



# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## SAVE THE DATES

**LADIES BOOK STUDY**  
Starting a New Book!  
Monday, March 6th and 20th

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**  
Sunday, March 12

**PARISH LENTEN RETREAT**  
March 10 and 11

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
March 25

**SPRING BAKE SALE** - April 1

**LAZARUS SATURDAY** - April 8

**PALM SUNDAY** - April 9

**PASCHA** - April 16

**ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY**  
April 23

**BISHOP BASIL TO VISIT**  
April 22 and 23

## Our Beloved Icons *by Subdeacon John Wolf*

This month's icon is entitled "**The Descent of the Holy Spirit**"

The icon has the Apostles sitting, as on Mount Sion, representing the first Church community, the beginning of the Christian Church. They form a semicircle to express the unity of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.

**The icon is not a depiction of the historical events of Pentecost**, but it signifies that this is a great event for all time. As with many icons, the Apostles are pictured in an inverse perspective, the figures grow larger as they recede into the background. Also, the building that the Apostles were in, is shown as background.

**At the top of the icon is another semicircle, with rays coming from it.** The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the "tongues of fire" are seen descending upon each one

of them signifying the **descent of the Holy Spirit**. At the center of the group of Apostles, there is a place that is unoccupied. It is reserved for Christ, the invisible head of the Church. Some ancient icons symbolize Christ's invisible presence with an altar, the throne of His glory.

Clearly, no one else can be depicted here. The Apostles sit orderly, unlike the Ascension icon where they seem confused. **This is to show the gift of the Holy Spirit, the inner life of grace.** The gift to the Church. The group of twelve represents the Church, not just those mentioned in the book of Acts

as being with the others on the day of Pentecost.

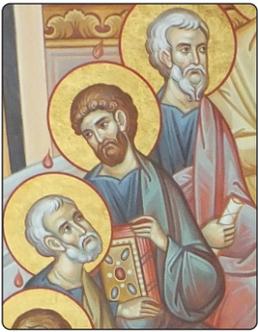


*Sponsorship of the **Descent Of The Holy Spirit** icon at St. George Kearney, was offered in honor of children and grandchildren by the John Morris Family*

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

Pictured in the icon is Paul, who became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Two of the



four Evangelists, **Matthew, and John, are shown holding the not yet written books of the Gospel.** Other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent

the teaching authority given to them by Christ.

In yet another semicircle, at the bottom of the icon, is a symbolic figure of a king. He is in a dark place that



represents the world enveloped by sin. **This one person represents the whole world that had formerly been without the light of faith.** The figure (named Cosmos) is shown coming out, into the light, having a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles.

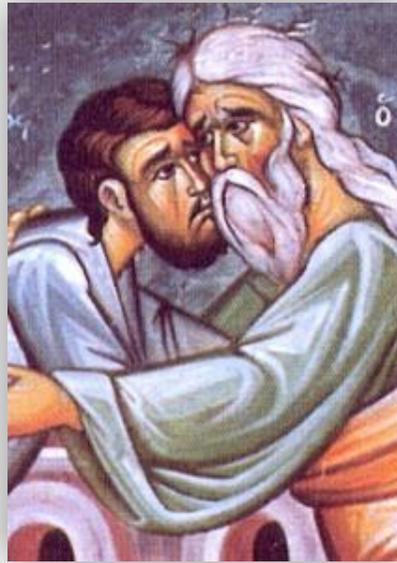
*Blessed art You O Christ Our God  
You have revealed the fishermen as most wise  
By sending down upon them the Holy Spirit  
Through them You drew the world into Your net  
O Lover of Man, Glory to You!*

**Troparion of the Feast**

*When the most High came down and confused the tongues,  
He divided the nations;  
But when he distributed the tongues of fire  
He called all to unity.  
Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!*

**Kontakion of the Feast**

## Metropolitan Joseph's Pastoral Message for the Great Fast 2017



*"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8*

Great Lent, 2017

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese:

The season of the Great Fast is upon us in preparation of the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ! Now is the time when the Orthodox Church invites her children to live His passion and sacrifice on the Cross to conquer sin and death, and take up abode in His Father's

mansions (John 14:2). The Church calls us during this season to a clearheaded reexamination of our lives and relationship with Christ; her Bridegroom. Now is the time to ask: have I been walking with Christ? Will I crucify the "old me" during this time and rise as the "new me" with a pure heart, mind, soul and body with the risen Christ, worthy to inherit His eternal kingdom? During this time, the soul is renewed every day and made beautiful with fasting, prayer and repentance. These days are also a sanctuary in which we all gather more frequently for worship in our churches and find spiritual stillness. One of the famed "doctors" of the Church explains this period for us:

*"Dedicated to the purification of the soul, let us be careful to fulfill the Apostolic command that we cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and of the spirit (II Cor. 7:11), so that ...the soul, which in the Providence of God is meant to be the ruler of the body, may regain the dignity of its rightful authority.... With just contempt shall we be tormented by those who have no faith, and from our wickedness evil tongues will draw weapons to wound religion, if the way of life of those who fast be not in accord with what is needed in true self-denial. For the sum total of our fasting does not consist in merely abstaining from food. In vain do we deny our body food if we do not withhold our heart from iniquity, and restrain our lips that they speak no evil."*

– Saint Leo the Great, *Lent the Season of Purification*

I pray this Great Lent will be for all of us a time of mercy given and received. I hope that we will focus our minds and our entire lives on Christ this Lent, both as a Church and as individuals, for He is the way, the truth, the Resurrection and the life.

Wishing you all of God's blessings, I remain,  
Your Father In Christ,

+JOSEPH  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

## Food For Hungry People Appeal

Great Fast, 2017

Let those of us who have wisely finished the course of fasting and who celebrate with love the beginning of the suffering of the Passion of the Lord, let us all, my brothers, zealously imitate the purity of self-controlled Joseph; Let us fear the sterility of the fig tree; Let us dry up through almsgiving the sweetness of passion. In order that we may joyously anticipate the Resurrection, let us procure like myrrh pardon from on high because the eye that never sleeps observes all things.



~ St Romanos the Melodist

Beloved in the Lord,

Blessings and greetings in the name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that you and your families are enjoying good health as we prepare to begin another Lenten journey that culminates in the death and resurrection of our Lord.

As we begin our journey to Pascha, we enter into a time of increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

To that end, we write to you today to usher in a program that has become synonymous with this holy period, the Food for Hungry People Program. This program, under the guidance of Miss Robin Nicholas, has helped countless numbers of people for decades. What I love about this program is that much of the money that is raised comes from the pennies, nickels, and dimes of the faithful adults and children of our parishes. It is amazing to think how our spare change can add up to so much!

As we begin a new fast, let us continue to strive to help those in need. As we abstain from foods and curtail our eating habits, let us set aside the extra money we would have spent on food and give it to the poor; this will make our fasting complete. As we increase our prayer, both private and in the Church, let us set aside those extra dollars we would have spent at the movies, going out with our friends, socializing, etc.; this will help put our prayer into action. As we strive to control our passions, let us help those whose only passion is to have a small meal to eat, a glass of clean water to drink, or a warm place to rest; this will enable us to see Christ in these, the least of our brethren.

Wishing you all a fruitful and spiritually rewarding fast, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,  
+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“Honoring our Past, Building our Future”



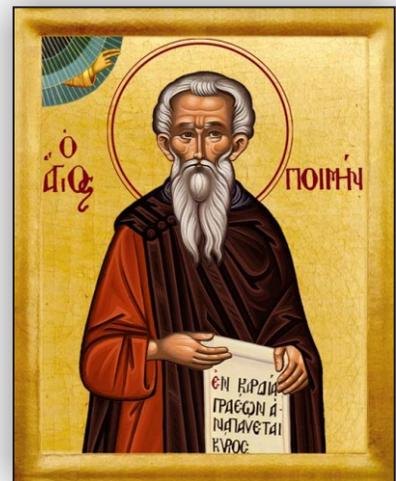
# BUILDING FUND

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX  
CHURCH - KEARNEY, NE

\$20,780 to go on our fund-raising. Thank you for your generous donations and supporting the **St. George Building Fund**.

### The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my Life!  
Take from me the spirit of sloth,  
meddling, lust of power and idle talk.  
But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience,  
and love to Thy servant.  
Yea, O Lord and King!  
Grant me to see my own sins and  
not to judge my brother;  
For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages.  
Amen.



**T**he greatest deed that a man can do is to assume responsibility for his sin before God and expect temptation until his last breath.

- St. Poemen the Great

# WE GET LETTERS . . .



**Many thanks to my wonderful church family**, for your visits to Stan while he was in the hospital and thank you all for your generous gifts when he passed.

Dear Father Christopher you had been so faithful visiting while Stan was in the hospital. I believe you helped ease Stan's mind and gave him a more peaceful passing. You so impressed my family in so many ways. Thank you.

