

ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

The Very Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 8
Nativity of the Theotokos

SEPTEMBER 10
Back to School
1st Day Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 14
Elevation of the Holy Cross

SEPTEMBER 15, 16
St. George Garage Sale

OCTOBER 21
Annual Fall Lebanese Breakfast

NOVEMBER 18
Ladies Fall Bake Sale

DECEMBER 6
St. Nicholas Day (games and activities
for children to follow church service)

Our Beloved Icons

Our third icon to be featured is that of **Prophet and King, Saint Solomon**, c. 970 B.C., whose feast day is celebrated on the Sunday of our Forefathers.

In last month's series on King David, in response to his confessing his many sins before God, the Lord said, "I will raise up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will prepare his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his throne forever" (2 Kgd. 7:12-13). God refers not only to David's son and successor Solomon, and his building of the Temple, but also points to the "kingdom" established by Christ, who would be born of David's line.

Prophet Solomon was born in Jerusalem, the son of King David and his wife Bethsheba, the widow of Uriah the Hittite. He was appointed by God as king shortly before his father, King David died. He asked God for wisdom to judge the Lord's people and to know good and evil. God granted this request. Despite his great wisdom and wealth, he married many wives who turned his

heart from God. Unfortunately, near the end of his life God declared He would dissolve the kingdom in the next generation.

For a long while, Solomon did keep God's commandments. He is considered the most wealthy of the Israelite kings named in the Bible and he built a temple using the vast wealth he had accumulated. This First Temple was necessary to house the Ark of the Covenant. The temple was decorated

with holy images of Cherubim, precursors to the icons we are adorning the walls of our temple with today.

Solomon's renowned wisdom is immortalized in books of Holy Scripture. We can read his words in the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and the Wisdom of Solomon are all attributed to him.

In the icon of Solomon, the words on his scroll



*Sponsorship of the **Prophet Solomon** icon at St. George Kearney, was offered by the William Suleiman Family*

refer to the fruits of his wisdom: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars" which is the start of a long metaphor on wisdom's virtues (Proverbs 9).



COULD THIS BE YOUR YEAR?



On September 1 the Church celebrates the beginning of the **Ecclesiastical New Year**. I know, seems a little strange to celebrate the New Year in September. Even though I'm considered a "cradle

orthodox" (born into an Orthodox family and baptized into the church as an infant), I was totally unaware how the "rhythm of the Church" could shape my life.

It wasn't until my husband finally had a true desire to learn about this faith called Orthodoxy, that I found myself looking for answers to questions that I didn't even know I had. And then I discovered that the church calendar offered to us something totally different than what we were used to, in our daily life. For example, after attending one of our first Saturday evening vesper services, we learned that the Church's day begins at sundown and not sunup. After spending 25+ years in a protestant faith, I had not fully grasped that the Church year is centered around the **events and the life of Jesus Christ**. Really? Through the majority of our married years and I "thought", because of our hectic lifestyles, we had no choice but to narrow it down to just TWO events - Christmas and Easter.

And then it happened – the greatest blessing was given to me, albeit a very painful moment in my life. (if you're new to orthodoxy, stick with me on this one as it's true, *good always comes out of bad*). One of our young sons joked to a friend, as we inhaled pizza at a nearby restaurant, that we were "E-C Christians". I smiled, (oh my) laughter tried to mask the pain but the knife cut way..... toodeep, piercing not only my heart but clear to **my very soul**. I knew then, I was in need of some serious intensive care!

I thank God He didn't let me down. My "ah-ha" moment happened in September, during one of my favorite times of the year. Perhaps it is yours too. The days become shorter, the air becomes cooler, beautiful fall flowers emerge and the leaves begin to change. I had always looked forward to this time of year – this beauty that surrounded me had always inspired me to cultivate a new sense of appreciation for the important things in my life. It's as if my body was being "reborn" and being given a new chance to do "things" differently. Sadly, the "things on my list" didn't include putting Christ first in my daily living. You see, I had

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

September 1st

★ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ★
FOR THESE VERY IMPORTANT
ORTHODOX FEAST & CHURCH DATES
2017 - 2018

Ecclesiastical Calendar 2017 - 2018

Pascha and The Twelve Great Feasts of the Church

Great and Holy Pascha is known as the Feast of Feasts and Festival of Festivals. It is the Day of Resurrection, the feast of complete joy, hope, and renewal. Twelve other great feasts highlight important events in the life of Christ and His Mother, the Theotokos.



