



# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

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## October 2012

### Services Every Sunday / Κυριακή

Matins (Ορθρος) 9:15-10:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy (Θεία Λειτουργία)  
10:00-11:30 a.m.

### Worship Services in October

October 7: Third Sunday of Luke;  
Sts. Sergius, Bacchus, and Polychronios  
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

October 14: Fourth Sunday of Luke;  
Sts. Nazarios, Gervasios, Celsus, and Kosmas  
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15  
Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

October 21: Sixth Sunday of Luke;  
Sts. Hilarion and Christodoulos  
Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19  
Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

October 28: Seventh Sunday of Luke;  
Holy Protection of the Theotokos  
and Sts. Terrence and Eunice  
Epistle: Galatians 2:6-10  
Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

### Other Feast Days in October

October 3: St. Dionysios the Areopagite  
October 6: St. Thomas the Apostle  
October 9: St. James the Apostle  
October 12: St. Symeon the New Theologian  
October 17: St. Hosea the Prophet  
October 18: St. Luke the Evangelist  
October 19: St. Joel the Prophet  
October 20: St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia

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### Prosforo (Πρόσφορο) Bakers

October 14: Maria Ioannou  
October 28: Lambrini Tsitsonis



### Calendar at a Glance

**Retirement Dinner for Fr. Ted, Sat., October 13**  
Reservations required; details, call Irene at (603) 835-8087

**Keene Pumpkin Festival, October 20**

**Fr. Ted's Last Scheduled Service, October 28**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, Nov. 4**

**General Assembly, Sunday, Nov. 4**  
In Hellenic Hall, after the Liturgy

**Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22**

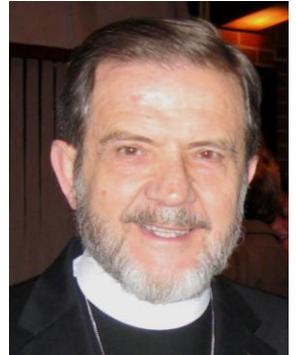
**Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, December 1**  
In Hellenic Hall, watch for details

**Ladies & Gents Luncheon, Thursday, December 6**  
1:00 p.m. at Papagallos

### WITHOUT LIGHT YET ENLIGHTENED

*By Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos*

Recently I had the pleasure of reading the Greek translation of the life and thought of a twentieth-century Orthodox elder from Romania. The title of the book is *The Elder Theophilus Paraian: Without Light, Yet Enlightened.* Although blind from early childhood, the Elder Theophilus grew up as a strong character and a fervent lover of God. Because of his saintly life and teachings, he came to be known as a man “without light, yet enlightened.”



The Elder had become blind following a severe illness. Living in a simple village in Romania, he never quite found out what the illness was, perhaps meningitis, he thought. His mother was desperate and often in tears, desiring to see him recover from blindness. He tells of poignant tests by his mother to see if there was any such hope. She would hold her hand out and ask, “how many fingers?” or “what do I have now in my hands?” Alert and intelligent, the boy tried to please his mother and sometimes guessed correctly, but reality set in that he would never regain sight.

Fortunately, the boy went to a school for the blind and learned Braille not only to read books but also to type papers! A quick and devoted learner, he advanced in his studies, finishing primary and secondary education, and eventually graduating from theological studies with honors. In the course of his life's journey, he became a monastic, continuing to read and write in Braille, and learning by heart many of the prayers and hymns of the Orthodox Church. His talents in preaching and teaching gained the attention of the local bishop who ordained him a deacon and later a priest. Throughout the last third of the twentieth century the Elder became an inspired guide, speaker, and teacher to many faithful in Romania.

What I especially appreciated in the story of Elder Theophilus was his healthy, strong character. Growing up in a secure and loving family, and preserving the innocence of childhood partly perhaps because of blindness, he was endowed with a joy and cheerfulness. His principle was: “A Christian ought always to be cheerful and grateful. If he is not cheerful and grateful, he is not a Christian.” He of course heard about and came know the foibles and foolish complaints and dissatisfactions of people, but he retained a remarkably healthy and balanced outlook on life. He was both open to learn new things from others but also ready to exercise his own judgment about what he was advised.

