



# ST. GEORGE Chronicle

JUNE 2020



The Very Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 7  
PENTECOST

JUNE 15 - 28  
APOSTLES FAST

SEPT 11 & 12  
GARAGE SALE

## The Three Facts



*by Father Alexii*

*I declare unto you the Gospel ... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures... (1 Cor. 15: 1, 3-4)*

The Good News of Christianity is rooted in three confirmed facts: Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day. From Lazarus Saturday until Pascha, the day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we celebrate these three most basic facts of the Gospel proclaimed by the Holy Apostles

*"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ..."*

From the earliest days of humanity, after the turning away of our first parents, a state of distance had engulfed humanity. It was a distance – a moving away from the loving Creator, and then, it resulted in a distance between us as humans. That distance, that turning away, we call sin. The actions that proceed from that turning away we call sins.

Once, one of the great Desert Fathers of Scetis, St. Macarius, had a very unusual experience when he was walking in the desert. He accidentally found the skull of a pagan high priest that was permitted to speak to him. It said,

“Whenever you take pity on those who are in torments, and pray for them, they feel a little respite.’ The [elder] said to him, ‘What is this alleviation, and what is this torment?’ He said to him, ‘As far as the sky is removed from the earth, so great is the fire beneath us; we are ourselves standing in the midst of the fire, from the feet up to the head. It is not possible to see anyone face to face, but the face of the one is fixed to the back of another. Yet when you pray for us, each of us can see the other’s face a little. Such is our respite.’”

The Sayings of the Desert Fathers, B. Ward, pp. 136-137, Cistercian Pub: Kalamazoo

This turning away, this ‘not seeing the face’, but hiding our true self in isolation with our own ‘fig leaves’, is exactly what Jesus came to heal through His crucifixion. This was ‘according to the Scriptures’. The prophecies of Isaiah 53:5-12; Psalm 22(21):12-17; and Zechariah 12:10, all show that this was the eternal Plan of the Father to restore us back to communion and connection with Him and one another. According to the Scriptures, they cast lots for His garments, they pierced His hands and feet, as a suffering lamb He took away our sins, and many more. He is the ‘Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world’ (John 1:29; Rev. 4:6, 13:8), as the Prophet and Forerunner, John the Baptist proclaimed.

From Palm Sunday until Great Friday we have the Lamb (Christ) teaching in the temple. His riding a young donkey in triumph turned the image of worldly

*(continued on page 2)*

**GREAT  
THINGS  
HAPPEN  
WHEN YOU  
GIVE**

*(continued from page 1)*

power and authority on its head. His washing of the disciples' feet as a servant revealed the Way of True Authority. His giving His body and blood as our food revealed the source of our Life (John 6:53-63). Finally, as the Lamb of God, on the Cross, He offered Himself as the Life-giving Sacrifice to cleanse us, heal us, and re-connect us to the Father, and through Him, to one another (2 Cor. 5:18-21, cf. Gen. 22:7-14 'God will provide Himself, the Lamb').

*"He was buried..."*

A common question that people ask is 'what happened during the three-days that Jesus was in the tomb? This is answered with such clarity, inspiration and power by St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus, that the entire sermon is like an unveiling of these three days. Here is a fragrance from that homily:

From Heaven to earth and from earth to the nether world God makes His way. Ye that from ages past have fallen asleep, rejoice! Ye that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, receive the great Light! With the servants is the Master; with the dead is God; with the mortal is Life; with the guilty is the Guiltless; with those in darkness is the unwaning Light; with the captives is the Liberator; and with those in the nethermost is He that is above the very heavens. Christ came upon earth, and we have believed; Christ is among the dead, let us descend with Him and behold those mysteries yonder! Let us come to know the wonders of the Hidden One hidden under the earth!

