



ST. GEORGE Chronicle

FEBRUARY 2017

Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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IOCC - YOU CAN HELP

SAVE THE DATES

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday, February 5th

LADIES BOOK STUDY
Monday, February 6th and 20th

LEBANESE BREAKFAST
Saturday, February 18th

DINNER FOR WINNERS
Sunday, February 19th

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT
March 11th and 12th

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
ENTRIES DUE - April 1st

SPRING BAKE SALE - April 1st

PASCHA - April 16th

Our Beloved Icons *by Subdeacon John Wolf*

This month's Icon is entitled "The Belief of Thomas."

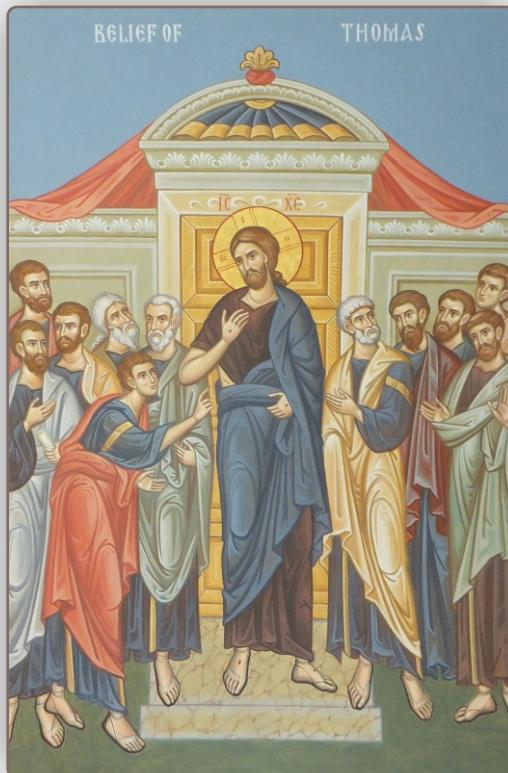
We all know the story of "Doubting Thomas," who said that "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe," but this is not what this icon depicts! The inscriptions of Orthodox Icons do not bear this "Doubting" description of Thomas. In Greek, the inscription reads Η ψηλάφηση του Θωμά, that is, the "Touching of Thomas", making no reference to Thomas' doubt. In Slavonic the meaning is even clearer as the inscriptions read Уверение Фомы, i.e. the "Assurance of Thomas". Usually, English icons translate the Slavonic and inscribe their icons "The Belief of Thomas". The icon does not show "Doubting

Thomas", but the reassured Thomas. The Thomas who, bending before Christ to touch His wounds exclaims: "**My Lord and my God.**" The Church Fathers recognized

that whilst Thomas doubted, his doubt was not unreasonable, and as such Christ responded, **spurring Thomas to a confession of Jesus' Divinity more explicit than anywhere else in the Gospels.** Looking out from the scene, Christ's response to Thomas is also for us:

"Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen Me yet have believed."

The icon is fairly straightforward in its depiction of the event. Christ is shown in the center with His arm raised and the wound visible in His side. Notice that there are only eleven apostles. Also of note is that Thomas is shown as a beardless youth, a



Sponsorship of the Belief of Thomas icon at St. George Kearney, was offered in Honor of Issa & Mildred Mogannam

teenager as John was. This is a consistent feature of how Thomas is shown in icons, as in this Icon of Thomas touching the wounds of Christ.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

The youthfulness of the Apostle Thomas is something worthy of consideration when thinking about his "doubts."



With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Your life-bestowing side, O Christ God; for when You did enter while the doors were shut, he cried out unto You with the rest of the Apostles: You are my Lord and my God.

(from the Hymns of the Feast)

A Gift to St. George



A beautiful Hand-painted Russian icon of the Archangel Michael, given to

St. George Orthodox Church

by Michael Yanney.



"Honoring our Past, Building our Future"



BUILDING FUND

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH - KEARNEY, NE

Because of your generosity in giving, we have \$24,120 left to go, and we will complete Phase I of the Building Fund! This will bring us that much closer to building a new Parish hall. **Glory to God for your gifts and pledges!**

*Thank
you!*

Save the Date!



The theme this year for the Creative Arts Festival is, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Mark 11:17). Deadline for submissions will be April 1st.

Self-love brings sorrow and is healed by silence.

- Archbishop Seraphim (Sobolev) of Bogucharsk

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

St. George Church
March 11-12, 2017

We will have a parish lenten retreat on the weekend of March 11-12, 2017. Our speaker will be

Hieromonk Alexii

from [Holy Archangel Michael Skete](#) in Weatherby, Missouri. Please mark this on your calendars now and plan to attend.

