



# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

70 West Street, P.O. Box 392, Keene, NH 03431-0392

Church: 603-352-6424

Website: [www.stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org](http://www.stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org)

Rev. Fr. Leo Schefe, Pastor

Fr. Leo's e-mail: [frleo@clearwire.net](mailto:frleo@clearwire.net)

Fr. Leo's cell phone: (617) 435-3057

## February 2014 Newsletter

### Services Every Sunday / Κυριακή

Matins (Ορθρος) 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy (Θεία Λειτουργία)

10:00-11:30 a.m.

### Prosforo (Πρόσφορο) Bakers

February 2: David Schuster

February 16: Fotini Glimenakis



### Worship Services in February

Sunday, Feb. 2 – Sunday of the Presentation of our Lord

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:7-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Saturday, Feb. 9 – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today

Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Sunday, Feb. 16 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle: I Corinthians 6: 12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Feast Day of St. Leo the Great  
Fr. Leo's Name Day

Epistle: St. John's First Universal Letter 3:9-22

Gospel: Mark 14:10-42

Saturday, Feb. 22 – Saturday of Souls

*Please bring koliva to remember departed Orthodox loved ones that morning*

Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Sunday, Feb. 23 – Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday

Epistle: I Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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### Calendar at a Glance (non-liturgical)

**Boy Scouts Recognition Sunday, February 2**

Troop 18 will be joining us for services

**The First Valentine film, Sunday, February 9**

This short film will be shown during fellowship hour and we will also have the opportunity to make Valentines greetings  
Details on pages 2 and 3, under LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

**Paraklesis to Mother of God, Tuesdays, 6:00 PM**

February 4, 11, 18, and 25

**Paraklesis to St. George, Thursdays, 6:00 PM**

February 6, 13, 20, and 27

**Lunch and Lives, Every other Thursday, 12:00 noon**

February 6 and 20

**Apokriatiko (Αποκριάτικο), Mardi Gras Dance,**

Saturday evening, February 22

# Father Leo's Ledger

## Love One Another

*Guest Writer: Presbytera Candace Schefe*

John 13:34-35 (New International Version) "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

Our Lord Jesus Christ was speaking to His followers—the disciples of His day and those who would come after them. These words are for us, too. Here is the command: "Love one another." He goes on to say, "You must love one another." How are we to love one another? He tells us, "As I have loved you." What will be the end result? "All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

How many people can recognize that we are followers of Christ by our love for one another? It's a question that may cause some wincing. Why? Because, if we engage in self-examination, we'll know we are not where we could or should be spiritually. In many cases we may appear to like one another well enough, but not necessarily enough to be thought of as love—the kind of love that is sacrificial or life-giving in behalf of another. That is the kind of love God has for us. In other cases, sadly, we may barely tolerate one another's presence or not at all. Is this a Christian attitude? I think we know the answer. Even those outside of Christianity recognize an unloving attitude as non-Christian. Sad to say, we all struggle with this attitude at various and sundry times and to different degrees. Nevertheless, it's not too late to work toward setting it aside. What if we don't start rooting out the passions that contribute to an unloving attitude? Simply this--we will not be able to enter into the kind of life that God has prepared for us. Christ is seeking a higher way for each of us. We have the opportunity to choose it...or not. There is much to be gained through individual spiritual growth and much to be lost without it. With this in mind, let us consider the great benefit of putting hands to the plow for the sake of further cultivating our individual spiritual lives. The effects of doing so individually will further enhance the corporate spirit and witness of our St. George community. Let us continue this train of thought over time, by considering ways we can develop love through tilling the soil of one's heart and mind for Christ's sake. How are we going to deepen our love for God and one another? With Great Lent starting in March, this is an opportune focus for us all.

### **LOVE, LOVE, LOVE—authentic Christianity is all about love!**

In celebration of God's holy martyr, Valentine, we will be showing the short film "The First Valentine" during fellowship hour on Sunday, February 9. This is a dramatic production of the life of the Saint which is appropriate for Christians of all ages. As we'll learn, St. Valentine had the kind of love known as "agape." This is love that is sacrificial and a modeling of the kind of love God has for us. St. Valentine's life exemplified the Scripture verse, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends," John 15:13

On Sunday, February 9, there will be craft materials on hand so that those of you who wish can make heart-felt Valentine greetings for others. Most people think of Valentine greetings as "mushy," but that's only a shade of what the greeting can express. The goal of preparing a genuine Valentine greeting is to find a "eulogia" (which means high praise or commendation), a good word for someone from the heart.