The Lamentations of Matins of Holy and Great Saturday, St. Epiphanius, p. 34, Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, 1981

*"He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..."*

Once again, St. Paul, in his proclaiming the Gospel, roots it in

the prophetic Scriptures. King David in Psalm 15 (16 KJV):10 prophesied, 'Thou wilt not abandon my soul in hades, nor wilt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.' The early Apostles knew this to be a Messianic reference (Acts. 2:17). And when Hosea wrote, "After two days He will heal us, and in the third day we shall rise and live before Him" (Hos. 6:2, LXX, OSB), St. Paul saw this as a reference to the corporate resurrection in the Messiah of the new humanity restored to connection with God through the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah.

In closing, one of the most beautiful and powerful proclamations in all of Christianity is the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom. The liberation of the captives from Death and Hell, the victory of Life, the extinguishing of death ushers us into the hope of the Orthodox Christian, the Resurrection from the Dead!

Receive, all of you, the riches of mercy. Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his transgressions, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held by it has extinguished it. Having descended into Hades, He made Hades captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, receiving this beforehand, cried out: 'Hades,' said he, 'was embittered when it met Thee in the lower regions' (Isaiah 14:9). It was embittered, for it was destroyed. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was cast down. It was embittered, for it was bound. It received a body, and met God face to face. It received earth, and met Heaven. It received that which was seen, and fell upon that which is unseen. O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is Risen!

*(continued on page 4)*

**- PLAN NOW -**

**Garage Sale** 

**Sept. 11-12**

**Accepting Your Donations In August**



**When: Fri. & Sat. September 11 & 12**  
**Where: St. George Driveway**  
**Time: Friday 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.**

Please SAVE THE DATE and plan now to help volunteer your time. Helpers needed for setting up Friday morning, working both Friday evening and Saturday morning, and clean up after the sale. Thank you!

Sale will be a FREE WILL OFFERING. Donations do not need price tags. Receipts for your donations are available, see Mark or Tracey for your questions.

**Proceeds will go toward the "Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser."**

\*If you have an expensive item that you would like to be priced, we can accept a price tag and will keep the item in a different area, perhaps the front yard. Please let Mark know in advance of the item(s) and provide a price tag or sign. Please remember you are responsible for picking up the item, if it does not sell.

# WE GET LETTERS . . .

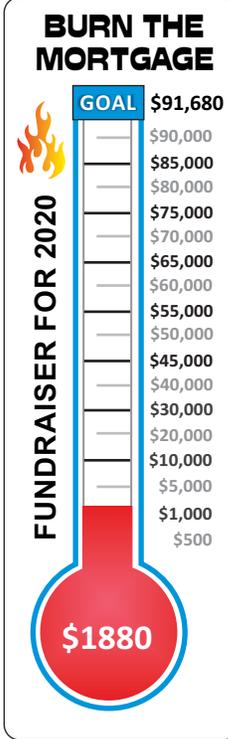


**I loved my Pascha Cross!**  
 Many thanks to the kind and thoughtful person(s) that left a basket full of beautiful hand-made palm crosses



*thank you!*

in the narthex for our church family to take home.



# World Vision®



Despite rain and Covid-19, our team still participated in **World Vision's 6K for Water!**

Because of your donations, Team Kearney gave a total of \$1650 to the global effort.

On behalf of everyone who will receive clean water, thank you for your support!

**THANK YOU \* THANK YOU \* THANK YOU**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Birthdays

**June 6**  
Steve Wolf

**June 8**  
Subdeacon Michael

**June 10**  
Lessa Guikema

**June 11**  
Megan Shada

**June 20**  
Josh Hartley

**June 25**  
Margaret Morris

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**June 4**  
Radu & Alexandra Neamu

**June 10**  
Daniel & Dora Brailita

**June 11**  
Gus & Christina Katrouzes

**June 12**  
Mike & Ronda Maloley

**June 16**  
Joe & Linda Maloley

**June 24**  
Mark & Joanie Klein

**June 25**  
Amanda & Ron Denny

## Donations *Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **Chronicle newsletter** from anonymous donor

Donation to the **Chronicle newsletter** from Jenny Bergt

### *In Memory of*

Donation to **Saint George Church** in memory of *Mary Maloley* from Jim, Sally, and Sally Ann Meehan and family

