

# ST. GEORGE Chronicle

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

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

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## SAVE THE DATE

PARISH VOTE - June 26th

HOLY APOSTLES FAST BEGINS  
June 27th

VBS AT ST. GEORGE  
Last week of July

TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST  
August 6th

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS  
August 15th

**The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ** is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. **The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.**

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the **Mount of Olives**, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

### Biblical story

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as **one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church**, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: **"He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).**

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples

of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, **"even to the end of the world"** (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of

the angels said, **"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).**

### Icon of the Feast

The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. **Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla.** A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a

*(continued on page 2)*





## *A note from Fr. Christopher . . .*

### **Christ is risen!**

Dear Friends of St. George,

Despite the cool and rainy weather this past month, the signs of summer have finally arrived. **It will be a busy one here at St George!**

In a few weeks, several families from our congregation will be attending the annual **Parish Life Conference**, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma this year. Look for news and photos in our **July Chronicle**--several of our youth have won awards again this year in the **Creative Arts Festival!**

Our ladies book study will continue meeting, and, though our Sunday School program is on summer break, plans for our 2nd annual **Vacation Bible School** are underway.

We hope to begin our new

**ministry groups**, which you can read about briefly in this month's Chronicle. With our ladies very successful book study in its fourth year, there are rumblings about finally starting a **men's group**, too.

At the end of this month, we will have a **special parish meeting** to vote on a possible large-scale and long-term project. This is very exciting, and **we ask for your prayers** as we deliberate! If we choose to move forward with this, you will be able to read all about it in next month's Chronicle.

Please keep us in your prayers, and as always, thank you so very much for your support!

Through your prayers,  
Fr. Christopher



## **NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. GEORGE**

*"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to **each one** for the profit of **all**."* (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

What gifts has God given you to share for the building up of the Body of Christ? What kind of ministry opportunities inspire you and draw down the grace of the Holy Spirit into your life? What ideas and energy has God given you to share with all of us?

**Outreach Ministry** - Help plan and facilitate evangelism to those outside our parish and envision activities to deepen our faith and knowledge of Orthodoxy within our parish family.

**Visitation Ministry** - Visiting and praying with the sick and shut-ins, taking someone out to dinner, helping with various needs for parishioners who need a helping hand.

**Charities Ministry** - Helping with the charity work we do as a parish, envisioning new ways to help the needy in our community and beyond.

We will be talking more about this soon, and introducing members of the ministries. In the meantime, if you are interested in being a part of any of these ministries, please talk with Fr. Christopher and Mark Klein.

*(continued from page 1)*

symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the **Lord in heaven is the source of blessing**. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. **The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer**. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. **The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church**.

The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church.

**The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him, and fulfills it in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