Once, while still young, he had a talk with a respected priest and elder, to whom he shared his plan to increase his studies. This particular elder gave him spiritual advice about prayer but also expressed his doubts about going to school further. He said: “School does not lead to salvation.” The young Theophilus answered forthrightly that it would not be possible for him not to go to school because that was the desire of his parents and that's what he wanted to do as well. Later, as he recounts the incident, the Elder Theophilus adds the comment: “And I did go school. And I am glad because I did well to go.”

He was by no means a rebel. While at the monastery, a group of fanatics disobeyed the local bishop. They claimed: “We take orders from God and from the Virgin Mary.” Theophilus did not join them. He thought to himself: “As I see the icon of the Virgin Mary, I see her looking humble and calm. She would never incite them to such insurrection for the alleged benefit to the faithful and the Church.” There was talk of disbanding the monastery and sending the residents away. The Elder recalls the touching words of his mother: “If you cannot remain here, come home; you have a place to go.” As it turned out he did not leave the monastery but often remembered these sweet words. He thought: Who else can say such a thing but a mother: “You have a place to go.”

While unable to gaze on the beauty of the physical world, the Elder developed an interior world filled with joy and beauty. From that inner world, the world of the heart where he nurtured a ceaseless communion with God, he brought forth valuable counsel to many. What follows are some of his meditations and teachings.

- We do not have the ability to change someone to follow the way of faith and moral life. God is the one who can change people. We can help and give guidance, but should never take upon ourselves roles which we do not have and can never have.
- I attribute great significance to worship because the Orthodox Church is a Church of sacred services, a Church of the Divine Liturgy. The Orthodox Christian images the angels when singing the thrice-holy hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of hosts, heaven and earth is full of Your glory." The Liturgy and the sacraments are the Kingdom of God on earth: "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The sound of the Liturgy is the sound of the Holy Spirit.



**Elder Theophilos Paraian**

- A person who is truly Orthodox, who knows and lives the Orthodox faith, cannot abandon Orthodoxy. Those who seem to abandon Orthodoxy for another religion, in reality abandon nothing, for they have come to know nothing, and become attached to something quite deficient.
- The monastics should not be specifically involved in the ordinary lives of Orthodox Christians but ought to follow their own spiritual program. Ordinary Christians can follow a monastic program only in part, for example, by participating in the worship services at monasteries. For Orthodox Christians living in the world, with families and social obligations, the general rule is to do their duty in the place and context in which they have been called.
- I have come to believe that there is no wisdom in speaking to people about God when they are not willing to listen and to follow the word of God. Of benefit is to pray for them and have the hope that our example may influence them.
- Orthodox Christians ought to receive Holy Communion not as a routine but deeply conscious of its meaning as a gift "for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life." Holy Communion is help on the journey, always a gift of God, and not a reward for presumed exceptional behavior.
- When an Orthodox Christian is content with whatever he can achieve by the grace of God, and relates and connects everything with the grace of God, he follows the path of humility.
- Think beautiful thoughts. Examine and discern your thoughts. Keep and multiply only the beautiful thoughts and translate them into words and actions. The foundation of a spiritual life is the good ordering of thoughts according to the will of God. If we engage in beautiful thoughts, we will also live a beautiful life.
- Trials are a reality and a problem. The Church desires that all people should have health and peace, but teaches us to accept trials when they come as part of carrying the Cross of Christ. If suffering is unavoidable, let us at least not suffer in vain by complaining, but by seeking to grow stronger in faith and character. Suffering unites us with the suffering of the Lord. When God permits a trial, let us believe that it has some purpose and benefit, even if we are not able to know. There are trials, however, like extremely painful incurable diseases or diseases that disable both the body and mind, about which we can say nothing really useful and beneficial. They remain a mystery on which only life after life can shed light. Nevertheless, let us keep ourselves always in the hands of God.
- The measure of faith is the measure of life. The depth of faith is shown in the quality of life. Faith brings Christ near to us, into our heart and minds, so that Christ himself works in our existence and our life.

