



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

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

The Rev. Dr. Eugen J. Pentiu, Pastor

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December 2016 Newsletter

Services Every Sunday / Κυριακή

Divine Liturgy (Θεία Λειτουργία)

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 4, 2016 10th Sunday of Luke

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29;4:1-5

Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17

Sunday, December 11, 2016- 11th Sunday of Luke

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Sunday, December 18, 2016- Sunday before Nativity

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

Gospel: Luke 1:1-25

Sunday, December 25, 2016 The Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 NO SERVICES

Sunday, January 1, 2017 Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus

Vasilopita Sunday

Epistle: St Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12

Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Sunday, January 8, 2017 Sunday after Epiphany

The Blessing of the Waters and Stewardship Sunday.

Epistle: St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Community Prayer List

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

Pat Blastos

Bill Ellis

Jim Jangarathis

Katherine Koutras

Vasiliki Moore

Mark Raheb

Eugenia Petrou-Karabakakis

Jennie Canwell

Margaret Ioannou

Maria Korfiatis

Hristianna Lanoue

Diane Raheb

We strive to keep this list current. If you feel a name should be removed from the list or if you would like a new name placed on the list, please contact Heather Riley (contact information is on the left).

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Heather Riley, Editor-in-Chief

Fr. Eugen Pentiu, Presiding Pastor

Desktop Publishing: Heather Riley

Council Liaison: Kathy Nikiforakis

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Distribution: Margaret Ioannou

Send newsletter submissions and questions to church, attention: Heather Riley: (603) 352-0173
e-mail scrapbookingriley@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:00 pm, which will include Christmas Carols following the Liturgy. After services, please bring a dessert to share and stay for a Dessert Social in the church hall.

There will NOT be a service on December 25, 2016.

Prosforo Bakers

The Greek word for Altar bread is prosforo, which means "an offering to God." The altar bread represents Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

All of the Prosforo bread is baked by parishioners and brought to the Priest for each celebration of the Divine Liturgy. This is an act of stewardship by giving of our time and talents.

Thank you to all the prosforo bakers! If you are interested in baking, contact Marya Koskoris at (802) 257-3519.

October Fotini Glimenakis and Mary & Julia Booras

November Vasilissa Balkanikos and Maria Glimenakis.



Thank you!!!!



THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

Hello,

I wanted to introduce myself since I will be putting together the newsletter for St. George. My name is Heather Riley (formerly Truman). I live in Keene with my husband, Alan.

My family grew up in Buffalo NY. My father's family was Greek Orthodox. I feel blessed, to have been brought up in this faith and culture. I consider my relatives great role models as they were wonderful people who were dedicated to their faith, church, and family. Growing up, we were taught that volunteering was an essential part of giving back to the church and for those in our community. I have never forgotten those lessons. It is with their influences, that I find myself wanting to do what I can to give back to the community both my church community and my local community. I believe that stewardship comes in many forms and through our collected efforts we can continue grow our congregation and share in our faith.

It is my hope that this newsletter will continue to be the wonderful resource to us all moving forward. This is a great way for us to stay connected to what is going on at the church but also to stay connected to each other. I welcome your submissions and input, please email me any ideas! Again, thank you for your patience and for allowing me to serve St George in this capacity.

Heather Riley

WELCOME THE VISITOR FROM HEAVEN *by Father Theodore Stylianopoulos. (re-printed Dec. 2011 message)*

An old story is told about a man of incomparable love who devoted his life to help the needy. One evening, as he passed through a village, he spotted a child standing all alone by a bridge. The child, cold and hungry, seemed to be looking for someone. “My child,” the man said gently, “what are you doing out here in the dark? Whom are you looking for?” The child replied simply: “I am waiting for God.” The man asked: “But why out here?” The child explained: “I was living with my mother in this village. But she became sick and died. Before she died, she gave me a hug and said that God would take care of me. I waited a long time, but He did not come. So I came out to look for Him myself.” Deeply moved, the man went down on one knee, looked in the eyes of the child with great love and said: “My child, you have found Him at last.”

The story is a parable about pure compassion and selfless love. The man in the story represents Christ the Savior. Christ came into the world looking for the lost sheep—the stressed, the confused, the burdened, the lonely, the troubled, the sick, the angry, the contentious, the sinful. The child symbolizes humanity, which for ages has travelled the road of history, always looking for the absolute as the source and basis of truth, security, fulfillment, and hope. For centuries men and women have stood by diverse bridges searching and waiting for God, until at last in the mystery of the Incarnation God Himself came to earth to find humanity and to embrace it in all its trials and tribulations. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have life everlasting” (John 3:16).

