

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 11 - Sunday School Starts  
Sept. 11 - Pizza & Ice Cream party

Sept. 24 - Lebanese Breakfast

Oct. 1 - Sponsor Lunch for Habitat for Humanity

Oct. 7 & 8 - Garage Sale

Nov. 19 - Ladies Bake Sale

On August 15, we celebrate the **Dormition of the Mother of God**. The Church year begins on September 1, and the first Great Feast of the year is the Nativity of the Theotokos, making the Dormition of the Theotokos the last great feast of the year. It is entirely fitting that these two feasts – celebrating the birth and falling-asleep of Mary respectively – should buttress the entire church calendar. The Church calendar tells us the story of our Salvation in the

traditional way, with the climax of the story coming in the middle, which is when Pascha is celebrated, before ending in a way which is somewhat symmetrical and complimentary to the beginning. Therefore, the final “scene” in our story of Salvation is the **Dormition of Mary, the Mother of God**.



The Icon of the feast depicts various strands of the story in one single frame. The story is this:

*At the time of her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against her. They wanted to make attempts on her life; but God preserved her*

*from enemies. Day and night she spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here she offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.*

*In one such visit to Golgotha, the*

*Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending*

*her (Sepphora, Abigail, and Jael). She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of her impending Repose.*

*The miraculous transportation of the Apostles is shown in the top of the Icon, though the main scene depicted within the icon is the funeral procession itself. The Apostles are shown reverencing the body of the Mother of God: St. Paul at her feet; St Peter at the head with censer in hand.*

*(continued on page 3)*



## A note from Fr. Christopher . . .

Dear Friends,

Second only to the fast of Great Lent is the ascetical endeavor in which we find ourselves: the Dormition Fast. During the first two weeks of August, we gather in the church to pray each day, remembering with fervent love Mary, the mother of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Someone has said that the measure of our love for the Lord can be seen in our love for His mother. This is absolutely true! Before His incarnation, He gave us the commandment to honor our fathers and mothers, and when He chose to be born of the Virgin for our salvation, He perfectly fulfilled all the statutes that He Himself gave.

If the Lord so honored His mother, we ought do the same! For just as Christ offered Himself for our salvation, so, too, while on the Cross, He gave us Mary to be the mother of all the sons and daughters of God. If we love and honor the Lord, we will love and honor His mother. If we are cold and inattentive to her, we are ultimately cold and

inattentive to Christ, for we have yet to comprehend the reality of His incarnation.

So let us continue in fasting and prayer and gathering daily in the church during this short but holy season, honoring the Lord by honoring His mother, commemorating her passing from this life as we prepare for our own death and passage into eternity.

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Through your prayers,  
Fr. Christopher



More winners from St. George announced, from the Creative Arts Festival in Oklahoma



### CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL - ART

#### 1st Place

Gabriella Morris  
Olivia Denny  
Lucas Neamu  
Delaney Denny  
Allison Denny  
Emma Neamu

#### 2nd Place

Matthew Brailita  
Elizabeth Morris  
Joseph Morris  
Mariam Brown

#### Third Place

Clay Maloley



it's a  
**PIZZA**  
& ice cream  
**PARTY!**

To all of our Creative Arts Festival Participants, Teachers and their Families,

Thank you for your wonderful creative projects, the time you gave to prepare your entries and for your prayers. We would like to celebrate your achievements with a

### Pizza & Ice Cream Party!

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016**  
**Parish Hall, After Liturgy,**  
**during coffee hour**



We hope to see you there!

# COME BUILD WITH US!



Future St. George with Parish Hall and Courtyard

Hello St. George Parish Family and Benefactors,

By God's grace and prayer, we are beginning the long-term goal to build a parish hall for St. George. We offer you this first drawing to help you envision our dream.

Plans are underway to acquire the property, just north of the church. We thank you for your parish vote, to begin a Capital Fund-raising campaign.

We are working closely with the Parish Council, Finance Ministry and Fr. Christopher, to prepare the necessary information needed to launch a successful building campaign.

This long-term vision will require lots of prayer and sacrificial giving. Through the prayers of St. George and St. Raphael, may we continue to work towards the Glory of God, and continue the work that our founders began 100+ years ago.

Through your prayers,  
Building & Grounds Committee

*(continued from page 1)*

*The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says St John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. St John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin's repose was at hand.*

*Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard her prayer and fulfilled her heart's desire, and she began speaking about her imminent end.*

*During this conversation the Apostle Paul also appeared in a miraculous manner together with his disciples Dionysius the Areopagite, St Hierotheus, St Timothy and others of the Seventy Apostles. The Holy Spirit had gathered them all together so that they might be granted the blessing of the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and more fittingly to see to the burial of the Mother of the Lord. She called each of them to herself by name, she blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each she wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world.*

*Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of her demise and of the arrival of her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in comparison. All who saw it took fright. Descending from Heaven was Christ; the*

*King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary.*

*Seeing her Son, the Mother of God exclaimed: **"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior, for He hath regarded the low estate of His Handmaiden"** (Luke 1:46-48) and, rising from her bed to meet the Lord, she bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave her soul into the hands of Her Son and God.*