More details to come.



4 Traits of a Blessed Life

by Fr. Barnabas Powell

"How are you today?" It's a common question we ask all the time. And I confess it was a polite greeting I was asking just to be polite. But then she gave me the answer that communicated volumes to me about her. She replied "I'm blessed!" A beautiful smile, a lilt in her voice, and a sweet demeanor all said she really meant it.

Of course I've heard that reply a lot, especially growing up in the religious world that shaped my early years. And it wasn't always so convincing. Most of the time I could pick up on a slight sense of desperation in my responder almost as if saying it would make it true! That's kind of sad, when you think about it.

And yet, didn't Jesus say we would have a blessed life if we followed Him? Yes, He did, but I bet a hundred dollars to a donut most folks don't see being blessed the same way Jesus meant it!

"At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven." - Luke 6:17-23

Jesus gives us 4 traits of a blessed life and none of these traits really corresponds with my comfort, or convenience, or fame, or even an abundance of contentment! Perhaps that may mean I'm going to have to "adjust" my understanding of being blessed!

One, Blessed are the Poor. Really? The Poor? I thought that was what all our modern society was trying to get us to solve or escape or overcome. The poor are blessed precisely BECAUSE their poverty invites them to NEVER confuse possessions with happiness or safety or peace. Jesus is trying to free us from the delusion that having stuff OR not having stuff is the point! It's the seeing beyond the stuff that makes us blessed. The poor WANT the Kingdom. The rich rarely do.

Two, Blessed are the Hungry. Again, physical hunger can blind us to anything else OR it can cause us to see past the momentary desire to the eternal invitation just beyond the temporary desire. The blessed part of hunger is in what it invites us to, not the hunger itself. After all, what are you really hungry for in your life?

Three, Blessed are the Weepers. "For Now" the passage adds, and that's significant. Again, Jesus is comparing the power of the temporary to blind me to the eternal AND, in the very same situation the power of grief to invite me to see beyond it! Beyond my tears to the time when I will laugh! And this time of laughing can be eternal IF I'll embrace the power of the moment of my grief!

Four, Blessed are the Hated. I hate this one, because my ego craves approval and affirmation. Seriously, we live in a society that sees the world differently than God, and that means those who follow Him are going to be hated! But what a treasure of opportunity is offered to me when I'm hated! I'm given the chance to love my enemies. I'm offered the moment to examine myself and repent for my part in their hatred. And I'm driven to trust God alone for my affirmation and acceptance!

Today, can you embrace your struggles now, at this moment, and see them as a blessing? By God's grace, the very spiritual medicine you need right now in your life is contained, some might even say hidden like a treasure, within your right now life! And, if you have the courage to embrace this moment, even if it's painful, you'll find all the blessings you need to see past the momentary pain to the joy of being Orthodox on Purpose!

SOURCE: <http://blogs.ancientfaith.com>

WE GET LETTERS...



Dear Sunday School Parents,
Thank you for the sweet gifts. It was very thoughtful of you. However, the greatest gift is having your sweet children come to Sunday School.

Thank you - Ashley

Dearest St. George,
We are so thankful to be part of such a wonderful church family and will display the Icon of the Theotokos in a special place in our home!

Phil, Ashley,
Grace, Claire and Clay Maloley

Greetings from Lincoln,
We receive the Chronicle every month and truly appreciate it. Thank you for the wonderful publication. It is a blessing to me and my family. Sending our love and appreciation for Fr. Christopher, his family and the church family as well.
Our Warm regards to all,
Alan & Lori Jacobsen and Loretta Sinsel

Our Sympathy

TO THE FAMILY OF:

Jeannie Hoff, on the loss of her husband **Stan Hoff**, and a member of our St. George parish family, on Thursday, January 26, 2017.



MAY HIS
MEMORY
BE
ETERNAL



Birthdays

February 5
Paul Steinbrink

February 10
Bessie Shada

February 12
Darlene Liakos

February 22
Demetrios Theoharis

February 23
Kh. Anastasia Morris

February 25
Samaria Suleiman-Fulton

February 26
Tony Shada

February 26
Pete Theoharis

COD GRANT YOU
MANY YEARS



February 19
Nimir & Margo Maloley

February 27
John & Mary Maloley

In Honor of

Donation to **St. George Church**, in honor of Victoria Salem and Tom Salem by anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Building Fund** in honor of Amanda Denny's patron saint, St. Xenia, on Jan. 24, by anonymous donor.