### **Apolytikion (Fourth Tone)**

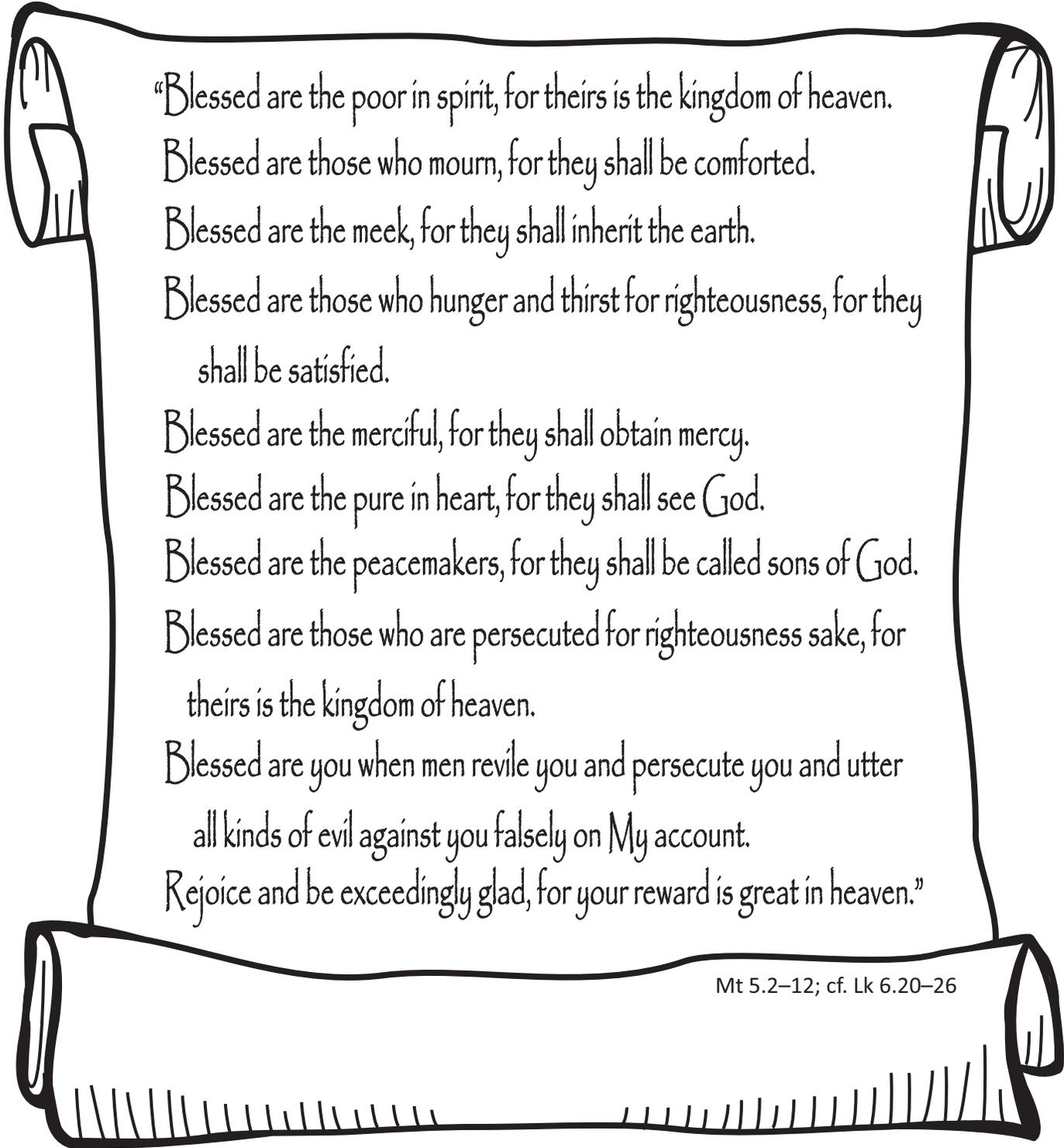
*O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.*

## The Beatitudes

In the Gospel writings, the beatitudes introduce the teachings of Jesus and are traditionally considered to contain the most concise summary of the spiritual life of man. In the Orthodox Divine Liturgy, the beatitudes are chanted when the Book of the Gospels is carried in solemn procession to the sanctuary

to be proclaimed as the Word of God to the faithful. Thus it is the clear teaching of the Gospel and the Church that one enters into the mysteries of Christ and the Kingdom of God only by way of following the Lord's teachings in the beatitudes.

And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:



“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account.  
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”

Mt 5.2–12; cf. Lk 6.20–26

*Our Sympathy*

TO THE FAMILY OF:

Michael Shada, on the loss of his sister, Marsha Shada, on May 26, 2016.



MAY HER  
MEMORY  
BE  
ETERNAL

**HOLY PROSPHORA**

*Prospora is a Greek word meaning "offering."*

**Holy Bread Sign-up sheets** are in our parish hall, down stairs. Thank you for taking the time to **reserve your dates**.

What a very special way to serve Saint George and your parish family.

May God Bless your offering.