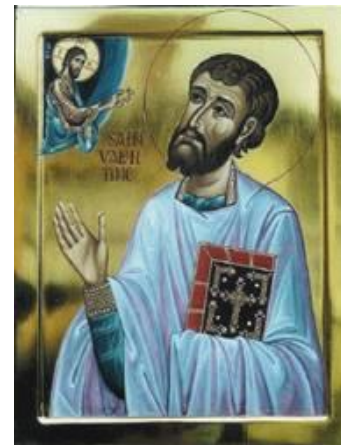
A Valentine can be a beautiful note of appreciation or of recognition of someone's influence in your life. Valentine greetings can be made by anyone—children or adults, male or female—it's not just a

“feminine” thing. It’s a creative expression that is a gift from one heart to another. So, on February 9, think about who you might want to bless with a creative expression of Christian love. We’ll provide materials to make that expression a reality.



### St. Valentine

St. Valentine was a presbyter and before his martyrdom, he healed a young girl from blindness. He gave his life for Christ, martyred along with others, on February 14, 268 (or 269) AD in Rome. His holy relics are currently in Athens.



Learn more detail by visiting this link on Presbytera’s blog:

<http://otftd.blogspot.com/2012/02/orthodox-saint-valentine.html>

### Obituary: Andrea Conides Smith

*From the Fletcher Funeral Home website*

Andrea Conides Smith, 44, of Swanzey, NH, died Friday afternoon, January 10, 2014, at the Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

She was born, in Manchester, on February 2, 1969 to Ernest J. and Rachel (Contas) Conides, and raised in Keene. She was a 1987 graduate of Keene High School and a 1991 graduate of Keene State College with a degree in Psychology.

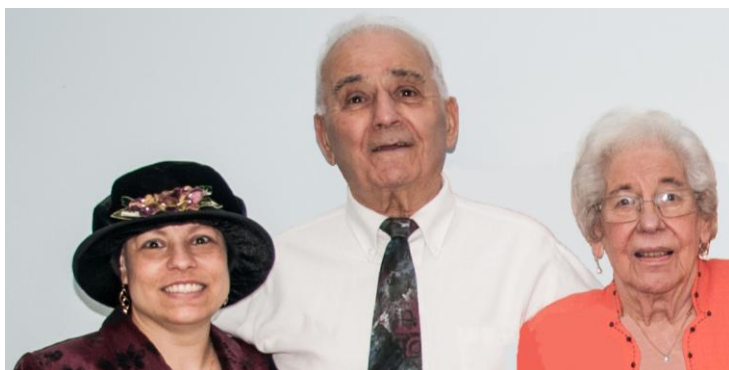
She married Robert J. Smith of Swanzey, on November 26, 1994 and moved to Swanzey, where they raised their family. She was a past Treasurer of Swanzey's Old Home Day Committee, past Treasurer of the Friends of the Mt. Caesar Union Library and was a frequent and enthusiastic presence at her children's sporting events.

She was a longtime employee, and recipient of the President's award at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene, where her positive attitude touched the lives of many patients and her co-workers at the Nurse Clinic.

A devoted wife and mother, she cherished her home and family above all and was happiest spending time with them and tending her garden, of which she was very proud. Her beautiful smile and tireless concern for others served as an inspiration to all she knew.

She is survived by her husband Robert J. Smith, daughter Caitlin Smith, and son Austin Smith all of Swanzey; a brother, John Conides of Haverhill, MA, her parents Ernest and Rachel Conides of Keene, as well as her aunt Effie and uncle Rev. Dr. Nicholas Manikas of Hyannis, MA, aunt Stella Kiritsy of Hilton Head, SC and uncle Greg Contas of West Hartford, CT as well as many cousins.

Calling hours were held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at Fletcher Funeral Home. At Andrea's request, services were private. Fletcher Funeral Home was in charge of funeral arrangements.



The St. George community sends sincere sympathy to the Smith family and to Ernie and Rachel Conides, shown at the left with their daughter, Andrea, at Ernie’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Hellenic Hall on October 6, 2013 after church services.

In lieu of flowers, Andrea has requested that Memorial Donations be made, in her name, to the Caitlin and Austin Smith Education Fund, c/o The Savings Bank of Walpole, 400 West St., Keene, NH 03431.