A Christmas hymn celebrates the welcome news of the Visitor from heaven (“Epeskepsato Imas”). It speaks of Christ the Heavenly Visitor who comes like a supreme dawn of light shining upon a dark world. Here is a simple translation of the hymn: “Our Savior has visited us from on high, the supreme dawn of light. And we, living in shadow and darkness, have found the truth. For indeed Christ was born of the Virgin.” The Visitor came not just in passing but to unite Himself with our human nature, to talk with us and teach us, to touch us and heal us, to shine His grace and glory upon us, to share His life and love with us, that no darkness, no fear, no trial can ever prevail against us. Those who welcome the Heavenly Visitor in their hearts and lives, those who love Him and follow Him, know with St. Paul that “neither things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

Behind the music, the colors, and spirit of the “twelve days of Christmas” from Christmas day to Epiphany (January 6) is the remembrance and celebration of the coming of the Heavenly Visitor. On Christmas, we observe His birth. On January 1 we remember His circumcision in fulfillment of the Law of Moses. On Epiphany or Theophany, the Blessing of the Waters, we celebrate His baptism as the beginning of His ministry and revelation to the world. If we exchange gifts, it is because He is God’s greatest gift to us. If we rejoice and sing songs, it is because we hear the good news of great joy from the Angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all” (Luke 2:10-13). If we are inspired by lights and colors, it is because He is the Light of the world who declared: “whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:2).

Welcome the Heavenly Visitor! Receive Him in your heart. Put Him at the center of your life. Not only as the Child in the manger, a symbol of holy innocence and purity, but also as the adult Christ who calls to spiritual conversion of heart and mind, to love and forgive each other, to take up the cross of faithful obedience to His example and teachings. Whatever bridge of life you may be crossing and standing by, look for Him. Welcome Him. Follow Him. For He is Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23), both Incarnate and Risen, who will be with us to the end of the ages (Matthew 28:20). May His presence and power, grace and goodness, joy and peace be with us during the holy days ahead and throughout the New Year.

Thank you to our 2016 Stewards!
2017 Stewardship Sunday will be January 8th, 2017.

<p>Harry & Angeline Ackerman Theo Anagnostaras Panayiotis & Avey Andonellis Peter Antonopoulos & Ellen Spielberg John & Sandra Apostoles Michael & Christa Athanasopoulos Vasilios & Abigail Athanasopoulos Charalampos & Vasilissa Balkanikos Aspasia Ballas James Bardis Edward & + <i>Tina</i> Beloyianis Carolyn Blastos Chris Booras Julia Booras Anna Bradshaw Peter & Maria Bradshaw Sarah Bradshaw Wayne & Jennie Canwell Don & Irene Cheek Heather Eakin Dean Eliopolous Bill & Elaine Ellis Peter Espiefs Louis & Lisa Giannakakos Charles Glimenakis</p>	<p>Chris and Fotini Glimenakis Sue Glimenakis Tony and Maria Glimenakis Maria Goodman Peter Gundelfinger & Suzanne Smiley Janet Harrison Despina (Evelyn) Hubal Margaret Ioannou Maria Ioannou Steven Ioannou George & Sigrid Karabakakis Stella Kiritsy Alexandra Kolivas Anastasia Kolivas Louis & Sue-Ellan Kolivas Nicholas Kolivas Marya Koskoris Paul and Barbara Koutras Paul Koutroubas Chris and Soula Lakin Athanasios (Tommy) Leristis Dimitri and Maria Leristis Stavroula Leristis Christene Libbares Giota Livanis Nickolas Lupinin & Susan Karalekas Sophia MacKinnon</p>	<p>Susan Maydwell + <i>Peter & Estelle Merzi</i> Mary Michaelides Bill & Flo Nestor George & Cindy Nikiforakis Paul & Kathleen Nikiforakis Angelo & Tasia Pananas Christofily Papadopoulos Lena Pappas Maria Pappas Stephen & Joan Pappas Roger & Connie Phelps Panos & Merope Pitsas Diane Raheb Alan & Heather Riley Karen Schwindt George Simopoulos Athanasios and Rachel Skipitaris George & Youla Skipitaris Cornelius (David) Szuster + <i>Chris Tasoulas</i> Georgia Tasoulas Joe Truman Elias & Lambrini Tsitsonis Douglas Walker & Andrea Polizos Kevin & Lisa Warren Lazaros Xanthopoulos Morfia Zahos</p>
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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America message on Stewardship:

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty, and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox faith to become practicing stewards. Each year the steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and/or treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries.

Obituaries:

Sophia J. MacKinnon, 84, of Keene, passed away at Keene Center Genesis on October 22, 2016 with friends and family by her side. She was born February 8, 1932, daughter of Sonia (Licechewicz) and John Lonsky. She was a life-long resident of Keene and attended area schools.

Sophia worked in the Copy Department of the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds for more than 35 years. She was a social woman who enjoyed lunch outings with her coworkers and with the ladies from the Greek Orthodox Church where she attended holiday services. She had a great love of animals, especially the neighborhood cats and dogs. Crossword puzzles and playing Bingo were some of her favorite activities, but they never compared to her excitement of playing the lottery. She always spoke her mind and you always knew where you stood; however, Sophia is remembered as lovable character with a kind heart.

Survivors include her cousin: Donna Pentz and her husband, Patrick, of Keene; her life-long friend: Jennie K. Canwell of Keene; and her dear friend: Coralee DiMeco and her husband, Edward, of Keene. She is predeceased by her loving husband, Robert MacKinnon, and brother, Michael J. Lonsky.