Twelve Great Feasts

The Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8
The Elevation of the Holy Cross	September 14
The Presentation of the Theotokos	November 21
The Nativity of Christ	December 25
The Epiphany (Theophany) of Christ	January 6
The Meeting of Christ in the Temple	February 2
The Annunciation of the Theotokos	March 25
Palm Sunday	Sun. before Pascha
The Ascension of Christ	40 days after Pascha
Pentecost	50 days after Pascha
The Transfiguration of Christ	August 6
The Dormition of the Theotokos	August 15
All Saints Sunday	June 11

Moveable Ecclesiastical Dates

Triodion Begins	January 28
Sunday of Zacchaeus	January 21
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee	January 28
Sunday of the Prodigal Son	February 4
Sunday of Last Judgment (Meatfare Sun)	February 11
Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sun)	February 18
Great Lent Begins - Clean Monday	February 19
Sunday of Orthodoxy (Bring your Icons)	February 25
Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas	March 4
Sunday of the Holy Cross	March 11
Sunday of St. John the Ladder	March 18
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	March 25
Saturday of Lazarus	March 31
Palm Sunday	April 1
Holy (Good) Friday	April 6
Pascha (Our Easter)	April 8
Ascension	May 17
Pentecost, The Descent of the Holy Spirit	May 27
Holy Apostles Fast Begins	June 4 last 25 days
Western Easter	April 1



WE GET LETTERS . . .



Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits while I was recovering from my knee surgery. I love my St. George Family!
Tracey Shada

Thank you St. George!!

Thank you Father Christopher and everyone at the church for hosting the Abood Family. The memorial service was special and the lunch was great. It was a real treat to see old friends and meet other members of the church.

Best regards to all,
Dick Abood

“ TELL YOUR STORY ”

- Archbishop Michael

Let us hear from you!



Birthdays

September 4
Amy Hadley

September 10
Alexis Hadley

September 17
Kollins Maloley

September 24
Mary Maloley

September 27
Amanda Denny
Mark Buchman

GOD GRANT YOU
MANY YEARS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 1
Steve & Danielle Wolf

Donations *Gratefully Received*

A donation to **St. George Ladies Society** from the Shada family

A donation to **St. George Church** from Dick Abood

A donation to **St. George Church Building fund** from Anonymous

“Thank you for another fine Chronicle! Through God’s gifts and the creative abilities He is given to the people who create the newsletter, our St. George family is blessed.”

“Thank you for another wonderful issue! Glory to God!”

“Thank you so much for the Chronicle newsletter and sending it out to my family. My sister was not able to attend our family reunion so she really enjoyed reading about it and seeing the pictures in the newsletter. She looks forward to receiving the Chronicle to keep informed about what is going on with the church and the people. It is great for her and others that no longer live here. You do such a good job. Bless you.”

“What a fine newsletter you put out. Your articles and quotes from the holy fathers, inspire me to reach out more to my own church family. I’m trying to make more time to pray too. Keep up the good work, we enjoy reading it.”

“Thank you for such a wonderful newsletter and keeping us informed about our beloved St. George in Kearney. We share the newsletter by passing it on to other family members.”

“Thank you for the August Chronicle - it’s fabulous! I especially liked seeing the photo page of the VBS kids, their smiles and their highlights! They loved the splash-pad!”



“He who is kind to the poor, lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.”

- Proverbs 19:17

“There is no need of all to make long discourses; it is enough to stretch out one’s hand and say, “Lord as you will, and as you know, have mercy.” And if the conflict grows fiercer say, “Lord help!” God knows very well what we need and He shows us His mercy.”

- Abba Macarius

Please send additions or corrections to: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com or mail to 1505 Ave. G, Kearney NE 68847

MINISTRY UPDATES



UPDATE

"Camp St. Raphael is really fun. You can make tons of friends from all over the USA. There are plenty of activities for people who have different tastes, like canoeing and arts and crafts. The food isn't the best but it's worth the experience. Camp is like a bit of heaven on earth."



