



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

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

The Rev. Dr. Eugen J. Pentiu, Pastor

Church phone: 603-352-6424; Fr. Eugen's phone: 617-850-1543

Email addresses: StGeorge.Keene@ne.rr.com; epentiu@hchc.edu

Website: www.stgeorgekeene.org

Winter 2017-2018 Newsletter

Services Every Sunday / Κυριακή

Divine Liturgy (Θεία Λειτουργία)

10:00 a.m.



Merry Christmas!

Please join us for these special services and events during this holiday season.

Christmas Eve Day Sunday Liturgy
at 10am

Christmas Eve Service Sunday
December 24th at 5pm

Vasilopita - Sunday January 7th

Blessing of the Waters - January 7th

Stewardship Sunday - January 14th

Donate to St. George

Saint George is supported through the generous donations and volunteer work of its parishioners. Please consider making a donation to help ensure that this parish will continue to be here for generations to come. If you choose the 'Unspecified Fund,' your donation will go towards our general operating budget. Thank you!

Nativity Fast

November 15 - December 24

Fish permitted on all days except Wednesday and Friday of each week through December 12; after December 12th

Strict Fast; follow a vegan diet until the Eve of the Nativity.

Sunday Spiritual Information and Readings

December 3: 14th Sunday of Luke
Gospel: Luke 24: 1-12
Ephesians 5: 8-19

December 10: 10th Sunday of Luke
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
Ephesians: 6:10-17

December 17: 11th Sunday of Luke
Gospel: Luke 24: 36-53
Colossians 3:4-11

December 24: The Sunday before Nativity
Gospel: John 20:1-10
Hebrews 11: 9-10; 32-40

December 31: Sunday before Epiphany
Gospel: John 20:11-18
II Timothy 4: 5-8

Jan. 7: Synaxis of John, Holy Glorious Prophet
Gospel: John 20: 19-31
Acts 19: 1-8

Jan. 14: Leavetaking of the Theophany of Jesus
Gospel: John 21:1-14
Ephesians: 4:7-13

Jan 21: 15th Sunday of Luke
Gospel: John 21:14-25
I Timothy 4:9-15

Jan. 28: Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20
II Timothy 3: 10-15

Feb 4: Sunday of The Prodigal Son
Gospel: Mark 16: 1-8
I Corinthians 6: 12-20

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures.

The story of the Nativity, can be found in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David, who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said:

"Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. The shepherds were awed. They decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem, to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

ORTHODOX PRAXIS

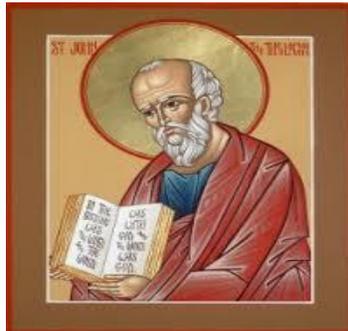
This is a new section of the Newsletter where praxis* of our Orthodox faith at St. George will be highlighted.

TEACHING TABLE

We discuss Orthodoxy with Father Eugen at the “Teaching Table” during Fellowship Hour right after Liturgy. Several of us have been doing this for two months now. The discussions have ranged from topical ones pertaining to the day’s Gospel reading to a line-by-line discussion about the Lord’s Prayer. It is guided by Fr. Eugen and James Nemkovich, the seminarian assigned to our Parish. The discussion is informal and all ages are welcome. Bring your coffee and your questions and sit with us this Sunday.

“ASK FR. EUGEN” Question Form

The following Q & A form will be available at the candle stand. You may fill it out and Fr. Eugen will answer a few after The Divine Liturgy ends. Any questions, which are left over, can be discussed at the aforementioned “Teaching Table” in the Hellenic Hall during Fellowship Hour.



ASK FR. EUGEN

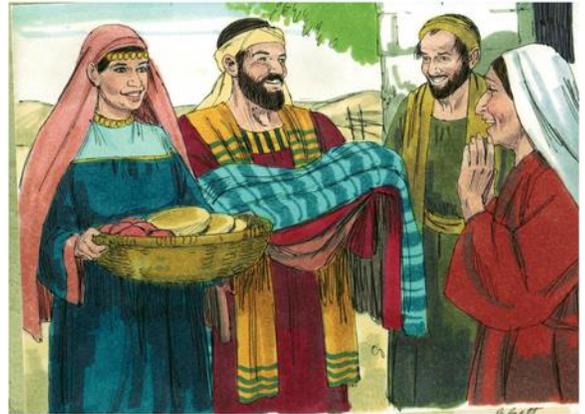
Do you have a question about the Orthodox Faith?