*Kissing the all-pure body with reverence and in awe, the Disciples in turn were blessed by it and filled with grace and spiritual joy. Through the great glorification of the Most Holy Theotokos, the almighty power of God healed the sick, who with faith and love touched the holy bed.*

*For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.*

*On the evening of the same day, when the Apostles had gathered at a house to strengthen themselves with food, the Mother of God appeared to them and said: **"Rejoice! I am with you all the days of your lives."***

*(continued on page 8)*

# WE GET LETTERS . . .



*Let us hear from You!*

Dear Father Christopher and the St. George Parish Council,

Thank you so much for providing the funds that allowed me to attend the **31st Annual Antiochian Sacred Music Institute in Pennsylvania**. I was blessed to spend five days learning about my faith through music and theology lectures. I also had the pleasure of learning music for three unique Divine Liturgies, one of which was a hierarchical liturgy celebrated by Bishop Anthony! I made many new friends and was able to renew and strengthen my faith. Thank you again for making this opportunity a reality. I look forward to sharing more details soon.

Sarah Fothergill

Dear Father Christopher and all Creative Arts Winners and Participants,

I am so pleased with the participation in the regional creative arts experiences. Many years ago I was in charge of the regional creative writing endeavors so this participation is very dear to my heart. I urged even pre-school participation, as God's precious little ones can dictate their thoughts.

As a retired 6th grade teacher and junior high principal in public schools, the participation in expressing one through the written word is **vital**. As a computer curriculum specialist for public schools, our department always stressed that technology should be controlled by the users for gainful learning. We never wanted technology to control the users as has been done by the television,

movies, and "so called" mainstream media.

I am so thrilled with the St. George Family and efforts for their church and parish. I'm enclosing a donation that can hopefully be used to honor these participants.

God grant you all many years to serve Him.

Love In the Risen Christ,  
Judy Yacio

## Donations *Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **Chronicle** from Anonymous donor

Donation to **St. George Sunday School, Creative Arts program** from Judy Yacio



## Birthdays

August 13  
Ronda Maloley

August 17  
Joe Maloley

August 20  
Diana Brailita

August 29  
Alexander Maloley



August 5  
Gerald & Kim Rehtus  
Joe & Karen Salem

August 12  
John & Margaret Morris

August 15  
Fr. Christopher & Kh. Anastasia

August 27  
Rocky & Dione Steinbrink



Donation to **St. George Church Beautification fund** in memory of my mother, Betty Patsios, August 24, 1996 from Joanie & Mark Klein



Donation to **St. George Church Building Campaign** in honor of John and Margaret Morris 50th Anniversary from anonymous donor

**GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS**

Please send additions or corrections to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*

# VBS at St. George

Jesus lights us from  
the inside out,  
His light makes us  
shine!  
Shine! Shine!  
Shine! Shine!  
His light makes us  
shine!

Walk, walk, walk in  
the light,  
The light of Jesus  
Christ!  
His glory shines on  
you and me  
For all the world to  
see!



# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

## Creative Arts Festival Winners

*Congratulations!*  
**To All of our Winners**

- Grace
- Gabriella
- Olivia
- Delaney
- Lucas
- Matthew
- Emma R.
- Juliana
- Emma N.
- Claire
- Joseph
- Mariam
- Clay
- Elizabeth
- Allison



Parish Life Conference 2016  
 Tulsa, Oklahoma



THANK YOU for your generous donations to our Sister Diocese of Bosra-Hauran, on St. Timon Sunday. Because of you, St. George was able to donate \$2325.00 to help Metropolitan SABA continue his efforts to minister to the people in his Archdiocese. May you continue to remember all of them in your daily prayers.

✝

**Plant  
 a seed,  
 watch  
 it  
 Grow**

*“O Lord our God, save thy people”*

“and bless thine inheritance: preserve the fullness of thy Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of thy house: do thou glorify them in recompense by thy divine power, and forsake not us who put our trust in thee.”

*-the prayer of the Second Antiphon*



*Save the Date!*

**NO**

**PRICE TAGS**  
**This Sale is going to be a “Free-Will Offering” Sale for St. George**

**When:**  
 Friday, Oct. 7th, from 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
 Sat. Oct. 8th, from 8:00am - 12:00pm

**Where:**  
 Klein’s @ 1407 8th Ave, Kearney



Dr. Christopher Veniamin (Professor of Patristics at St. Tikhon's Seminary who arranged Metropolitan Hierotheos' visit) and Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos of Napftakos at the 2016 Antiochian Archdiocesan Clergy Symposium.

## Face Painting



## Vacation Bible Study

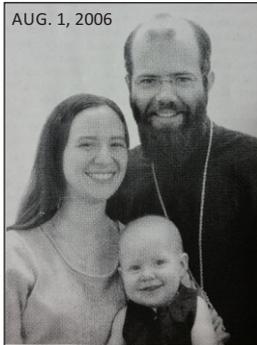
 St. George hosted a Bridal Shower for *Amanda Shada* 



*so much fun!*

We pray not to inform God or instruct Him, but to become intimate with Him.  
 - St. John Chrysostom

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Fr. Christopher ordained to the priesthood at St. Tikhon's

A lot has changed in 10 years!