## Thank You - Ευχαριστώ to the St. George Community

The generosity and compassion exhibited by the St. George community has been felt by many individuals and organizations throughout the region. We have received thank-you notes from the following.

### Theotokos Orphanage in Bakeswar

On behalf of the children in India, Maria K. Silva of the St. Basil Orphanage Fund of the Philanthropic Society of the Orthodox Church (PSOC) thanked the St. George community for our financial support. Below are excerpts from her letter.

“Through your generosity, we can ensure that these children continue to receive food, education, clothing, shelter, and love.

Our goal for the PSOC is always sustainability and we look forward to sharing our successes with you throughout the year. Your donation will bring us one step closer to fulfilling their needs. For more information, please visit <http://theypsoc.org>.

Please accept our sincerest thanks for your continued generous support.”

*Editor's note: St. George teamed with Agios Vasilios in Newport in November to raise \$1,831 to assist Sr. Nektaria Paradisi and the girls under her care in Bakeswar, India.*

### Margaret Ioannou and Family

Dear friends,

My family and I are so grateful for the outpouring of sympathy that the parishioners of St. George have shown following the loss of my son, Keon.

We appreciate the donations made in Keon's memory and the countless other kindnesses expressed to my family and me.

We especially want to thank everyone who is keeping us in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ioannou

### Community Kitchen.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of The Community Kitchen, I would like to thank you for your donation of Baklava which was thoroughly enjoyed by volunteers, office people and guests. Everyone loves Greek food and especially Greek desserts. I also thank you for the donations in 2013 to The Community Kitchen. I am so proud of my Church and all the parishioners – you are always there when someone is in need. Your donations are always greatly appreciated by us and those we serve.

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ioannou  
Hot Meals Volunteer Coordinator

### Head Start Program

Gina Reynolds of Southwestern Community Services sent Popey Pitsas the following letter.

“On behalf of the Head Start program at Southwestern Community Services, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution to the Head Start Program of beautiful children's clothing and footwear.

Please extend our thanks to the Ladies and Gents of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church for their generosity.

The Head Start program is a Federally Funded non-profit program and is most appreciative of all donations that the community generously offers. Getting these donated items will be most appreciated by the children and parents of the Head Start Program.”

### Vasilopita Auction to Benefit St. Basil Academy

On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> during fellowship hour, St. George held our first annual Vasilopita auction to benefit St. Basil's Academy and raised \$560.00. We thank all those who baked and donated Vasilopites for the auction, the high bidders of the Vasilopites, and to auctioneer Joe Truman. And a special thank you to Vasilissa Balkanikos who brought in an extra large Vasilopita for everyone to enjoy during fellowship hour.

Saint Basil Academy is a national not-for-profit philanthropic center of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which provides love, shelter, food, education, protection and a home for her orphans, children of chronically ill or destitute parents or children from broken homes. More information about St. Basil Academy can be found at <http://saintbasilacademy.org/about/index.asp>

## 2014 Parish Council

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Leo administered the affirmation of office to the parish council. The St. George community congratulates and sincerely thanks council members for all they do for our church.

Officers are:

Joe Truman, President  
 Maria Bradshaw, Vice President  
 Peter Bradshaw, Treasurer  
 Heather Riley, Secretary

Also serving are:

Don Cheek  
 Ernie Conides  
 George Karabakakis  
 Nick Lupinin  
 Vasiliki Moore



Pictured in the group, from left to right:  
 Maria Bradshaw, Heather Riley,  
 Peter Bradshaw, Fr. Leo Scheffe,  
 George Karabakakis, Nick Lupinin,  
 Joe Truman, and Ernie Conides

Pictured above: Don Cheek (left) and  
 Vasiliki Moore (right)



## Ongoing Activities

### **Two Paraklesis services each week**

- Paraklesis to Panagia: Tuesdays, 6:00 PM
- Paraklesis to St. George: Thursdays, 6:00 PM

Bring a list of names of the living, including *your own name* (and for these services, you can give names of *anyone* among the living) for Fr. Leo to remember during the service.

### **Lunch and Lives**

This noon-time meeting is open to both men and women who would like to know more about the lives of Orthodox Christian Saints.

We meet every other Thursday from noon until 1:00 PM. Bring your own lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

For details, contact Pres. Candace at 857-210-7945 or at [doxa141@gmail.com](mailto:doxa141@gmail.com).