**Donations**

*Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **Chronicle** from John and Mary Maloley

Donation to the **Chronicle** from Anonymous donor

*In Memory of*

Donation to **St. George Church Beautification Fund**, in memory of my dad, Nick Patsios (May 23, 2011) and my uncle, Jim Patsios (May 25, 2011) from Joanie and Mark Klein.

Donation to **St. George Church**, in memory of Vernon Yanney, from Gerald Baker.

*In Honor of*

Donation to **St. George Church - Ladies Society**, in honor of Margo Maloley's birthday, by anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Church - Clergy**, in honor of Subdeacon Michael's birthday, by anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Church - Ladies Society**, in honor of Margaret Morris's birthday, by anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Church, Beautification fund**, in honor of Amanda & Ron Denny's anniversary, by anonymous donor.

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*

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

\*\*\*\*\*



**Birthdays**

June 5  
Josie Awtry  
Eric Buchman

June 6  
Steve Wolf

June 8  
Subdeacon Michael

June 11  
Megan Shada

June 13  
Peter Bakas

June 25  
Margaret Morris

June 27  
Mennen Suleiman

June 30  
Candi Maloley

**GOD GRANT YOU  
MANY YEARS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

June 4  
Radu & Alexandra Neamu

June 6  
Tony & Bessie Shada

June 10  
Daniel & Dora Brailita

June 11  
Gus & Christina Katrouzes  
Josie & Greg Awtry

June 12  
Mike & Ronda Maloley

June 16  
Joe & Linda Maloley

June 24  
Mark & Joanie Klein

June 25  
Amanda & Ron Denny

**"The intellect searches for truth and the heart searches for absolute goodness."** 

*~ St. Nektarios*



Hello! We are working closely with the **Building & Grounds committee** regarding a very exciting proposal that would benefit St. George now, and for future generations. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, June 26th**, for an all-parish vote to determine whether or not we can proceed with this proposal.

A presentation regarding this proposal was given on May 22, May 29 and again on June 5th.

As mentioned in the presentation, it is the desire of the parish council to have all parish members vote in favor of this proposal, so if you have any questions or concerns, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to speak with any **Parish Council member**, (Mike M., Mark, Rocky, Gerald, Amy, Sarah, Subdeacon Michael, Tim) and any **Building & Grounds committee member** (Subdeacon Michael, Kim, John M., Rocky, Darlene, Mark) or Father Christopher.

We ask you for your continued prayers. Thank you.



**ST. GEORGE  
YOUTH  
GROUP**

The St. George Youth Group will continue to meet during the summer. Dates and times are to be determined but please contact Sarah with any questions you may have. Thank you!



**School's out for summer!** A perfect time to consider enriching your kid's spiritual journey by bringing them to the bookstore and checking out a new book. While you're here visiting, consider checking one out for yourself.

We offer many ideas for your **Gift giving needs:** Icons, Incense, Books, Jewelry, Prayer Ropes, Cards, Tshirts, Gift Cards, and much more! Stop by soon.



Our first (and hopefully not our last) **Ladies Tea** was so much fun! Many thanks to those who gave of their time to organize this event. Our volunteers set-up the beautiful tables in a "spring" theme. Our thanks to those who offered **table centerpieces** to give away in a free raffle. Several of the ladies were winners of **beautiful Bouquets, Birdhouses and Plants**. We had fellowship, met new friends, and enjoyed a variety of wonderful desserts. We felt like queens as we sipped our Tea in pretty china, **thank you!**

And our thanks to St. George for letting us host this event in the church hall as well as the speakers who so kindly offered sharing their stories about finding the Orthodox faith.



**Heritage Days at Yanney Park will be June 4th.** We will be offering **BAKLAVA** as a fund raiser at the Food Fair, (located at the Gottschalk Tower) from 4:00 - 9:00 pm. Everyone is invited to help out and share our Christian hospitality with those people and families that visit our table. We hope to see you there!