Gabriella



Juliana says, "Camp is amazing. There are too many good things to mention. Just so much fun!"



Our next meeting will be **Sunday, Sept. 3rd**, after Pot-Luck.

Our Annual **Lebanese Fall Breakfast** will be Saturday, October 21, 2017. The **Fall Bake Sale** has been set for November 18, 2017. Thank you for all that you do to help these two fund-raisers be successful events for St. George and our Ladies Society.



The first day of Sunday School is **September 10th**. We are excited to offer four classes this year. Miss Amy and Miss Ronda will teach ages 3 through Grade 1. Miss Kim and Miss Ashley will teach Grades 2-4. Kh. Anastasia will teach Grades 5-8 and Miss Sarah will teach Grades 9-12.

We're excited to start the new year with your kids! Thank you for letting us be a part of their learning and growing up with St. George. **See you on the 10th!**



• CALLING ALL MEN •



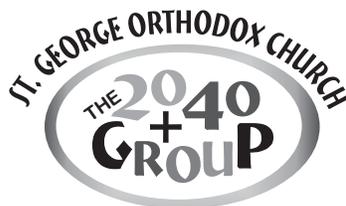
We will be starting a Men's Study Group this fall. More details will follow on an exact start date.

However, to stir your interest we will be starting our group with a 4 part series titled:

LIONHEART

This is a video series put out by **Faithtree**, an Orthodox study materials ministry out of California. This series will be a great opener for the men's group as it will focus on what it means to be a MAN in the Orthodox Church and in general society today.

Please stay tuned for more information and details as we nail down a start date and place. If you have further questions please feel free to reach out to Fr. Christopher or Gerald Rehtus.



The 20-40 group is looking for volunteer/service projects! Talk to Levi if you have ideas. Also, our group loves meeting at different places. Whether you are in the 20-40 group or just feel called to open your home as a meeting place, please talk to Levi or Sarah. We promise to pick up after ourselves!

Our next meeting will be **Sept. 17th**, (time TBA). Mike & Ronda Maloley have offered to host us - Thank you! We will have a Pot-Luck meal and members are encouraged to bring a fall-themed dish to share. What a fun way to welcome the church's **New Year** with food and fellowship. Thank you Mike and Ronda!

Any questions about our gathering, please talk to Amanda D. or Ronda. You can visit our **Facebook** page for more information as well.

Hope to see you September 17th!



makin' memories *by Ashley Maloley*



Maloley Reunion group photo taken Friday night, July 28, 2017

The Maloley Family met in Omaha July 28-30, 2017 for their Annual Maloley Reunion. We enjoyed a dinner at St. Mary's Orthodox Church Friday evening that included some ethnic foods that everyone enjoyed. Many members participated in our talent show also. It was so fun to see the kids share their talents with cousins from near and far. The best talent was Nimir playing the harmonica and Aunt Joyce accompanying him on the piano!

Saturday brought fun at Sky Zone, the trampoline park which included some "friendly" dodgeball competition and then on to Escape Omaha for us to try out our code cracking skills in the Escape Rooms. Saturday evening we met back at the hotel for pizza and snacks and lots of visiting, swimming, laughing, basketball, and remembering special times growing up and times with those in the family that are no longer with us.

We had 91 people attend some part of the reunion throughout the weekend and thoroughly enjoyed every minute! Family memories are such an important part of who we are and who we become!

I love the time with families, but enjoy watching my kids get to know their cousins of all ages most of all. The "boys" had an xbox and turned Kim Olson's room into the gaming room. There were boys ranging in age from 9 years old - 23 years old and they had a great time. We have had to call the Olson Boys a couple times for some gaming instruction since arriving back home!

Next year's reunion will be in Kearney, Nebraska July 27-29, 2018.