A time of visitation took place at the Fletcher Funeral Home, 33 Marlboro Street, Keene, NH on October 26, 2016 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A graveside service was held in the family plot at the Woodland Cemetery in Keene on October 27, 2016 at 10:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sophia J. MacKinnon's name to the Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH 03446 (www.MonadnockHumaneSociety.org)

Tina Beloyianis May 12, 1925 - September 20, 2016

We are saddened to hear of the repose of Tina Beloyianis, 91, of Flushing, New York.

Over the decades, Tina and her husband Eddie took time out of their busy lives to spend time at their second home in Vermont, attending St. George when they were in the area. Many of us got to know and love both Tina and Eddie.

Frederick Funeral Home in Flushing, New York was in charge of the funeral arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 196-10 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY, 11358.

We send our deepest sympathy to Eddie Beloyianis and family.



**May their
Memories
be
Eternal!**

The Cross is the Key

The Gospel narratives bear witness to the earthly life of Jesus Christ. God's Son and the Messiah promised by God through the prophets, the divinity of Christ was not immediately recognized by those who were closest to Him. Rather, like Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, Christ's disciples called Him "*Rabbouni*, that is to say, Teacher" (John 20:16). The single exception happened when Peter said He was "the Son of God, the living One", to which Christ responded, "Happy art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood did not reveal this to thee, but My Father Who is in the heavens" (Matthew 16:16—17). Why were the disciples so slow to recognize Christ as the Son of God? And why was the one who did recognize Him told that this information had been revealed by God? Because they lacked the key to understanding—the Cross.

Prior to the Resurrection, Christ had not yet fully revealed Himself as God, so the disciples were unable to recognize Him as the fulfillment of Scripture. For this reason, Christ knew that Peter's response was inspired by God and was not the product of his own rational analysis. But after the Resurrection, through the Cross, the disciples came to know Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He appeared to them on the Road to Emmaus and "went on interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27). Finally, when "He took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and was giving it to them...Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him" (Luke 24:30—31).

After the Resurrection, through the reading of Scripture and the breaking of bread, Jesus was recognized as the Son of God. This is exactly what we do every Sunday morning! At Divine Liturgy, we read from the Epistles and the Gospels, and we break bread during the Eucharist. Therefore, in terms of recognizing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the disciples who knew Him in the flesh had no advantage over us who are living two-thousand years later.

God fully revealed Himself to humanity at the Crucifixion because His "power is being made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Christ had been abandoned by His disciples, humiliated, beaten, and hung on the Cross. At the moment of death, Jesus as a Man was at His weakest state, but Jesus as the Son of God was made perfect (His two natures being united in one Person). Holy Scripture can often be interpreted on multiple levels, and the Cross is the key to unlocking these levels, because it represents the Crucifixion and the Resurrection as a single event.

The Cross also represents the weapon of God's victory over His enemies. The enemies of God are sin and death, and Divine Liturgy is a celebration of His victory over them. It is a victory that is continually being accomplished in the eternal now (the present moment). The Cross, as the symbol of God's victory, is what allows us to declare, along with Peter, that Christ is "the Son of God, the living One". It allows us to see harmony in the Bible, in that everything points to Jesus Christ. The disciples, familiar as they were with what is now called the Old Testament, did not perceive holy Scripture as a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Inspired writing cannot be separated from inspired reading. At the most basic level, Scripture is history. To those who nurture doubt in their hearts, Scripture is full of contradictions. But in the hands of the faithful, Scripture comes to life. It is God's revelation of Himself to humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ, which we can understand when we read the Bible through the lens of the Cross.

Submitted by Cornelius Szuster

(based on a lecture by Fr. John Behr, Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary)



Trivia Corner:

Answer the following Questions. Take the first letter of each answer and unscramble them to make this month's word. Good Luck!

This person is important in Greece as the patron saint of sailors. _____

Kourambiethes sweet cookies with _____ and dusted with powdered sugar

Melomakarona: _____-dipped cookies often stuffed and sprinkled with walnuts

Matthew 6:21, For where your _____ is, there your _____ will be also.

For the love of _____ is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1st Timothy 6:10

As each has _____, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have _____ life.

_____ : One of the basic functions of the human soul: the other is understanding.

_____ : is a person authorized to perform the sacred rituals

_____ : a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality

On _____, in Greece, children traditionally sing Christmas carols (kalanda) from door to door.

_____ : God or Jesus Christ as the redeemer of sin and saver of souls.

_____ Answer

OPA!!!



People are still talking about OPA! What wonderful memories.



**Saint George Greek Orthodox
Church**
70 West Street, PO Box 392
Keene, NH 03431-0392

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Answers to Trivia Corner:
St. Nicholas, Almonds, Honey, Treasure and heart,
money, received a gift, Eternal, Will, Priest,
Incarnation, December 24, Savior

In Loving memory of George F. Ioannou
You are always in our hearts forever,
your Beloved Wife, Children, Grandchildren &
Great-Grandchildren

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ αὐτοῦ ἡ ΜΝΗΜΗ / Memory eternal....