Donation to **Saint George Church** in memory of the *departed members*, and for the good health of the living members of the *Abood and Bergt families* from Jenny Bergt

Donations to **Saint George Church** in memory of *Mary Maloley* from Fred and Michelle Day, and George and Sharon Maloley

Donation to **Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser** in memory of *Mary Maloley* from John and Margaret Morris

Donation to **Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser** from George Maloley Trust Fund

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*



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## OUR JUNE FASTING

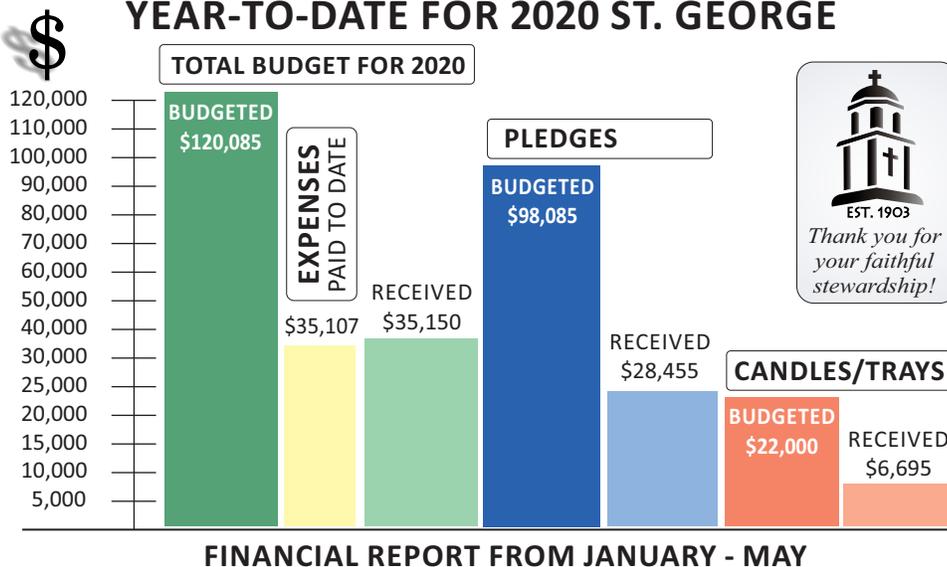
The traditional fasting from meats, poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy products is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays. June 7th is Pentecost and the week following Pentecost is fast-free.

**Apostles Fast** begins Monday, June 15th and concludes with the Feast of the Holy apostles Peter and Paul, on June 28th.

During this Fast we observe the traditional fasting discipline on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with katalysis for fish, wine and olive oil on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.



## YEAR-TO-DATE FOR 2020 ST. GEORGE



*(continued from page 2)*

The Great Book of Needs, Vol. II, p. 334, St. John Chrysostom, St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, South Canaan, PA

In this time of a pandemic, when the world is facing its mortality, we proclaim the

Resurrection. This is the true vaccine, the true remedy, the Ultimate Truth. May each of us experience this hope, share it lovingly with others, and prepare for unending joy! **Christ is Risen!**  
**In Truth He is Risen!**



*Published with permission by Father Alexii of Holy Archangel Michael and All Angels Skete, Weatherby, Missouri*

[featured posts](#)

For the fourth year in a row, the Morris and Fothergill families rallied a group of world-changers to walk in the **Global 6K Walk for Water** through World Vision!



The coronavirus pandemic didn't stop Team Kearney from participating on May 16th. Thank you to this year's donors and the 14 team members. Though we couldn't walk together this year, families and individuals set out on their own routes, most of them in the rain, **to hike the 6K to experience what people around the world must walk everyday to collect water from unclean sources.** With contributions from many generous donors, the team exceeded our fundraising goal of \$1500! Team Kearney gave a total of \$1650 to the global effort of providing clean water to communities in need! Go Team Kearney!!

**We would love to increase our team next year!  
Please consider joining us!**

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