If so, write it below and Fr. Eugen will answer questions submitted after The Divine Liturgy & the remainder during a “Teaching Table” discussion during the Fellowship Hour, God willing.

Fr. Eugen Pentiu is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

St. George Believers Box

We moved house in May and in going through all the moving boxes, we discovered we have too much of everything. It makes sense to share our material blessings with our fellow Parishioners like the first century believers did. If you are likeminded, you can place your extra, IN GOOD CONDITION, stuff in this box. JUST NO JUNK. You can recycle or throw that away yourself! The idea is: "If I've got 2, here's 1 for you!" The Believers Box is located on the stairs near the back entrance. This is something we can continue all year round. **Items will be available to our parishioners first.** Anything left over will be donated to the appropriate local charities.



Acts 4:32-35

The Believers Share Their Possessions

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

***Definition of PRAXIS** (FROM MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY)

plural praxes play \ 'prak- , sēz \

1: ACTION, PRACTICE: such as **a** :exercise or practice of an art, science, or skill

b :customary practice or conduct

2: practical application of a theory

Contributed by Avey Andonellis

If you have an Orthodox Praxis to submit to this page, please contact Avey.

Work at it with All Your Heart: Stewardship Message 2018, Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism

Saint Phocas was a gardener and Saint Euphrosinos was a cook. They are not known as “Phocas the Great” or “Euphrosinos the Theologian.” Known instead by the work they did, they became saints of the Church. We know that service to God and His Church is sacred, and because of this we strive to serve and support the Church. But is it possible for our work to be sacred? Can we be Christian stewards of our work? According to Saint Porphyrios, “At your work, whatever it may be, you can become a saint through meekness, patience, and love.”

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”(Genesis 2:15). God put man in the garden to *work*. It is part of God’s plan for us that we work. In Exodus we read, “Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest....” The world has changed, very few of us are called to work the land, and our work week may not be six days, yet we are created and called by God to work, and we can serve him through our work.

Some are blessed to follow a career path to a life’s work bringing satisfaction. Others may work in a position that may not appear to be spiritually or emotionally fulfilling. In whatever type of work we find ourselves, our work can become sacred when we dedicate it to God. In the words of Mother Theresa, “Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do, but how much love we put into it.”

Life on earth is a gift. The work we do is also a gift if we see it as an opportunity to serve God and others. Saint Paul instructs us, “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....*” (Colossians 3:23). *When we see our work in this way, we are able to become Christian stewards of our work.*

Stewardship of work teaches us that we don’t own our work, our position, our title. We are only stewards of a position for a period of time. We are responsible to fulfill our duties and to prepare it for the person that will follow us in that position. We may also have the opportunity to mentor the person that will assume our position when we move on, empowering them to apply their particular gifts and talents to take the position to the next level.

Christian stewardship of work also teaches us that we are responsible to those with whom we work and those that may be served by our work. We are called to reflect the light of Christ in their lives, encourage them, support them and even love them. We are also stewards of our co-workers inasmuch as we cooperate and support them in their efforts for the good of all.

Saint Phocas the Gardener lived in the late 3rd Century, in the ancient region of Paphlagonia (now northern Turkey). Phocas lived humbly on the sale of fruits and vegetables he would grow in his garden. Through his work, Phocas fed the hungry and gave shelter to those in need. Because of his dedication to his work and his generosity to those in need, he became a Christian example to others. Even the non-believers treated him with respect, and by his Christ-like manner, many were drawn to the Christian Faith.

Saint Euphrosynos worked as cook in a monastery in Palestine, serving the brother monks humbly and faithfully. The others were not aware of the depth of his spiritual growth until it was revealed in a dream to a priest-monk of the monastery and then related to the brother monks. Euphrosynos is known to us by his humble work – Saint Euphrosynos the Cook.

In times of trouble or worry, especially over our career, we call upon God to strengthen us, to provide opportunity and to bring us success. When we achieve some measure of worldly success, it is easy to say to ourselves as we read in the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy (8:17), “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But the next verse quickly reminds us, “Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what it left after everything else has been taken care of.

In whatever work we do, we are called to give glory to God for the abilities and opportunities he provides. We do this by caring for the work we do, applying our God-given abilities to our work, and by respecting the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted. We do our best and give the glory to God.

Proverbs 19:17

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”

Project Share

Help provide the magic of Christmas for a child in need. Watch for names and items needed, posted in Hellenic Hall during fellowship hour.

Project Share Thrift Store is located in the basement of the Keene Recreation Dept in Keene, NH. It is non-profit and has been in operation since 1969. It is currently run by 3 local volunteers. It is the oldest and most reasonably priced thrift store in the area. Project Share carries items such as gently used and NEW clothing, household items, linens, blankets, books, small furniture, shoes, purses, NEW toys, craft items along with a variety of misc... at low cost to the general public.