Nimir, John, Gary (aunt Joyce's husband) Joe Margo, Mary, Joyce, Linda

ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK

"A Father's work is never done"



★ BROTHERS ★



One of the best gifts our parents gave us, was each other

HOLY FIRE FROM JERUSALEM - 2017



A Gift to us from Fr. Alexii



(continued from page 2)

not made the connection that this time of year was also speaking to my **spiritual needs**. This cycle, beginning in September, is connected to something way more ancient and wiser than what our current world teaches. It invites us to actually participate, to “come taste and see” as we grow with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to be transformed into His likeness.

"Christ our Lord, You who provide the rains and fruitful seasons, and hear the prayers of those who humbly seek You, accept also our requests about our needs and concerns and deliver us from worry, danger and sin. Your mercies are as abundant as Your works. Bless all our activities, direct our steps by Your Holy Spirit, and forgive' our shortcomings. Lord, bless the year with Your goodness and make it a year of grace for all of us. Amen."
Matin Hymn, September 1st



Putting Christ first is the daily challenge before each of us. There is no set rules. It looks different for each of us because of where we are, when He meets us. (mine occurred in a noisy pizza shop). The good news is, He is always there “meeting” us. Open your eyes and look around, **He’s everywhere!**

As we prepare our resolutions for the new year, let’s plan now, to make time for the opportunities given to us through the beautiful rhythm of the church. Every new beginning invites each of us to the possibility of being transformed. Living a life for something bigger than myself has moved me into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and with each of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank God for His Mercy and for your prayers. No longer do we HAVE to attend church, for just two events in Christ’s life – we GET to honor and celebrate each great feast together, as we learn to walk daily with Him through the many events of **His Incredible Life**.

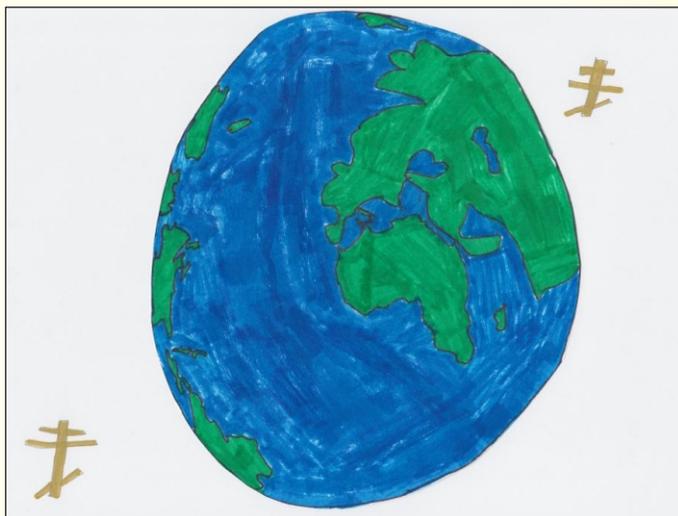
Thank you for sharing this journey with us and being a part of “our story”. Joanie and Mark ~ ~ ~

The Chronicle would like to hear from you. Tell us your story. How did you find the orthodox faith? St. George? Are you a cradle orthodox or a convert to the faith? We would like to know what makes St. George or your orthodox faith special to you. Please send your letter to the editor at: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL - 2017



Bronze Ribbon



“GOD’S WORLD” by Clay Maloley, age 8

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:



Thank you to the VBS Teachers and our talented graphic artist, Steve Wolf, who designed our shirt this year!

We loved our awesome T-shirts!

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

**WHAT IF
YOU WOKE UP
TOMORROW
WITH ONLY
WHAT YOU WERE
GRATEFUL FOR
TODAY?**

Happy 90th Birthday



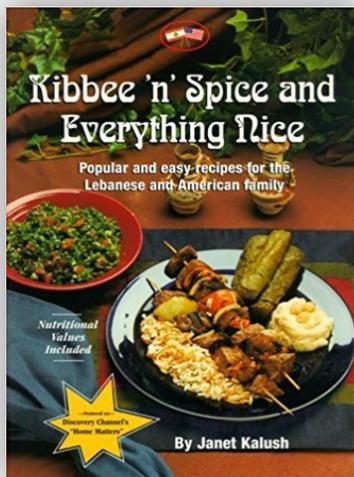
Beverly Shada
July 20, 1927

A card shower and cake reception was held in Beverly's honor. It was such a fun day for all of her family and friends to celebrate!