## How to reach the Parish Council

Joe Truman, President -----	603-717-2351
<a href="mailto:truman73@mac.com">truman73@mac.com</a>	
Maria Bradshaw, Vice President -----	603-357-2143
<a href="mailto:bshawkids@aol.com">bshawkids@aol.com</a>	
Peter Bradshaw, Treasurer -----	603-357-2143
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Heather Riley, Secretary -----	603-352-0173
<a href="mailto:heather@mds-nh.org">heather@mds-nh.org</a>	
Don Cheek -----	603-359-3737
<a href="mailto:cheekster123@gmail.com">cheekster123@gmail.com</a>	
Ernie Conides -----	603-352-4731
<a href="mailto:rconides@gmail.com">rconides@gmail.com</a>	
George Karabakakis -----	603-352-2936
<a href="mailto:georgek@stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org">georgek@stgeorgekeene.nh.goarch.org</a>	
Nickolas Lupinin -----	603-547-7019
<a href="mailto:lupinin@franklinpierce.edu">lupinin@franklinpierce.edu</a>	
Vasiliki Moore -----	603-496-0979
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*****	
Fr. Leo Scheffe -----	617-435-3057
<a href="mailto:frleo@clearwire.net">frleo@clearwire.net</a>	

# Stewardship Update

By Nick Lupinin, Stewardship Chairman

## *Stewardship Update as of December 31, 2013*

Total Pledges: \$44,146.00

Total Pledges Paid: \$43,056.00

Balance Due: \$1,090.00



### 2013 Stewards of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Harry & Angeline Ackerman  
Panayiotis & Avey Andonellis  
Peter Antonopoulos & Ellen Spielberg  
John & Sandra Apostoles  
Vasilios and Abigail Athanasopoulos  
Presbyteria Evelyn Bacopoulos  
Nick & Chrysoula Bairaktaris  
Bob & Vasillisa Balkanikos  
Aspasia Ballas  
James Bardis  
John D. Bardis  
Edward & Tina Beloyianis  
Mike † & Carolyn Blastos  
Chris Booras  
Julia Booras  
Mary Booras  
† Heather Eleni Bosworth  
Peter & Maria Bradshaw  
Sarah Bradshaw  
Thomas and Ellen Cakouros  
Wayne & Jennie Canwell  
John † and Rita † Chakalos  
Stephanie Chakalos  
Timoleon & Kiki Chakalos  
Don & Irene Cheek  
Christos & Angeliki Christakis  
Ernie & Rachel Conides  
Georgios & Konstantina Dramalis  
Heather Eakin  
Dean Eliopoulos

Bill & Elaine Ellis  
Peter Espiefs  
Louis & Lisa Giannakakos  
Anthony and Maria Glimenakis  
Charles Glimenakis  
Christopher & Fotini Glimenakis  
Sue Davis-Glimenakis  
Maria Goodman  
Michael & Stephanie Guitard  
Peter Gundelfinger & Suzanne Smiley  
Janet Harrison  
Evelyn Hubal  
George & Maria Ioannou  
Margaret Ioannou  
George & Sigrid Karabakakis  
Stella Kiritsy  
Alexandra Kolivas  
Anastasia Kolivas  
Louis & Sue-Ellan Kolivas  
Nicholas Kolivas  
Marya Koskoris  
Paul & Barbara Koutras  
Christopher and Athanasi Lakin  
Mark & Apostolia Lanoue  
Evangelia Leristis  
Spyridon & Ekaterina Leristis  
Stavroula Leristis  
Christene Libbares  
Giota Livanis  
Claudio Lopez & Elizabeth Schuster

Nickolas Lupinin & Susan Karalekas  
Sophia MacKinnon  
David Maydwell  
Susan Maydwell  
Peter & Estelle Merzi  
George † & Mary Michaelides  
Kevin Miller & Christina Eliopoulos  
Bill & Flo Nestor  
George & Cindy Nikiforakis  
Paul & Kathy Nikiforakis  
Angelo & Tasia Pananas  
Alexandra Papadimitriou  
Lena Pappas  
Maria Pappas  
Stephen & Joan Pappas  
Eugenia Petrou-Karabakakis  
Roger & Connie Phelps  
Mitch & Danielle Piper  
Diane Golfin Raheb  
Alan & Heather Riley  
Fr. Leo and Pres. Candace Schefe  
George & Youla Skipitaris  
Chris and Anna † Tasoulas  
Georgia Tasoulas  
John and Roe-Ann Tasoulas  
Joe & Beth Truman  
Douglas Walker & Andrea Polizos  
Kevin & Lisa Warren  
Lazarus & Rynne Xanthopoulos  
Morfia Zahos

# 2014 Stewards of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

## Stewardship Update as of January 8, 2014

Total Pledges: \$16,775.00 Total Pledges Paid: \$5,160.00

Thank you to all who have turned in your pledge cards and contributed!