## Ask Father Ted

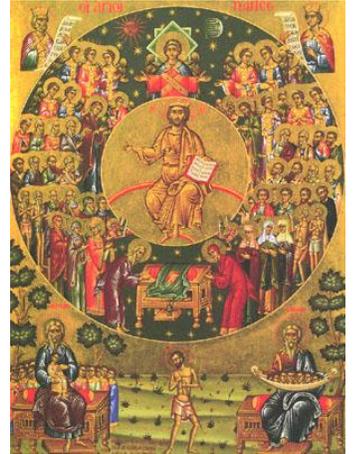
### QUESTION:

Why are there different saints in the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church?

### ANSWER:

When the Eastern and Western parts of Christendom were united, which was roughly up to the mid-eleventh century, the two Churches shared the majority of saints, especially the saints of Holy Scripture, such as the Apostles, as well as the great fathers and teachers of the Church, such as St. Athanasios, St. Leo of Rome, and St. Basil, and in addition other saints of the early Christian centuries. But even during this period, many saints were of local significance and not universally commemorated in both East and West. After the separation of the two Churches, however, each Church developed its own list of additional saints.

It should be noted that the Orthodox Church claims to be the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, as we profess in the Creed, which has retained its catholicity and unity, despite the separation of Western Christendom. The Western Church came to be called the Roman Catholic Church and from it many Protestant Churches separated and then were themselves divided. The Orthodox Church is a family of regional Churches, Greek, Russian, Romanian, Syrian, Serbian, Georgian, etc., united in doctrine and sacrament, but independent in administration. These Orthodox Churches, too, while sharing the majority of Orthodox saints, also commemorate other saints significant to their own particular history and traditions, such as St. Vladimir in the case of the Russian Orthodox Church.



“All Saints” icon, shown above/right, is from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website. More information on Saints can be found at [www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/allsaints/index.html](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/allsaints/index.html) under “Sunday of All Saints”



To ask Fr. Ted a question, use the forms located on the table near the bulletin board in the hallway as you exit the sanctuary or via email to [heather\\_eleni@yahoo.com](mailto:heather_eleni@yahoo.com). Questions should be submitted anonymously and the name of anyone submitting questions via email will not be printed.

### Volunteers Needed for Christmas Bazaar



Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in Hellenic Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, work during the bazaar, and bake food.

Also, if you're cleaning your attic or garage, please don't forget to save saleable items to donate to “Yiayia's Attic” (no clothes, please).

For more information, please contact Evelyn Hubal at (603) 357-0128 or Sue Kolivas at (603) 357-8951.

### Bulletin Editorial Board

Executive Directors:

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, Pastor  
Susan Karalekas, Editor-in-Chief

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Parish Council Liaisons:

Susan Karalekas and Vasiliki Moore



Bulletin submissions and questions can be sent to church, attention: Susan Karalekas, e-mailed to [susan@bridgesinn.net](mailto:susan@bridgesinn.net); or call Susan at (603) 358-6958

Ask Fr. Ted questions can be sent to church, attention: Heather Eleni or e-mailed to [heather\\_eleni@yahoo.com](mailto:heather_eleni@yahoo.com)

Sponsorship submissions and questions can be sent to church, attention: Popey Pitsas; e-mailed to [PanosPit33@msn.com](mailto:PanosPit33@msn.com); or call Popey at (603) 827-3775 or see her at church

## Stewardship

Dear Father Ted,

I would like to thank you for all the support you have given the Stewardship Committee over the years. Your words of wisdom and direction have been 'spot on' and guiding for all of us.

Thank you for the numerous letters you have written to encourage all of us to give from the heart. You are our foundation and our pillar to lean on. The Stewardship Committee knows how willing you have given your time, treasure, and talents! Thank you for all you have done for Stewardship for St. George. You will be missed!

May you find peace, joy, time, and good health in your retirement. Enjoy the little moments with family, friends and doing the things you want to do.