School is out for Summer Break. We are so excited for our kids and the projects they entered for the **Creative Arts Festival**. The theme this year is "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." They will find out how they did at the **Parish Life Conference in Tulsa, OK in June**. Be sure to watch for next month's **Chronicle (JULY)** as we announce the winners!



Drew & Sarah Fothergill invite the 20/40 group to their home on June 26 from 5-7 pm. Please bring a snack food and enjoy some fellowship! Our new address is 1211 W. 13th St. in Kearney. We look forward to seeing you then!



**Save the Date - JUNE 26th**

**"Come Dream With Us"**

Thank you for listening to our presentations and we hope and pray your desire is to share in this exciting project. This date is set aside for **you** to cast your vote, in favor, of a possible large-scale and long-term project that will benefit St. George for future generations.

# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

**Sat. June 4th**  
**9:00 am - 9:00 pm**

## HERITAGE DAY

**at Yanney Park**

**Come Join the Fun!**  
**Bring the Family!**

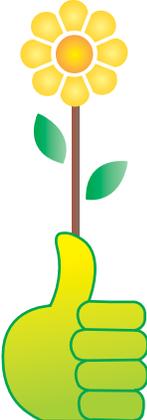
St. George will have a table set-up to sell BAKLAVA (from 4:00pm - 9:00pm) and hand out brochures about our Orthodox Christian Faith, and Father Nicola Yanney.

**Come Help!**  
 Bring your smile, and be a part of this special day of celebration.

*The Ladies Society at St. George*

*Thank You!* 

Many thanks to Rocky and Dione, of **Steinbrink Landscaping** for their time and gifts to clean up the church grounds for Spring. Your "Green Thumb" is GOLDEN - everything is looking so green and Beautiful!!



**Christ is Risen!**

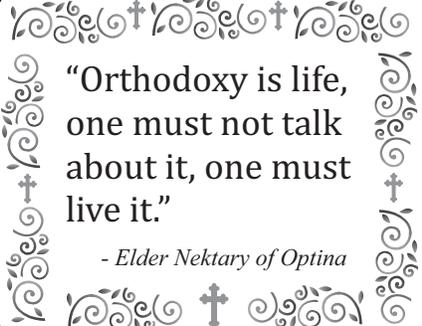
Dear St. George,  
 We are so very thankful to all who serve and chant. We had a wonderful time attending the joyful Bright Week services. We appreciate all the time, sacrifice and love that goes into making all of the recent additional weekday services available for us all to come and worship.

Thank you,  
 The Denny Family

## THANK YOU!

“Orthodoxy is life, one must not talk about it, one must live it.”

- Elder Nektary of Optina



**THANK YOU**  
**ST. GEORGE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!**



We thank you for all of your time, patience, and love, that you have given to our St. George Parish “Kids”. We thank God for your “gifts”, your commitment to “**plant seeds of faith**”, to nourish, and to help them grow.

Your St. George Parish Family

**“Come Dream With Us”**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**



**All-Parish Vote after Liturgy**

*thank you*

**Calling all Kids!**

Plans are underway to offer a **Vacation Bible School program** this summer. We ask for your prayers as we organize this event. **The last week of July** is being reserved for the 2016 summer program and more details coming.



**VBS**

Sign-up sheets will be offered for those of you who would like volunteer, provide snacks, and supplies. We hope to see you!

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**



**June 19th**

"Christ is risen from the dead"

# SCRAPBOOK



All night prayer Vigil

Holy Unction

“Store your treasures in heaven”



Sunday School Projects



Our First Annual Ladies Tea 2016



# WE GET LETTERS ...



# Let us hear from You!

To the Chronicle -

### Christ is Risen,

You all have a rare and beautiful talent inspired by God. Every word, picture and news does not go unnoticed. Your love for St. George shines brightly.

Thank You for taking time to have Dad and Mom's letter in print for our most Holy Easter. I can see Dad's shy smile seeing this and his reply. "Thank You from the bottom of my heart".

