

# The Martyr

## St. George Orthodox Church

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January 29, 2012

### Up-coming Services/Events

**Today:** 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:** Publican & Pharisee  
9:30 a.m. General Confession  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
**12:** Prodigal Son  
9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
**18:** First Memorial Saturday  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
**19:** Last Judgment (*last day to eat meat*)  
9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### Prayers for Blessings/Health

His Grace **Bishop Nikon**; **Deacon John Zarras**; **Christy Adams**; **Kirsten Battachio (USMC)**; **Paul Betts**; **Eileen Bochino**; **Diana Breaz**; **Jeanne Brideau**; **Elvira Chadwick**; **Eva Demetri**; **Armando Dias**; **James Dionis**; **Eva Fedash**; **Zoe Gountas**; **Cindy Held**; **David Hirst, Sr.**; **Nicholas Hotova**; **Eva Karajani**; **William Kovachi**; **Akaki Kvitashvilli**; **Meni Kyriacou**; **Christy Lambert**; **John Louis**; **Nicolas Lucas**; **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**; **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;  
Vinnie Soter

#### January

29 Maria Koli Kovachi (1960)  
30 Heracli Theodos (1970)  
Archilea (Archie) P. Themel (1997)  
31 Archpriest Christo A. Costa (1992)

#### February

01 Alexandra Cotmil (1947)  
04 Loni Perestere (1974)

### Coffee Hour

**Today:** "The Lunch Bunch"

**February 5:** The Themel Family

**12:** Helen Tallcouch, Mary Dilulio,  
Gloria Athanas

**19:** ??????????????????????

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).

### Parish Membership Meeting

Our **Parish Membership Meeting** will be held today in the Church Hall after 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 stay and participate.

### 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

Due to last Sunday's weather, today is the last day to submit bids for **Konizmat 2012**. Icons will be distributed next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and will be returned on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### 2012 Wall Calendars and Offering Envelopes

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

### Valentine's Day Dance

There will be a **Valentine's Day Dance** in the Church Hall on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

BYOB and a favorite snack and enjoy dancing to popular American and Albanian hits. Coffee and Dessert will be provided.

Tickets are \$10 per person. See *Nardi Tallkuci* for information and tickets.

### Women's Council news

The **Women's Council of Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches of Greater Bridgeport** will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Saturday, February 25, 1:30 p.m., at Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church, East Main Street, Bridgeport.

### 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.

### February Charity Collection

During February, our Charity Collection will be used to sponsor *John Babich's* participation in the **St. Baldrick's Foundation "Head-Shaving" event** to support research to end childhood cancer.

### 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.



## Today's Scripture Readings

### 1 Timothy 4:9-15

My son Timothy, this saying is true and worthy of full acceptance: for we work and are reviled for this reason, that we hope in the living God who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Command and teach these things. Let no man despise the fact that you are young, but be an example to the faithful by what you say and do, by love, faith, spirituality and chastity. Until I come, be diligent in reading, exhorting and teaching. Do not neglect the grace that is in you, granted to you as a speaker for God through the laying on of the hands of the priesthood. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

### Luke 19:1-10

At that time as Jesus was passing through Jericho, behold there was a man named Zacchaeus; and he was a leading publican, and he was rich. And he was trying to see Jesus, to find out who he was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay in your house today." And he made haste and came down, and welcomed him joyfully. And upon seeing it, all began to murmur, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, I give one-half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

### 1 Timotheut 4:9-15

O bir Timothe, për të besuar është fjala dhe e denjë për t'u pranuar. Sepse për këtë edhe mundohemi edhe përbuzemi, sepse shpresuam në Perëndinë e gjallë, i cili është shpëtimtari i gjithë njerëzve, po më fort i besimtarëve. Këto porosit dhe mëso. Askush le të mos të të përbuzë për rininë tënde, po bëhu shembull i besimtarëve në fjalë, në shoqëri, në dashuri, në shpirt, në besim, në dëlirësi. Deri sa të vij, jepu pas leximit, pas këshillimit, pas mësimit. Mos ji i pakujdesshëm për dhuratën që është tek ti, e cila t'u dha me anë profecie, me vënien e duarve të pleqësisë mbi ty. Për këto kujdesu, në këto qëndro, që të shfaqet mbarësia jote tek të gjithë.