With Love,

Kathy Nikiforakis, Stewardship Chairperson



### Pledges as of August 28, 2012

- ◆ Total Pledges: \$36,496.00
- ◆ Total Pledges Paid: \$26,976.00
- ◆ Balance Due: \$9,520.00

## 2012 Stewards of St. George Greek Orthodox Church (as of Aug. 28, 2012)

### Thank you ♦ Ευχαριστώ

Harry & Angie Ackerman	Anthony & Maria Glimenakis	Peter & Estelle Merzi
Panayiotis & Avey Andonellis	Charles Glimenakis	George & Mary Michaelides
Peter Antonopoulos & Ellen Spielberg	Christopher & Fotini Glimenakis	George & Vasiliki Moore
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Bob & Vicki Balkanikos	Peter Gundelfinger & Suzanne Smiley	Paul & Kathy Nikiforakis
Aspasia Ballas	Janet Harrison	Bob & Maria Oberlander
James Bardis	Evelyn Hubal	Alexandra Papadimitriou
Edward & Tina Beloyianis	George & Maria Ioannou	Lena Pappas
Mike & Carolyn Blastos	Margaret Ioannou	Maria Pappas
Chris Booras	George & Sigrid Karabakakis	Stephen & Joan Pappas
Julia Booras	Stella Kiritsy	Eugenia Petrou-Karabakakis
Mary Booras	Alexandra Kolivas	Roger & Connie Phelps
Heather Eleni Bosworth	Anastasia Kolivas	Mitch & Danielle Piper
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Timoleon & Kiki Chakalos	William & Donna Koutrakos	Alan & Heather Riley
Don & Irene Cheek	Odysseous & Kathy Kyrousis	George & Youla Skipitaris
Timothy N. Cheek	Mark & Apostolia Lanoue	Fr. Ted & Pres. Fotini Stylianopoulos
Eleni Chiotis	Evangelia Leristis	Chris and Anna Tasoulas
Petros Chiotis	Christene Libbares	Georgia Tasoulas
Ernie & Rachel Conides	Giota Livanis	Joseph & Elizabeth Truman
† Evelyn Diamond	Nickolas Lupinin & Susan Karalekas	Douglas Walker & Andrea Polizos
Dean Eliopoulos	David Maydwell	Kevin & Lisa Warren
Bill & Elaine Ellis	Susan Maydwell	George & Eleni Xanthopoulos
Peter Espiefs	Michael & Laura Merzi	Lazarus & Ryanne Xanthopoulos

## Kathy Nikiforakis Receives Leadership Award

From [www.cheshire-med.com/about\\_us/newsdetail/6201](http://www.cheshire-med.com/about_us/newsdetail/6201)

August 9, 2012

Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene (CMC/D-HK) presented the Third Quarter 2012 President's Service Excellence and Leadership Awards to outstanding staff members.

The Leadership Award recognizes employees who exhibit outstanding leadership qualities as demonstrated by excellence in caring, character, commitment, competence and communication. Kathy Nikiforakis, RN, BSN, MBA, ACM, Case Management Coordinator, Case Management, received this award.



Kathy Nikiforakis exemplifies everything CMC/D-HK stands for in their efforts to pursue the best possible health outcomes for their patients and the community. Her work with staff members, patients and their families in case management gives them the understanding and best possible outcome in care and follow-up. With her pleasant and professional personality, Kathy is one of the people who make CMC/D-HK a great place to work and a great place to receive care. Her co-workers, the medical staff, patients and families feel confident when working with Kathy, and appreciate her compassion.

Kathy was congratulated by CMC/D-HK for her dedication to her patients and community.

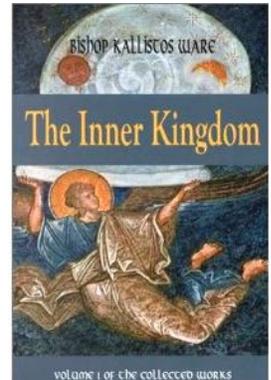
*Editor's Note: Recognizing these same traits in Kathy in her role as Stewardship Chairperson, the St. George community is grateful for her dedication to her church community.*

## Our Church Library and Bookstore

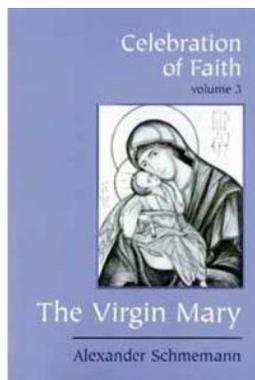
By *Nickolas Lupinin*

Our church library and bookstore have a number of spiritually valuable books for all levels, children to adults. Do make an effort, as the new Church year progresses, to avail yourself with a timely purchase of a book or borrow one from our library on wheels which is always in Hellenic Hall. You will be the one to benefit.