Sincerely,  
Josie

p.s. Mother no longer reads but she can hear the words from brother Jim.

*(From the editor: Parishioners of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lincoln, made a pilgrimage on April 9, 2016 to see our Iconography project, learn about our Holy Relics and Father Nicola Yanney.)*

Dear St. George,

We had an inspiring visit and we thoroughly enjoyed the warm hospitality extended to our group from our Orthodox brothers and sisters at St. George during our recent visit, thank you.

TJ Kripal  
Lincoln, NE

The Rehtus family would like to extend a big thank you to the Ladies Book Study Group for the lovely **May Mystery basket**.

We will be able to spend all summer enjoying the wonderful contents. From the comfy pillow, yummy munchies, and book light to the stack of inspiring books and other treasures, your loving efforts will certainly be appreciated for a long time.

*Thank You!*

Kim

Hello St. George,

My mom and I had such a wonderful time at the tea hosted by the Ladies Society at St. George. We enjoyed listening to the speakers share their journeys to (and in) our Orthodox faith. The tea and refreshments provided by Virginia Suleiman and Kh. Anastasia Morris were delicious. The table decorations were creative and thoughtful. We enjoyed the fun of the centerpiece raffle, also. Ashley Maloley organized such a special time for us all. The fellowship we had together was such a gift. Thank you to all of the ladies who served, participated and offered time/talents/items for this event. We look forward to and hope there may be another one in the future.



Amanda & Denise

# NOTHING HAPPENS

"The Lord is present everywhere, and nothing happens without His will or His permission, either in this life or in eternity."

*\_ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*



Ladies 1st Annual Tea  
May 21, 2016



# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Volume 2, No. 6, June 2016

Monthly Publication of  
St. George Orthodox Christian  
Church, Kearney, Nebraska

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **May 23** ... We have  
received \$30,060 of the  
\$91,000 we have budgeted  
for pledges.

As of **May 23** ... We have  
received \$8,842 of the  
\$19,000 we have budgeted  
for trays and candles.

*Thank you!*

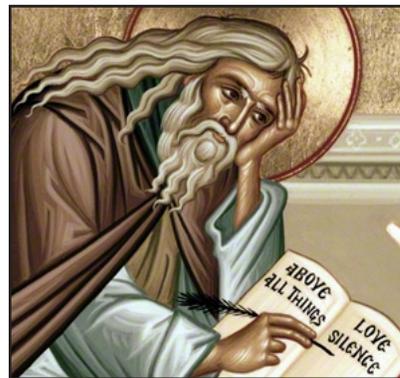
### FASTING DISCIPLINE DURING JUNE

The Traditional fasting of the  
Orthodox Church (with an  
allowance for wine and oil on all  
fast days between Pascha and  
Pentecost) is observed on all Wed.  
and Fri. of the month with the  
exception of the Leave-taking of  
Pascha (June 8), and the week  
after Pentecost (June 20 - 25). The  
Holy Apostles Fast is three days  
this year, June 27 - 29.

## PENTECOST



DESCENT OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
Happy Feast Day - June 19th



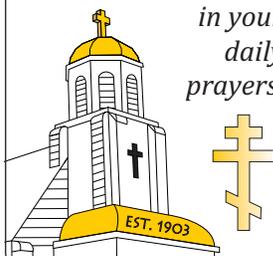
Just as a man  
whose head is under water  
cannot inhale pure air,  
so a man whose thoughts  
are plunged into the cares  
of this world cannot  
absorb the sensation  
of the world to come.

- St. Isaac the Syrian

“Don’t criticize or judge other  
people –  
regard everyone else as an  
angel, justify their mistakes and  
weaknesses,  
and condemn only yourself as  
the worst sinner. This is step  
one in any kind of spiritual life.”

- Fr. Seraphim Rose

Please Remember Us  
in your  
daily  
prayers.



“God waits  
for an opportunity  
to reveal to each of us  
His truth.”



- St. John Chrysostom

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