And Thank you to all the ladies for the refreshments after the viewing and the lovely mercy meal after the service.

I am so blessed to be here with my church family, yes, I did come home again.

Thank you God.

Jeannie Hoff



My heartfelt thanks to all for the **brand new cassock!** It has been an honor and privilege to be your priest for the past decade. God willing, I look forward to serving you for many years to come!

Fr. Christopher

*Thank You*  
to the  
20/40 Group



The food and fellowship for the "victory meal" was so good! We enjoyed the competition and look forward to doing it again!  
In Christ,  
"The Rest of the Parish"

**Dear St. George family,**

As I was eating lunch prepared for the canned food drive "victors" on February 19, I was reflecting on our **food drive** held during the Nativity Fast. When I had the idea for a friendly parish competition, I never expected to end up weighing **almost 500 pounds of food!** Thank you so much for contributing and glory to God for blessing us with all we have and allowing us this opportunity to give back to those in need.

I was also pleasantly surprised by the competitive "spirits" that showed up during the drive. It looks like competition at St. George is not to be messed with! Haha! I would like to thank the 20/40 group for coming together to offer the victory meal and the rest of the parish for being respectful winners!

**Although, next time, 20/40 takes all!** I can feel it! Haha!  
Thanks again for making this a fun and fruitful outreach!

Sarah Fothergill



(LETTERS continued page 8)



## Birthdays

**March 1**  
Rachel Rehtus

**March 3**  
Emma Rehtus

**March 7**  
Nick Shada

**March 15**  
Tracey Shada

**March 21**  
Theodora Wolf  
Mark Klein

**March 25**  
Sara Theoharis

**March 27**  
John Maloley

**March 30**  
Ron Denny

GOD GRANT YOU  
MANY YEARS

  
HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

**March 5**  
Bill & Millie Rempel



Micah  
#16  
Happy Birthday  
to You! on Feb. 23

(Sorry, The Chronicle missed your special day!)

 "May God Grant You  
Many Years" 

Donations  
Gratefully Received

Donation to the **St. George Chronicle** by anonymous donor.

*In Memory of*

Several donations to the **St. George Building Fund**, in memory of Stan Hoff.

*In Honor of*

Donations to the **St. George Building Fund**, in honor of Nimir & Margo Maloley and John & Mary Maloley, and their anniversaries, by anonymous donor.

A donation to the **St. George Building Fund**, in honor of healing prayers for our loved one, by anonymous donor.

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*



**Thank you** all for attending the St. George Parish Annual Meeting on February 5th. 2016 was a big year for St. George and we appreciate your prayers and support for approving the new budget for 2017. We welcome new members, Levi Hadley and Joanie Klein as they replace out-going members, Tim & Tracey Shada. Looking forward to the new year and asking for God's continued blessings as we work together to grow in our faith.

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A Creative Arts Festival **work day** was held on February 25th. Students in grades 1 and up learned the theme ("My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations." Mark 11:17) and began work on **art, writing, and poetry projects**. Projects will be mailed to judges and displayed at the DOWAMA Parish Life Conference in June (Houston, TX). For students that were not able to attend or did not finish projects, please see your Sunday School teacher for help and submission deadlines. Thank you! The Chronicle has offered to feature 1-2 creative projects, by our talented students, each month. This will be a joy for the students to share their entries with St. George and for the parish family to enjoy the work of our students. Thank you Chronicle!



The 20/40 Group has volunteered to provide food for the **St. George Lenten Retreat** with Fr. Alexii. (Please bring a **Lenten snack/dessert** for Friday evening, March 10, to share as we enjoy fellowship after the opening session of the retreat.) We will also provide breakfast for Saturday morning, March 11. More details to be announced.

Please join us as we prepare and serve a meal at **Crossroads Shelter** in March (date TBA). Please be sure to check e-mail or Facebook for specific details on menu and serving time. We look forward to your fellowship and appreciate your time and gifts in serving our community by offering a meal to those in need.



We are so excited to begin a **NEW BOOK!**

**Spiritual Counsels V: Passions and Virtues** - Collected teachings of Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos deals with passions (self-love, pride, judging, envy, anger) and virtues that we can acquire through the grace of God.

We will meet on Monday, **March 6th**, and the **20th**, from 4:00 - 5:00 pm at the Denny home. Come join us as we journey through Lent together, and with the help of these wonderful spiritual teachings from this beloved Saint.