Donation to **Ladies Society** in honor of Bessie and Margo and their gifts of bread by anonymous donor.

Donations *Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **Chronicle newsletter** from Anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Church** from Katie Ramsey.

Donation to **St. George Chronicle newsletter** from Nimir and Margo Maloley.

Donation to the **St. George Sunday School** from Anonymous donor.

Several anonymous donations to the **St. George Building Fund**.



www.saintgeorgekearney.com

May God bless you all for your generosity!

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Our annual St. George Parish Church Meeting will be on Sunday, **February 5th** after Potluck. We had a very busy 2016 and give thanks to God for His many blessings as we continue to plan and prepare for building a new parish hall. Please be sure to attend this meeting as we present the 2017 budget and stewardship at St. George.

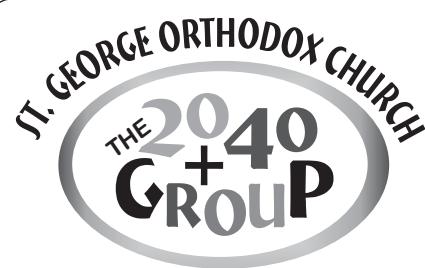


Creative Arts Festival projects are due April 1. Students will learn about the theme and project options in Sunday School. The theme this year is, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Mark 11:17).



ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP

The St. George Youth group meets on **Sunday evenings**. This past month we enjoyed watching and discussing a video on millennials and how technology affects our lives. We also enjoyed going out for lunch after a Sunday Liturgy in January. Alexis and Micah Hadley attended **WAMP** (winter session of Camp St. Raphael) and had a great time. ***



The 20/40 group will host a meal on **February 19th** to honor the winners of the canned food drive. Please plan to stay for lunch after Liturgy!

We will also be helping with repairs/remodeling at the new parish house. Stay tuned for information on an upcoming work day.

If you are interested in hosting the 20/40 group in March, please talk to Levi or Sarah.



We will be starting our **journey to Pascha SOON!** Start a new family tradition by checking out a book for your spiritual reading. Not sure what to read? Are you needing encouragement to **stay strong** during your fast? Need inspiration to begin a **prayer rule?** Perhaps you would like to challenge yourself to read a daily reading from the **Psalter**. Speak to Levi or Father for helpful tips on choosing a title or author. Our Orthodox faith is rich with so many wonderful stories about **our saints and holy elders**. We're blessed to have so many books available to us, and for **Free!** Visit us today and reward yourself with quiet time, reflection, and prayer, sure to enrich your soul as you journey to Pascha in 2017.



Thank you ladies for your attendance at our January meeting. We may be a small group but with gratitude to God for His blessings, we are mighty when we work together! We're off to a great start for 2017.

Baklava sales were strong in December and as our promise to Wal-mart for the donation they made to us for supplies, we were able to make a community donation of \$500. We chose **Habitat for Humanity** in honor of Father Christopher and his time serving on the board.

We also agreed to partner with Sunday School students in creating **(2) Military care packages** for family members of our St. George parish. A list of suggested items and donation boxes are on the back table in the basement. Thank you for helping us encourage those who are serving our country.

Our Annual Spring Breakfast will be **February 18th**. Tickets are available for promoting this fund-raiser. Please let your buyers know that **church tours** will be offered as a way to introduce them to our faith and to see our beautiful iconography.

Bake Sale is planned for **April 1st**. Our next meeting will be held after potluck on **February 5th**. Hope to see you all then!

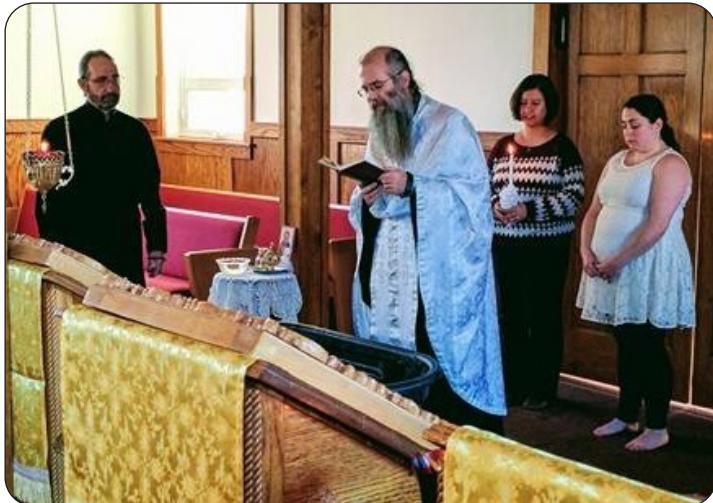


The **Women's Book Study** group will meet Monday, Feb. 6th, and the 20th. Our meeting time lasts for approx. 1 hour, from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. All ladies of St. George are invited to attend.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