Periodically, this bulletin will highlight a book or two from our collection. This month I have chosen two, the first of which is *The Inner Kingdom* by Bishop Kallistos Ware. Bishop Ware is especially famous for his one volume history of the Orthodox Church, the most widely read such work in the last fifty years. He writes clearly about many things in *The Inner Kingdom*, including his journey to Orthodoxy, death, resurrection, and spiritual guidance.

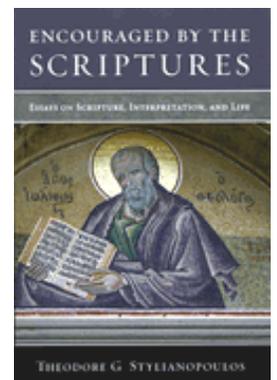


Fr. Alexander Schmemmann was a brilliant speaker, writer, and theologian before his premature death. The second book notice concerns his *The Virgin Mary: The Celebration of Faith*. It is a book in small format and is short, a mere 92 pages. But, it is replete with his customary insight and intelligence on one of his favorite subjects. The volume is a collection of some of his sermons on Mary. As such, the reader can easily read them in short bits and within limited time frames without losing the theme.



Take the time to read these or one of the other literary-spiritual treasures in the St. George Church library. The books are not for show but are there to help us all in our spiritual growth.

In the June 2012 Bulletin, I reflected on our own Fr. Ted's newest book, *Encouraged by the Scriptures*. Our book store and library have copies of this elucidating work.



## Keene Pumpkin Festival Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>



We will again be selling gyros, Greek salad wraps, baklava, spanakopita, and beverages inside Hellenic Hall.

**Volunteers are needed** to help set up, prepare and serve food, work as cashiers, and clean up.

We are also requesting donations of canned soda (Coke, Diet Coke, and Sprite) and bottled water, which can be dropped off at Hellenic Hall by October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeds will go to the missions of St. George Church.

For additional information, please contact Joe Truman at (603) 717-2351.



## IOCC School Kits Follow-up

By Presvytera Faye Stylianopoulos



Sincere thanks to all who contributed school supplies during our August drive and who helped to assemble the kits on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks to the generosity of so many we were able to assemble 25 kits on September 2 with many of our church-school children helping to fill the school bags after Liturgy that day.

Also, the small basket for postage donations brought in \$70.35. Thanks to your generosity once again, on September 6<sup>th</sup> we mailed off the 25 kits and also purchased school supplies to complete and mail an additional 15 bags, for a total of 40 sent from St. George.

Let us continue to seek small or big ways in which we can reach out to help those in need, both those near to us and those who may be far off.



## Thoughts from St. Silouan the Athonite

"The Holy Spirit sets us all on different paths: one lives a life of silent solitude in the desert; another prays for mankind; still another is called to minister to Christ's flock; a fourth comforts or preaches to the suffering; yet another serves his neighbor by his goods or by the fruits of his labor - and all these are gifts of the Holy Spirit given in varying degrees: to one thirtyfold, to another sixty and to some a hundred. If we love one another in simplicity of heart, the Lord through the Holy Spirit will show us many miracles and reveal great mysteries."

Please use this list to pray for members of our community who are sick or in need of God's care.

- **Hristianna Lanoue**
- **John Bardis**
- **Rachel Conides**
- **Mark Raheb, for healing**



From time to time, we may remove names that have been on the list for a while. If you feel a name should remain on the list, or if you would like a new name placed on the list, **please contact Fr. Ted.**

Please visit our website at [www.stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org](http://www.stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org)





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70 West Street, PO Box 392  
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Keene, NH 03431

Permit No. 149

Return Service Requested

***Fr. Ted's Retirement Dinner***

**Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> in Hellenic Hall**

Reservations are required. Seating is limited.

If you want to come and have not yet made a

reservation, call Irene at (603) 835-8087

to see if seating is still available.

**In Loving Memory of  
John & Zoe Contas and John & Helen Conides**

Ernie & Rachel Conides

John Conides

Andrea & Robert Smith

Caitlin Smith

Austin Smith

**May Their Memory Be Eternal**