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Thank you ladies for all of your hard work at our **Annual Spring Lebanese Breakfast** on February 18th. We had a record attendance and the day went very well. The support from our parish family (men and children included!) made this a fun day for all. We were blessed with wonderful weather and people came to enjoy good food, fellowship and to tour St. George. Glory to God for this day! The **DIOKANIA Winter issue** is now available to read on-line. Please let Ashley or Joanie know if you are unable to read on-line and they will see that you get a paper copy. It is always inspiring to read what our sisters throughout the Archdiocese are doing.

Please continue to keep our St. Helena Ladies Society in your prayers as we consider what events we would like to participate in the coming year.

**Our next meeting will be held after potluck on March 5th.** Have ideas on how you would like to spread the good news of our timeless orthodox faith through service and works of charity? Plan now to attend our meeting and come share your ideas.

Our annual **Spring Bake Sale will be Saturday April 1st.** Sale begins at 9:00 a.m. We will provide containers, labels and price tags on Friday evening. Thank you for your offerings.



Thank you for your continued support to our **St. George Bookstore**. Visit often to see what's new. Books, Magazines, DVDs, Icons, Incense, Prayer Ropes, Jewelry, and T-shirts. Many Books are available for free. You can check them out by writing in the date and your name on clip board. (Be sure to fill date in, when you return your item.) Gift Cards also available. Contact Levi if you can't find something you need or have an idea for a future item.

# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

**The merciful person** is he who gives to others what he has himself received from God, whether it be money, food, strength, a helpful word, prayer or anything else that he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need. At the same time he considers himself a debtor since he has received more than he is asked to give.

- St. Peter of Damascus



"Our Builders"

ST. HELENA  
*Ladies* Society

## Bake Sale

**April 1st**  
**9:00 am**

## ST. GEORGE LENTEN RETREAT

You're Invited

**with Hieromonk Alexii:**  
**"Ascetics All! Prayer, Fasting, Alms"**  
**MARCH 10, 11 - FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

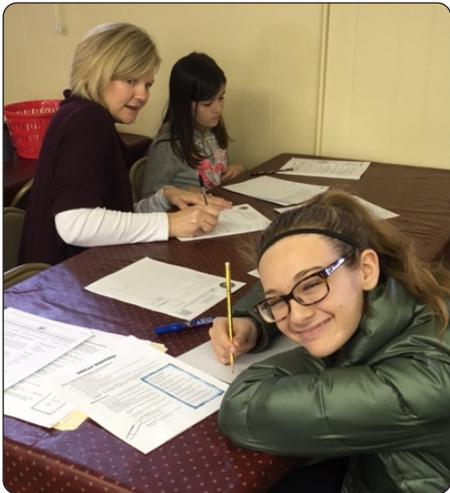
**Friday Evening:**  
5:00 pm—Vespers with the Akathist Hymn  
6:30 pm—1st Session with Q&A  
7:30 pm—Coffee and lenten dessert

**Saturday Morning:**  
8:30 am—1st & 3rd Hour  
9:00 am—Breakfast  
10:00 am—2nd Session with Q & A  
10:30 am—Break  
11:00 am—3rd Session with Q & A  
Noon—Lunch and Dismissal

A free-will offering will be taken to support Holy Archangel Michael and All Angels Skete in Weatherby, Missouri.

I HAVE LOVED, O LORD, THE BEAUTY  
OF THY HOUSE,  
AND THE PLACE WHERE  
THY GLORY DWELLETH.

Psalm 26:8



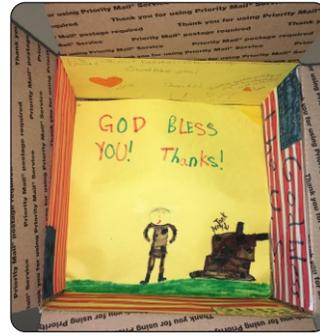
**Creative Arts Festival  
Work Day**

**THEME: "My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations." Mark 11:17**

# HOW TO SEND LOVE . . . OVERSEAS



**1.** We started with two Boxes



**2.** We decorated the inside of the boxes with words of thanks and encouragement before filling them up

## The military care packages were a neat project for St. George because they were a community effort.

The project began as a Sunday School lesson about being a **cheerful giver**. The kids learned that God wants us to give back to Him a tithe--10%. We then practiced counting

goldfish crackers and separating out 10% to give away. Since Halloween was the next week, the students were challenged to "tithe" with their Halloween candy and bring it to church the next week.