Our Baptism Congratulations to:

Katrina (Catherine), her husband Chris Browne, daughter Mariam, and sponsor Sarah Fothergill on Katrina's baptism into Holy Orthodoxy on January 7, 2017



"As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." Alleluia

MANY YEARS



90th Birthday Celebration



OPEN HOUSE for Nick Shada

Sat. March 4th, 2017
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Light lunch and cake being served.
Please, no gifts

The Buckle Distribution Center Cafeteria (east entrance)
2915 West 16th St - Kearney, NE
(North of NEW Kearney High School
and Center Community College)

Any questions, please call Jim Shada (308) 236-7048



Cards can be sent to: Nick Shada
4307 Central Ave, Kearney, NE 68847

Plan now to attend and/or help with our annual Spring St. George

LEBANESE BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 18, 2017 7:00 am to 11:00 am

★ CHURCH TOURS ★



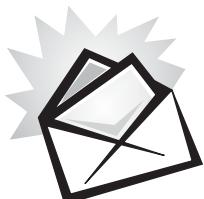
ST. GEORGE Chronicle

Have an event you would like to share with your St. George parish family? Do you have an idea, photo, article, or cartoon, to be considered for an upcoming newsletter?

We welcome your letters and comments - help us to improve the Chronicle so we can better serve you, our readers.

email us at

stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com



"DINNER for WINNERS" (Lunch)



The 20/40 Group would like to congratulate the rest of the parish for collecting the most canned food for our Jubilee Center Canned Food Drive. You are invited to enjoy a lunch provided by the 20/40 Group following Liturgy on Sun, February 19th. Please plan to stay and enjoy your victory with food, fun, and fellowship!





IOCC
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Helping others help themselves



IOCC is the second-largest international aid group active on the ground in Syria, working through the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch - Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (GOPA-DERD) to deliver life-giving interventions and longer-term development relief to the Syrian people. We are active across the country, but particularly in urban centers and other areas with high populations.



Families still fleeing Aleppo and other areas in Syria, and those who remain in temporary shelters and tenements, need your help now more than ever before. Please visit our website for [5 Ways You Can Help Support Refugees](#).

**Is there anything that I can do right now? YES!
Pray, PRAY RIGHT NOW.**

Join us in prayer as we pray for the refugees in need:



A PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Hope and Salvation, have mercy on those that are driven from their homelands and seek refuge elsewhere. Guide their steps as You did Your holy family who fled the murderous rage of Herod, and keep them from every danger, evil and disaster as they flee from war, unrest, persecution and cruel injustice. You Who declared that the foxes had dens but You had no place to lay Your head, grant rest and succor to those who are weary, wounded and unprotected. And to those cities and lands to which they travel, grant peace, wisdom and compassion to receive those who come in great numbers and in great distress. Bless and multiply what they can provide as You multiplied the loaves and the fishes to feed multitudes, blessing those who give as well as those who receive. Enlarge them in bounty and spirit that they may be havens of rest and relief to those in need, that Your hospitality may overcome the madness of evil men and chaos of natural disasters. Forgive every transgression of those who are forced to leave their homes and have mercy also on those who receive them and offer them shelter, for You are good and the lover of mankind. To You our gracious Lord and God, we ascribe glory, together with Your Father Who is from everlasting and the all-holy, good and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Prayer provided by: The Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the United States of America*



[SOURCE: www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)

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1505 Ave G.
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Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America, Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America
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February 27
Repose of St. Raphael



TROPARION

Rejoice, O Father Raphael,
Adornment of the Holy
Church!
Thou art Champion of the
True Faith,
Seeker of the lost,
Consolation of the
oppressed,
Father to orphans, and Friend
of the poor,
Peacemaker and Good
Shepherd,
Joy of all the Orthodox,
Son of Antioch, Boast of
America:
Intercede with Christ God
for us
And for all who honor thee.

The Presentation of Christ into the Temple



Happy Feast Day - Feb. 2nd

OUR FEBRUARY FASTING

The traditional fasting from meats, poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy products is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays. During the week following Publican & Pharisee, February 5 -11, there is no fasting on any day (fast free). During the week following Prodigal Son, February 12-18, the traditional fasting discipline is observed on Wednesday and Friday as usual. In the week following Meatfare Sunday, February 20-25, no meat is eaten; eggs, fish, and dairy are permitted on any day. **Monday, February 27th begins the Great Fast.**



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