### Llukait 19:1-10

Në atë kohë, Jisui hyri e shkante nëpër Jeriko. Edhe ja një njeri i quajtur me emrin Zakhe, i cili ishte kryetagrambledhës; dhe ishte i pasur. Edhe kërkonte të shihte Jisuin se cili është; po nuk mundej nga turma, sepse ishte i vogël në shtat. Edhe u sul përpara e hipi mbi një dru mani që ta shihte, sepse nga ajo udhë do të shkante. Edhe Jisui, si erdhi në atë vend, ngriti sytë dhe e pa atë, dhe i tha: "Zakhe, zbrit shpejt; sepse sot unë do të qëndroj në shtëpinë tënde." Edhe ai zbriti shpejt dhe e priti duke u gëzuar. Edhe të gjithë kur panë murmurisnin, duke thënë se hyri të rrijë te një njeri mëkatar. Edhe Zakheu qëndroi e i tha Zotit: "Ja, o Zot, gjysmën e pasurisë sime tek po ua jap të varfërve, dhe në i kam marrë gjë njeriu me përdhunë, ia kthej për një katër." Edhe Jisui i tha: "Sot u bë shpëtim në këtë shtëpi, sepse edhe ky është bir i Abrahamit. Sepse Biri i njeriut erdhi të kërkojë e të shpëtojë të humburën."

# Two Brothers on Different Paths

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>.



January 31 is the feast day of Saints Cyrus and John, who belong to the group of saints known as "Unmercenaries" because they used their healing skills to help people and did not take payment.

They were not blood brothers. Cyrus lived in Egypt and later became a monk in Arabia, while John was an officer of the Roman Army serving in what is now Turkey.

John heard of the things Cyrus had done, not only curing people's physical ailments with his medical ability, but urging them to pray and to repent of their sins so that both their bodies and souls could be healed.. John was intrigued, and traveled to Arabia to meet Cyrus. In the words of Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich, the two became "brothers in spirit." They served together as doctors and spiritual fathers to countless people. Both being outspoken Christians, they faced torture and martyrdom together, too, and were killed in the year 311.

Christopher Hitchens, an outspoken opponent of Christianity and all religions, recently died of cancer. Hitchens was an articulate and well-educated man who appeared often on television and wrote for national magazines. He was one of two brothers—actual blood brothers—and the two men diverged very widely in their attitudes toward the Christian faith.

Christopher wrote a book called "God is not Great" in which he argued that religion, and particularly Christianity, has had a harmful effect on the world. Peter Hitchens, his brother, is the author of "The Rage against God" in which he tells how "atheism led me to faith" and lays out the reasons why he strongly disagrees with his brother, and is a practicing Christian.

In our society, such atheists as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins receive considerable media attention, and influence some people to question their faith. So Peter Hitchens' book is a helpful one, because he argues effectively against his brother's assertions, specifically in a section of the book entitled "Addressing the Three Failed Arguments of Atheism."

He takes issue, for example, with Christopher's statement that "the order to 'love thy neighbor as thyself' is too extreme and too strenuous to be obeyed." Peter refutes this idea by offering examples of people risking their lives, health or safety for others. He acknowledges that living as a Christian is difficult, especially in a culture that places little value on selflessness, but insists that "we are far better for trying than for not trying."

Peter Hitchens published his book before his brother died. Despite his profound disagreement with Christopher, he doesn't condemn him. Instead he hopes for his brother's conversion, or that at least he will discover that "belief in God is not a character fault." His compassion is an example of what is called for in one of today's readings, 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