Bob & Vasillisa Balkanikos  
Aspasia Ballas  
Carolyn Blastos  
Anna Bradshaw  
Peter & Maria Bradshaw  
Sarah Bradshaw  
Don & Irene Cheek  
Bill & Elaine Ellis  
Christopher & Fotini Glimenakis  
Sue Glimenakis  
Michael & Stephanie Guitard

Peter Gundelfinger & Suzanne Smiley  
Janet Harrison  
George & Maria Ioannou  
Margaret Ioannou  
George & Sigrid Karabakakis  
Alexandra Kolivas  
Anastasia Kolivas  
Louis & Sue-Ellan Kolivas  
Mark and Apostolia Lanoue  
Spyridon & Ekaterina Leristis

Giota Livanis  
Nickolas Lupinin & Susan Karalekas  
Mary Michaelides  
Bill & Flo Nestor  
Alexandra Papadimitriou  
Lena Pappas  
Michael and Eunice Pappas  
Heather Riley  
Fr. Leo and Pres. Candace Schefe  
Chris Tasoulas  
Joe and Beth Truman

### Newsletter Editorial Staff

Executive Directors:

Susan Karalekas, Editor-in-Chief  
Fr. Leo Schefe, Pastor

Desktop Publishing: Susan Karalekas

Contributing Writers: Presbyteria Candace Schefe,  
Nick Lupinin, and Vasiliki Moore

Photography: Kevin Warren

Copy Editors: Irene Cheek and Elaine Ellis

Sponsorship: Merope (Popey) Pitsas

Distribution: Margaret Ioannou and Nickolas Lupinin  
Parish Council Liaisons:

Nick Lupinin and Vasiliki Moore

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Newsletter 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

Sponsorship submissions and questions can be sent to church, attention: Popey Pitsas; e-mailed to [panospit33@myfairpoint.net](mailto:panospit33@myfairpoint.net) or call Popey at (603) 827-3775

### Community Prayer List

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

- **Hristianna Lanoue**
- **Donald Doubleday**
- **John Bardis**
- **Mark Raheb**
- **Dean Eleftheriou**
- **Presbyteria Evelyn Bacopoulos**
- **Katherine Koutras**
- **Pat Blastos**
- **Chris Tasoulas**
- **Margaret Ioannou**

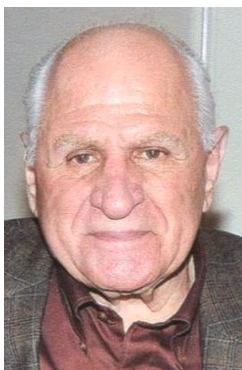


*From time to time, we may remove names that have been on the list for a while. If you feel a name should remain on the list, or if you would like a new name placed on the list, please contact Fr. Leo.*

## Obituary: John Chakalos

*From The Keene Sentinel, Dec. 28, 2013*

John Chakalos, 87, of Chesterfield, beloved husband of the late Rita B. Chakalos, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Windsor, Conn., on Dec. 20, 2013.



Mr. Chakalos was born June 29, 1926, in Keene, the only son in a family of five daughters, to the late Charles “Costas” and Kalliope (Kyriazis) Chakalos. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private, where he served with distinction as a paratrooper in the Philippines during WWII and participated in numerous high-risk missions. He was a graduate of the Bradford Durfee College of Technology, where he received a B.S. in textile engineering in 1951. During his high school years in Middletown, Conn., he met his sweetheart Rita Baranowski. The two were married for 59 years, until Rita Chakalos lost her battle with cancer on Nov. 21, 2013.