Knowing what a precious item candy is to most kids, we were amazed by what we saw the next week. Not only had the kids brought a tithe, but many of them brought even more than that. What a wonderful lesson we learned from their generosity!

**May the Lord help us to be as generous as the children of our parish are.**

About this same time, the Ladies Society had an idea to send care packages to encourage members of the military who have a connection to St. George.

**The children's candy became the first donation** to this project and members of the parish were asked to contribute other useful items. The parishioners followed the children's example and soon there were enough items to completely fill two large boxes!

We enlisted the children's help once again to decorate the inside of the boxes with encouraging pictures and Amanda Williamson and Amanda Denny provided names and addresses of friends and family members who are serving in the military. Both boxes were packed and mailed in early February and should arrive at their destination very soon. Thanks to everyone who helped remember the members of the military in their prayers and through their donations.

**It is our hope that we can make this project a regular one at St. George!**



**3.** Our parish family helped us donate goodies that we knew our military friends and family would enjoy having



**4.** we made cards, filled the boxes and delivered to the post office

OUR LOVE IS ON ITS WAY!



**5.**

# WE GET LETTERS...



## *Our Baby Congratulations:*

Congratulations to great-grandfather **Nick Shada**, grandparents Jim and Kelly Shada, and parents Cory and Jamie Banzhaf. Jamie delivered her twins on Thursday, February 2, 2017: a boy, Cade James (4 lb 8 oz), and a girl, Callie Dawn (5 lb 2 oz). This makes a dozen grandchildren for Jim and Kelly.



Cade James



Callie Dawn

### MANY YEARS TO YOU ALL



*"Oh Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"*

## IMPORTANT MARCH DATES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



- March 5 - Sunday of Orthodoxy  
*(Bring your Icons)*
- March 12 - Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
- March 19 - Sunday of the Holy Cross
- March 25 - The Annunciation of Theotokos



### To the 20/40's Group,

Thanks so much for the delicious luncheon on February 19th. John and I think all of the people of St. George were winners, but most especially those who come to the Jubilee Center for food. It was a great contest. Let's do it again!



Blessings to all of you,  
John & Margaret

Dear Chronicle,

I wanted to thank Sara F. and the 20/40 group for the fun **food pantry collection challenge**. What a creative way to get our parish motivated to give! A friendly challenge is good for the soul and of course filling our tummies was a wonderful outcome. Your lunch for the winners was fabulous, so bring on the next challenge. With many thanks for all good things,



Tracey Shada

Fasting consists not just of eating rarely, but also of eating little. And not just in eating only one meal, but in not eating much.

Foolish is the faster, who waits for a specific time (to eat a meal), but then at the time of the meal is completely consumed, body and mind, with insatiable eating.



--St. Seraphim of Sarov

There is a spiritual law of ups and downs of our moods. When despondency strikes do not give yourself over to it too much.

**Remind yourself that after sorrow, gladness will come...**

--Archbishop Averky



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## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS



Happy Feast Day - March 25

## OUR MARCH FASTING

Clean Monday, February 27th began the Great Fast. We are fasting for the next forty days. We fast from cheese, eggs, meat, dairy, wine and oil. Fish is permitted on the Great Feasts of the **Annunciation (March 25)** and **Palm Sunday (April 9)**. Wine and oil are permitted on all Saturdays and Sundays with the exception of Great and Holy Saturday (the day before Pascha/ Easter Sunday).



Year-to-date for 2017  
St. George Church

## \$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **FEBRUARY 27th...** We have received \$17,349 of the \$88,969 we have budgeted for pledges.  
As of **FEBRUARY 27th...** We have received \$3,511 of the \$20,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

*Thank you!*

## DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD



**DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME BEGINS  
MARCH 12**  
Remember to set  
your clocks  
**AHEAD 1 HOUR**  
on Saturday Night.

*I'm just trying to say that as health comes from the bitter medicine,  
so too does the salvation of souls come from bitter experiences.*

*- St. Paisios of Mount Athos*

*Elder Paisios of Mount Athos Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p.207*

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2017 PLEDGE CARD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Pledge

In thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings and in my desire to be a good and faithful steward of St. George Church, I  
pledge to the Lord \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the year **2017**.

### I will fulfill my pledge (circle one)

Annually      Semi-annually      Quarterly (every 3 mos.)      Monthly      Weekly

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*May God continue to bless you and your loved ones richly as He abundantly  
enriches His parish of St. George - Kearney, Nebraska*

*"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:26*