëndinë; dhe gjithë populli kur pa, i dha lavdi Perëndisë.



# A Homeless Wanderer Who Found the Kingdom

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://dce.oca.org>.



**On January 24 the Church celebrates the memory of Blessed Xenia of Petersburg. She was born in the 18th century to a noble family, and married a colonel who was a member of the Imperial Chorus. But she is probably best known as a "Fool for Christ."**

This term is based on Saint Paul's words in I Corinthians 4: 10: "We are fools for Christ's sake." The men and women who became "Fools for Christ" or "Holy Fools" gave up the normal life of family, job and home. They lived in complete dependence on God, and rejected the pursuit of security, status, or the respect of other people.

Xenia's early life followed the conventional path for a young woman of her time. But it changed dramatically when her husband Andrei died suddenly at a lively evening party with his soldier companions. She had loved him dearly and was concerned that there had not been time for him to make a final confession and to receive the Eucharist before he died. We don't know exactly how her concern influenced her next actions, but we do know that she sold her considerable possessions and gave away the proceeds, began wearing Andrei's military uniform, and called herself by his name. She gave her house to a friend, stipulating that it must be used to give shelter to those who afford to provide shelter for themselves. Her shocked family tried to have her declared mentally incompetent, but the court found her to be of sound mind.

Xenia left Petersburg and set out on an eight-year pilgrimage, going from one monastery to another and seeking spiritual guidance from the elders and holy people she met along the way. When she returned to Petersburg, she lived as an impoverished wanderer through the streets of the city's worst slum.

Out of fear and mistrust, some people treated this strange woman in a tattered military uniform with derision, shouting or spitting at her. But others were kind, offering her a bit of food or money out of the little they had. She would always give these gifts to needy people, and became recognized for her own charity as well as the good effect she seemed to have on those around her. They began to ask for her blessing, and welcome her presence.

Xenia, like other holy fools, was given the gift of doing miracles and seeing the future. She was able to save people from coming dangers, and once bluntly told a single woman who hoped to marry, "As you sit here drinking coffee, your future husband is burying his first wife." Some time later, the woman met and married the widower to whom Xenia was referring.

In her chapter on Saint Xenia in the book *Encountering Women of Faith*, Barbara Harris succinctly describes the gift holy fools give us: "With their eyes turned toward God and through extreme poverty and humility, fools offer us an extraordinary example of a voluntary kenotic [self-emptying] life."

#### Troparion - Tone 5

Having lived as a stranger in the world,  
you outwitted the deviser of evil  
by your pretended foolishness, O Xenia.  
You received the grace from God  
to foresee and foretell things to come.  
Now, as you have been translated from earth to heaven,  
you are numbered with the choirs of the angels.