Father Christopher came to us from *St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary* in Pennsylvania. He grew up in McPherson, Kansas, a town about 200 miles southeast of Kearney and half the size. His home parish is *All Saints* in Salina, KS. He was ordained a deacon at *St. George Cathedral* in Wichita by Bishop BASIL, and in February of 2006, His Grace ordained Fr. Christopher to the priesthood at *St. Tikhon's*.

Kh. Anastasia is from Tennessee, and grew up in and around the city of Chattanooga (about the size of Omaha.) She was a Bible major in college. She and Father met through a mutual friend at seminary, and they will celebrate their 12th anniversary on August 15. They have been blessed with four beautiful children: Gabriella, Juliana, Joseph, and Elizabeth.

We are blessed to have you in our parish family. Thank you for your commitment to the Orthodox faith and to St. George Church. May God's blessings be abundant and may He grant you many years.

*(continued from page 3)*

*This so gladdened the Apostles and everyone with them, that they took a portion of the bread, set aside at the meal in memory of the Savior ("the Lord's Portion"), and they exclaimed "Most Holy Theotokos, save us". (This marks the beginning of the rite of offering up the "Panagia" ("All-Holy"), a portion of bread in honor of the Mother of God, which is done at monasteries to the present day).*

Together with the Apostles are several bishops – indicated by their white sashes with crosses embroidered upon them – and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite, who first recorded the story of the Dormition in the 2nd century AD. The women are Sephora, Abigail, and Jael, along with other members of the church in Jerusalem.

Yet the main aspect of the Icon – to which all eyes are inevitably drawn – is the image of **Christ in Glory holding the pure soul of Mary in His arms**, shown as an infant. The parallel between the image of the God-Man Jesus holding the child-like soul of Mary and the image of the Mother Mary holding the Christ-child in her own arms is, of course, deliberate. The title of "God-bearer" is given to other Saints, such as St. Ignatius. To carry the Word of God, Jesus Christ, within us is the calling of all Christians: to bear Him spiritually within us during our lives, and shine with His glory. The "reward" for this in our earthly life is suffering at the hands of enemies, even to the point of martyrdom, as in the case



of St. Ignatius. Yet the reward after our repose is that **God bears our soul into His own hands and carries us into eternity**, as we carried Him, for just a short time.

No human being resembled Jesus Christ – the Son of God – more than His Mother, Mary. And yet this does not make the Theotokos the great exception to the human race, but the great exemplar. Jesus Christ Himself corrected the woman

who shouted that Mary was blessed because she had the honor of being the Mother of God: "yea, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." This is why Mary is blessed – because more than any other person she heard the words of her Lord and kept them. **This path toward Heavenly joy is open to us all.**

And just as we look to Mary's life for an example, we look to her bodily death – in this Icon – for hope as to where such an example leads us. The hope is in the bodily Resurrection and the life of the age to come. Both are shown in the Icon: the bodily assumption of Mary into Heaven, as well as the commendation of her soul into the hands of Jesus Christ.

Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

SOURCE: oca.org/saints

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

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A parish of the Antiochian  
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America, Diocese of  
Wichita and Mid-America  
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## Year-to-date for 2016

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### at Saint George

As of **July 16** ... We  
have received \$48,998  
of the \$91,000 we have  
budgeted for pledges.

As of **July 16** ... We  
have received \$11,660  
of the \$19,000 we have  
budgeted for  
trays and  
candles.

*Thank  
You!*



## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST - AUGUST 6



## OUR FASTING DISCIPLINE DURING AUGUST



The *Dormition Fast* takes place **August 1-14**. We fast from meat, dairy products, fish, wine, and oil, except on Saturdays and Sundays when there is an allowance for wine and oil, and on the *Feast of the Transfiguration*, Saturday, **August 6th**, when there is an allowance for fish, wine, and oil after Liturgy. A fast day always occurs on **August 29** for the *Beheading of John the Baptist* in which we abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, wine and oil.

## GARAGE SALE for St. George

**OCT. 7th & 8th** (Fri. eve and Sat. morning) at the Klein's.

They can accept your donations starting **Wed. Oct 5th, after 5:00 pm**. Please call Mark to schedule a drop-off time (cell 308-293-5090) or send an email to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com).

**Volunteers? YES, the more we have, the smoother it goes.** Opportunities include: setting up Fri. morning, working anytime during the hours we are open (Fri. eve and Sat. morning) and/or taking down displays at the conclusion.

### **\*\*NO NEED TO PRICE OR TAG ANYTHING\*\***

This sale is going to be a "**Free-will Offering Sale**". We will post LOTS of signs. We did this at the end of our last sale and it was so much fun! (Many people paid more than if the item had actually been marked.) Removing the price allows the buyer to give from their heart. **What a great way to support St. George!**

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