Mr. Chakalos dedicated his life to his marriage, work and community, and above all, family. His favorite motto was, “Without family you’ve got nothing; family is everything.” He showered his grandchildren, nieces and nephews with paternal love. He was a proud, hard-working man, and with his determination and work ethic he built a beautiful life for his family. A self-made man, he proudly worked full-time as a real estate developer until the day of his passing. He never slowed down, always exhibiting a larger-than-life personality. Behind a strong willed business demeanor, however, lay a heart of gold. He and his wife felt an obligation to give to those who were less fortunate, especially the children and the town of Chesterfield, where he resided for the past 20 years. Despite his personal and professional successes, Mr. Chakalos carried a special humility and compassion, always reaching out to those in need — often anonymously. He was baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church and extended his generosity to the church throughout his life.

Mr. Chakalos will be remembered by thousands for his acts of kindness and generosity. Every Christmas for the last decade Mr. and Mrs. Chakalos opened their home in New Hampshire to the public to view his extraordinary display of lights. Christmas was Mr. Chakalos' favorite holiday, as he loved spending time with his family and wanted to extend that joy to others. Donations made at the entrance went to the local food pantry.

His life is a living testament to the American Dream: through hard work, family values and a lifelong marriage, he achieved what we all aspire to become. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Survivors include his daughters, Elaine J. Chakalos of West Hartford, Conn., Linda Carman of Middletown, Conn., Charlene Gallagher of Hampstead, N.C., Valerie Santilli and her husband, Lawrence, of West Hartford, Conn.; his grandchildren, Haley and Colin Massie, Nathan Carman, Nash and Colton Gallagher, Zoe and Christian Santilli; his step-grandchildren, “Little” Larry Santilli and Krista Santilli; his sister, Vivian Nikkanen and her husband, Pentti; his brother-in-law, Greg Contas; his sister-in-law, Dorothy Oszurek; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to Mr. Chakalos' wife and parents, his sisters, Helen Chakalos, Vasiliki “Kiki” LaPenna, Julia Burkhart and Georgia Contas, and his brother-in-law, Nicholas LaPenna, died earlier.

Family and friends gathered at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home on Sunday evening, December 29 for visitation and a Trisagion (Τρισάγιον) Service. A funeral service was held at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hartford, Conn. on Monday morning, Dec. 30, followed interment in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

Donations in his memory may be made to the John and Rita B. Chakalos Fund for the Children of Chesterfield, c/o Paul Sterczala, 4 Corporate Drive, Suite 488, Shelton, Conn. 06484.



## Obituary: Alexander J. Blastos

*From the NH Union Leader, January 5, 2014*

Alexander J. Blastos, 73, resident of Milford, NH, died on January 2, 2014, at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Lynn, MA on November 4, 1940, a son of James K. and Sophia (Bardis) Blastos. He graduated from Windsor High School, Windsor, VT in 1958 where he played football, basketball, track and was a noted swimming champion.

Al received a B.S. degree from Castleton State College, Castleton, VT in 1962. He began his teaching career in one room school house in the State of Vermont through the Ford Foundation while he was attending Castleton Sate College in his freshman year. He went on to sign his first contract to teach at Rutland, Vermont Junior and Senior High School during his junior year at college.

He earned his Master's degree in Guidance and Administration in 1965 from Keene State College. He went to Groton, Massachusetts where he became the assistant principal and science/math teacher at the Groton Elementary School.

In 1968, he was employed as the Elementary Principal of the Gilford, NH Elementary School. He was the state representative to the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

He became the assistant superintendent of schools for SAU 30. While in the Laconia-Gilford area, he was a member and past president of the Rotary Club and a part-time police officer.



In 1978, he became the superintendent of schools for SAU 41 (Amherst, Hollis and Brookline), and later for SAU 39 (Amherst) and acting superintendent for SAU 21 (Hampton). In 1985, he began his employment with the N.H. State Department of Education as curriculum supervisor of staff development and served for more than 20 years as assistant administrator.

Al was predeceased by his four siblings, Michael Blastos, Constantine Blastos, Louis Blastos and Kathryn Costes.

Family members include his wife of 31 years, Lee Ann (Young) Blastos of Milford; three sons, Alexander J. Blastos of Inverness, Fla., Christopher W. Blastos and his wife, Tiffany, of Mont Vernon, Nicholas G. Blastos and his wife, Grayson, of Aspen, Colo.; four grandchildren, Ryan, Joshua, Alexis and Siena; and the beloved family includes his mother-in-law, Ruth A. Young of Bedford; sisters-in-law, a brother-in-law, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

We extend our sympathy to Carolyn Blastos and the Blastos family.