In November, the thrift store closes and use all proceeds collected throughout the year to brighten local children's lives whom otherwise would not have a Christmas. The program provides Christmas gifts including clothing and items from each child's wish list.



How can we help our fellow neighbors in our community:

The Holidays puts tremendous stress on food pantries.

They are often pushed to the edge of their resources.

January is the toughest time of all for contributions, and needs do not go away after the holidays.

- Consider donating cash as well as food items
- Help with meals, local kitchen could use help with cooking and serving food, cleaning, etc.

Nursing Homes - A friendly face can bring extra cheer around the Holiday's to residents who may not have many visitors or contact during the holidays.

Donations are also vital around the holidays, especially warm Clothing (Winter coats, sweaters, boots/shoes, or socks can make and boots/shoes) and blankets can make a huge difference for someone in need.

The holidays are a great time to clean out your closet and donate while you organize. Consider giving to some of the following:

- Hundred Nights Shelter
- Salvation Army
- Keene Family Shelter
- Southwester Community Services Household Goods program.
- Linda's Closet
- Community Kitchen



Holiday Reading Suggestions:

Celebrating The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Family Devotional in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition: by AmandaEve Wigglesworth

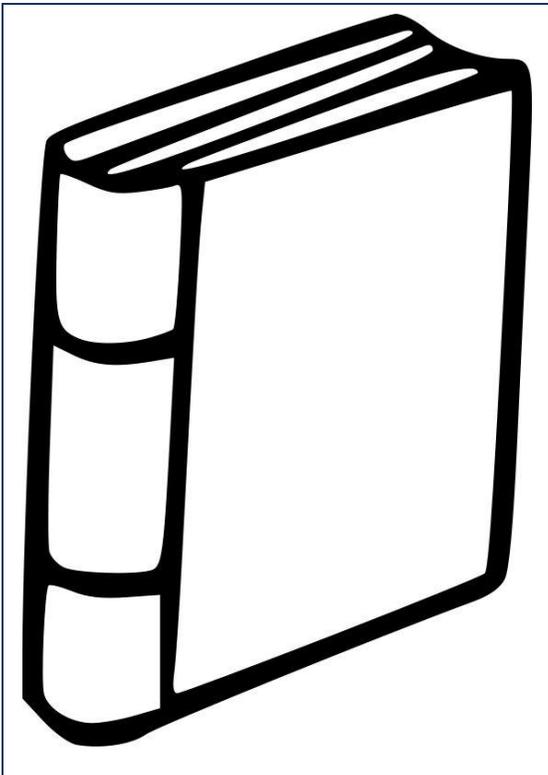
With hymns, stories, meditations, and activities for each day as well as suggestions for the whole season, Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas provides an invaluable resource for families looking to restore the season of Christmas to its rightful place in their lives

A Perfect Christmas by Dennis Eugene Engleman

A Perfect Christmas reclaims the spirit of Christmas from the commercial secularized culture of the "winter holidays" that has almost obliterated the Christian meaning of the celebration of the birth of Christ. In this mystical and beautiful story, past and present collide as a modern child meets the real "St.Nick." At the heart of this wonderful contemporary Christmas parable is a tale of compassion, shared love and family with a little of the real Saint Nicholas' life woven in.

The King is Coming: Advent & Christmas by W Deam Witten

Christ the King is coming! That is a central motif of God's Story of Salvation. This book is designed to help you relive the old, old story in present day America. Through Advent and Christmas, the church will bless us with biblical prophesies and gospel narratives, devotional reflections, hymns and prayers, sermons and sacraments. This devotional book is designed to enrich your spiritual life as you journey through the Advent and Christmas seasons of God's Salvation Story



Glory to You, O Christ our God, glory to You!

May Christ our True God, whose Nativity we celebrate,
Through the intercessions of His holy and pure Mother,
through the power of the life giving Cross, through the
protection of the Angelic Powers, through the prayers of
St. John the Baptist, the supplications of the Holy Apostles,
Martyrs, Fathers and Mothers of our Faith, and all the saints
have mercy on us and save us.
save us.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus
Christ our God have mercy on us and save us.



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Newsletter Editorial Staff

Heather Riley, Editor-in-Chief
Fr. Eugen Pentiu, Presiding Pastor

Council Liaison: Kathy Nikiforakis

Copy Editors: Maria Bradshaw, Elaine Ellis, Irene Cheek and Joe Truman

Distribution: Margaret Ioannou and Maria Bradshaw.

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

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