

The Martyr

March 14, 2010

4th Sunday of Lent – St. John Climacus

Volume 31

Church Office: 203.268.1968

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Welcome to Visitors

We warmly welcome those who are visiting and praying with us today. You are encouraged to come forward at the conclusion of the Liturgy at the veneration of the cross to introduce yourself to Father Timothy. Please come downstairs as well for coffee hour to meet our parishioners. We look forward to visiting with you.

Prayers in Memoriam

- 15 *Pandora Nastes Nicholas (1999)*
- 16 *Ligor Lazar (1951)*
Harriet Atanas Lambert (2001)
- 19 *Maria Karaja (1984)*
- 20 *James N. Vani (1951)*
Naum Nicholas (1952)
Ilo Vasil (1980)
Efthemia (Thimika) G. Vasil (1995)

Up-coming Services/Events

- Today:** 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Mar. 20 5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Mar. 21 9:30 AM Church School
10 AM Liturgy
- Mar. 25 9:30 AM Liturgy (Annunciation)
- Mar. 27 9:30 AM Liturgy (Lazarus)
5 PM Great Vespers & Confession
- Mar. 28 9:30 AM General Confession
10 AM Liturgy (Palm Sunday)

Prayers for Blessings/Health

Christy Adams; Christopher Adams; Joyce Athanas; Kirsten Battachio (USMC); Paul Betts; Thomas Buzi; Eva,

Monica Demetri; Charles Dougiello, Sr.; Richard Hirst; Nicholas Hotova; Diane Hoffmeyer; Meni Kyriacou; Katherine LaBache; Christy Lambert; Elizabeth Lambro; Dhimitra Leka; Pauline Longo; John Louis, Sr.; Barbara Evans Maynard; Dr. James Michael; Kelly Montagna; Louise Moran; Theodore Morrison; Peter Naum; James Pando; Minnie Phostole; Pandora Plasa; Eleanor Polena; Mark Sabatino; David Schutte; Gloria Simo; Charles (Basil) Soter; Tessie Sotir; Joanne Tallcouch; Peter Thanas; Mary, Peter Themel; Christy, Michael, Thalia & Leonora Thomas; Vincent J. Torre; Aphrodita (Rita) Vangel; Galina Voronin.
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

Teuta Ladies News

- * There will be a Teuta meeting today following Liturgy.
- * The Women's Council of Eastern Orthodox Christian Churches of Greater Bridgeport will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Saturday, March 20, 1:30 pm at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 5458 Park Avenue, Bridgeport.

A Few Thoughts

Today's gospel is about the suffering of a child and a father's desperation to help him. Initially he comes to Jesus' disciples who are powerless to help him. This leads the father to Jesus who once again begs and pleads for help for his son. When Jesus learns that his disciples were powerless, he rebukes them publicly: "O faithless and perverse generation, how long must I put up with you." Sometimes



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the blunt truth hurts. Jesus then confronts the father as well when he tells the father that he should be able to do something. Jesus' exact words are, "All things are possible to him who believes." O how these words have led people into temptation and despair. We are enticed to treat faith as a magic formula to take care of life's problems, and then of course when we fall on our face, we equally conclude that we have no faith. But let us return to the text. The father is quick on his feet and cries out, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" What a smart and desperate cry for help in response to Christ's words telling him that all things are possible to him who believes. He confesses his faith and lack of faith at the same time. Here is an honest man, and if we ourselves are honest, we discover that this is also our cry to the Lord.

Belief is faith and confidence in the one to whom you are petitioning for help. The father at once confesses Christ as the Lord and at the same time asks him to strengthen his faith. So what does Christ do? He strengthens the father's faith by healing his son and so the story stands as a witness and testimony to the power and love of Christ. May we also find the same faith and trust in our hour of need.

Coffee Hour

Many Thanks to the Teuta women for sponsoring coffee hour today.

We are always in need of people to sign-up and sponsor coffee hour so please call Laura Chadwick, 268-2865 to sign-up.

Parish Directory

We want to update our parish directory and so to that end a form has been created for this and is at the candle desk.

Please take one and fill it out and return it back to the candle desk at your earliest convenience.

Shut-ins

If you know of someone who is a shut-in or at a healthcare facility or nursing home and would like a visit. Please let Fr. Timothy know.

2010 PAN-ORTHODOX Lenten Vespers Schedule

4th Sunday of Lent – March 14

❖ St. Mary's Church – 10 Oakwood Street – Bridgeport

5th Sunday of Lent – March 21

❖ OCA CT Deanery Unction Service – Three Saints Church – 26 Howard Avenue - Ansonia

All Services are at 4:00 p.m.

Lenten Outreach Project

Our Church School is sponsoring a food drive to help restock our local food pantries. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule or downstairs in the church hall.

Forcc Meeting

A FORCC meeting will be held this Thursday, March 14 here at St. George's. Time of the meeting is 7:00 PM. Parishioners are invited to attend. If you have any questions see Bobby Lazar.

Meshe – Altar Bread

We are in need of bakers for Meshe. If you have any questions, see Bobby Lazar.



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