Funeral services were held on at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Manchester followed by burial in Riverside Cemetery, Milford. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the New England Heart Institute, Office of Philanthropy, 100 McGregor Street, Manchester, 03103.

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## THE OPENING OF THE SAINT GEORGE GREEK SCHOOL

The Lord in His mysterious way has put all the factors in place for us to have a Greek language school at Saint George. The Saint George Greek School officially started on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Fifty-five of our parishioners of all ages have signed up for five different levels:

Toddler Play Group, Beginner, First, Second, and Conversational Greek.

The Director of the School, Kyria Avey Andonellis, is very pleased that so many of you want to learn Greek. It is our faith and the preservation of our roots that keep us together. The school needs volunteers to read and sing songs with the students in Greek and help with various activities throughout the month.

Please contact Kyria Avey at: [avyeandonellis@gmail.com](mailto:avyeandonellis@gmail.com) or (603) 354-0181.

## Children Singing Kalanda

*By Vasiliki Moore*

A new tradition was born in our community of St. George - children singing the Kalanda. With the help of adults Avye Andonellis, Pres. Candace, Fr. Leo, Vasilissa Balkanikos, and Tasia Pananas, the children of St. George sang the Kalanda on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> during fellowship hour. In addition to the singing, there were percussion instruments such as triangles. Special mention should be made to Anamaria Pananas who accompanied them on the saxophone to the delight of all. Thank you to all the participants, adults and children, who made this such a special and wonderful performance.

The singing was beautiful and our parish was delighted by the performance, with many joining in this festive and joyful tradition. During the time between Christmas and Epiphany in Greece, Kalanda are sung to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas. Children present coin boxes that they have decorated and present them to the homes they sing in. In our church community, our parish provided candies, coins, and treats for the children's beautifully decorated boxes.

We hope to make the Kalanda singing at St. George an annual event. Καλή Χρονιά to all!



Kalanda performers



The children were treated to a special breakfast before their performance

## Help Needed for Fellowship Hour

Each Sunday after services, fellowship hour gives us an opportunity to chat with family and friends; to meet new friends; and to welcome newcomers into our church, whether they are considering becoming members or just passing through Keene. The children love playing with their friends and sometimes they participate in games and activities.

In addition to socializing, everyone loves food, particularly those who have fasted for Holy Communion. Here are some ways you can help to make fellowship hour happen each week!



- ◆ Offer to host a fellowship hour
- ◆ Help with set-up and clean-up
- ◆ Bring food to share at fellowship hour
- ◆ Donate disposable plates, plastic utensils, or paper towels
- ◆ Donate ground coffee (regular and decaf)
- ◆ Make a cash donation to pay for supplies and food (put "Fellowship Hour" in the memo line).



Please sign up to host a fellowship hour on the sign-up sheet in Hellenic Hall or see Maria Bradshaw at church or call her at 603-357-2143 if you are willing to help in any way. Thank you!



## Newsletter Sponsorship

Sponsorship helps offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter.

In the past, people have used sponsorship:

To honor a family member ◆ To commemorate an event or milestone ◆ In memory of loved ones

To acknowledge or celebrate a church event or holiday ◆ To publicize one's business

Suggested donation: ½ page: \$130.00 ◆ small box: \$75.00 (see examples on back page of newsletter)

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*\* Not all months are available as some are already reserved.*

*Make check payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Write "Newsletter Sponsorship" in the memo line.*

*Return this form to Popey Pitsas or e-mail your message to Popey at [PanosPit33@msn.com](mailto:PanosPit33@msn.com).*

*We can help with formatting and layout. For more information, call Popey at (603) 827-3775 or see her at church.*

You may mail this form and check to St. George Church, 70 West Street, P.O. Box 392, Keene, NH 03431-0392



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## **Αποκριάτικο (Αποκριάτικο) Mardi Gras Dance**

Saturday, February 22, 2014

In Hellenic Hall

You won't want to miss this evening of food  
and fun for the whole family!

*Watch for details!*

## **Happy 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Boy Scouts of America**

Founded February 8th, 1910

*St. George Church will recognize the Boy Scouts of America on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Welcome Troop 18

### **St. George Greek Orthodox Eagle Scouts:**

Stavros Ballas  
Christopher Ballas  
Peter Bradshaw  
Louis N. Kolivas

Nicholas L. Kolivas  
John Nikiforakis  
Peter G. Nikiforakis  
Steven Nikiforakis