We would like to thank everyone who came to visit and to those who sent cards for her special 90th birthday.

Mt. Carmel is her new home. You're welcome to stop by for a visit when you can. She would enjoy seeing you.

**a COOKBOOK
JUST FOR YOU!**

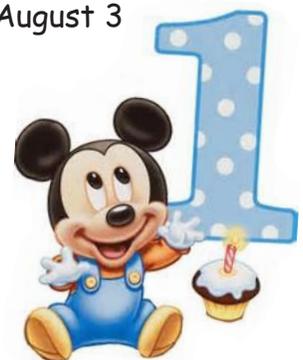


We have a few more "autographed" copies left - get yours today! This fun cookbook was authored by Jenny Bergt's niece, Janet Kalush. Read a heartwarming story as she recalls a memory of her grandma Rose making flat bread or affectionately called "Sito" Bread. Available for purchase from the **St. George Ladies Society** \$15.00



FOR ST. GEORGE
SEPTEMBER 15, 16
Friday eve & Sat. morning
Spread the word!

Matheus Rizk
August 3



Happy 1st Birthday

**P
R
A
Y**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**FALL
Lebanese 
Breakfast**

Saturday, Oct. 21

7:00 am

**1505 Ave G
Kearney, NE**



ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

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A parish of the Antiochian
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America, Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America
The Right Rev. BASIL, bishop

The Very Rev. Christopher Morris,
pastor
stgeorgekearney@yahoo.com

Design, Joanie Klein
Contact:
stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

Church Office Phone:
(308) 234-6969

Church website:
www.saintgeorgekearney.com

ST. GEORGE Year-to-date for 2017

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **August 30** ... We have received \$53,111 of the \$88,969 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of **August 30** ... We have received \$15,100 of the \$20,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

Thank you for your continued stewardship to St. George



NEW to St. George ORNATE CANDLE STAND

St. George was blessed to receive the **Holy Fire** (all the way from Christ's Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem). The Fire was brought to the USA, on a chartered flight. Shortly after Holy Pascha, Fr. Alexii of *Holy Archangel Michael & All Angels Skete*, in Cameron, MO received the Holy Fire in Chicago. In May, a candle was given to Fr. Christopher who in turn brought back the Holy Fire to St. George, Kearney!

Funds from the St. George Memorial account were used to purchase this beautiful decorative candle stand, which has found it's home near the Holy Doors, for all to see.

The faithful are encouraged to bring their candles from home – Fr. Christopher will be happy to light them. Parishioners can now have, for the **FIRST TIME**, the **holy light of Christ** in their homes and prayer corners.
Glory to God for His gifts!

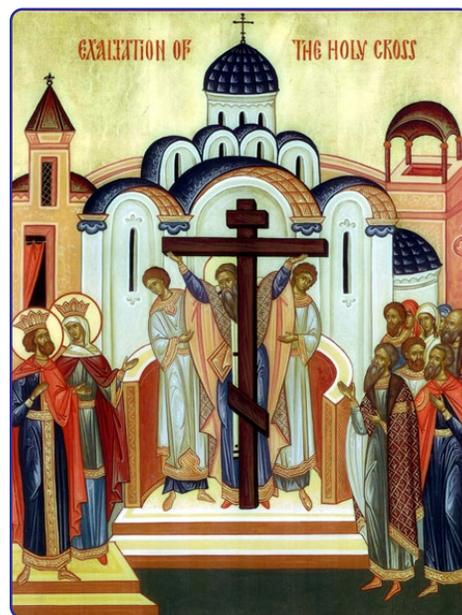
**“WE MUST NOT
LET ANY
SEASON
PASS
WITHOUT
THANKSGIVING”**
– St. Athanasius The Great

OUR FASTING DISCIPLINE DURING SEPTEMBER

The Traditional fasting discipline is observed during the month of September. We fast from meat, poultry, eggs, fish, dairy products, wine, and oil on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** during this time.

The **Elevation of the Cross**, Thursday, September 14th is a strict fast day.

THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Feast Day - September 14



“And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26