

ST. GEORGE Chronicle

AUGUST 2015

Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING EVENTS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
August 22, Saturday 8:00 am

PARISH RETREAT
August 30, Sunday after Liturgy

ST. GEORGE GARAGE SALE
Sept. 11-12, Fri. & Sat.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
OPEN HOUSE
Sept. 13, Sunday

Our Beloved Icons

by Sbdn. John Wolf

The third icon we will discuss in this series is **The Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos**. It is arguably the simplest icon of all that adorn our ceiling. It consists of the Archangel Gabriel and the Theotokos, with the wall of the temple in the background. Let us not be deceived! There are many things to be learned by the contemplation of this icon; **Many things that will aid us in the correct interpretation of all the other icons.**

The following are excerpts from an essay by Fr. Constantine Strategopoulos, vicar of the Church of the Dormition of the Holy Metropolis of Glyfada, Attica, Greece:

"First of all, the Angel is announcing an event. Given that he is announcing an event and is in motion, his legs as we can see in the icon are wide apart. This denotes the presence of movement. In other instances, we shall see angels who are not likewise in motion, and whose legs are static. In the icon, the Archangel Gabriel is "sent forth" to the Holy Mother, which is why his legs are depicted apart, in motion. As you can see, he has one arm outstretched - he is announcing something to Her."

"Now let us observe the Angel's head. You will notice that the Angel has a headband holding back his head of hair. The headband in hagiography is (I could say) the carnal, material expression of the noetic prayer. The Angel is concentrating the wealth of his mind (I can't actually describe his intellect and mind) in the presence of God. That is why he is wearing the headband. What interests us is his concentration. And note something else - that the head is not depicted in profile, or face-on. The depiction is a three-quarter view of the face, so that we can see both his eyes. What is of interest to us, is to see both his eyes. And we can see this in images of all the saints."



Sponsorship of The Annunciation of the Theotokos icon at St. George Kearney, was offered by the Nick Abood, Knoffke & Tim Shada Families, the Saint Helena Ladies Society & the Leo Shada Memorial

(continued on page 3)

A note from Fr. Christopher . . .



Dear Members, Friends and Benefactors of Saint George,

We have had a wonderful month of July at Saint George! With the help of our teachers, volunteers, parents, and many of you who made generous donations, we held our first **Vacation Bible School**. Attendees ranged in ages from 3 years old through high school. Everyone had a wonderful time. It will most certainly be remembered as a highlight of 2015 at Saint George, and we are already looking forward to our 2016 VBS!

On a more somber note, I have received numerous questions about the Supreme Court's decision a month ago to legalize same-sex marriage. As Orthodox Christians, we can only live and believe as we always have—in faithfulness to God's unchanging divine revelation, while **loving all with the love of Christ Jesus**. In this world, each one of us labors and is heavy laden with our sinful passions, and Christ alone can give us eternal rest and heavenly peace.

Our Orthodox bishops have "rightly divided the word of truth" and spoken directly to the Supreme Court's decision. You may find their [statement](#) on our parish website, or on the [Assembly of Orthodox Bishop's website](#). You may also find a [reflection](#) posted on our website about same-sex marriage written from the perspective of the Orthodox Christian faith. **May God preserve us all in both truth and love.**

August is here, and it is time to fast again. **The Dormition Fast** is upon us. Not only do we honor our Lady Theotokos during this fast, but we also **prepare for our own passing from death to eternal life**. May Christ our God, through the prayers of His most holy mother, grant that it be a spiritually profitable time for us all!

Through your prayers,
Fr. Christopher



"A saint is not a superman, but one who discovers and lives his truth as a liturgical being" from the book, [The Sacrament of Love](#) by Paul Evdokimov

WE
GET
LETTERS . . .



I very much enjoy the **Chronicle** and you are doing a great job of it. Hello to all my loved ones at St. George.

Lee Ann (Jacobs) Eliakis

I so look forward to receiving The Chronicle. From a journalistic viewpoint, the layout and use of photos and other graphics are very well done.

Congratulations to all who participated in the PLC competition—fantastic!

Love in the Risen Christ,
Judy Yacio



can YOU give 1-2 hours?

More volunteers are still needed to help collect donated items at **Crossroads' WinBins** throughout town. Our pick-up days are Wed. and Sat., **but these days are flexible, different days are OK.**

This is a great opportunity for us to show our "parish charity" for our community.

When checking-in on Crossroad's Log, consider signing-in with **St. George Church** as your name. Just another way we can show our support and that others may learn about our parish name.

Many thanks to those volunteers who have helped.

THANK YOU ST GEORGE VBS TEACHERS

I was fortunate to attend several of the VBS sessions at St. George this summer. A big heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of the teachers that gave of their time, resources and prayers. We are blessed at St. George, to have such a wonderful group of volunteers that created a fun atmosphere of learning for our parish kids, and their friends! May we continue to offer a summer VBS that can grow into our community as well.

Glory to God for All Things!
Joanie Klein

(continued from page 1)

"The Angel is also holding a staff. To us, the staff has a theological symbolism. A staff was always the object used by messengers when they had to make an announcement. Up until recently, even in our villages, a town crier would come out and strike a stick against the cobblestones in the street, and shout out that this or that event was going to take place. **The staff signifies that the Angel has come to announce something.**"

"The Angel also has a stripe on his garment which states that as an officer, he has received instructions. **He has been given a power from a higher authority.** It is stating that an Angel is not independent. He does not function independently. He does not function per the measures of personal desires, but is obedient to God. That stripe-insignia denotes the authority given to him."

"Let us now take a look at the Holy Mother. **Her outstretched arm is a gesture of acceptance.** It means "I accept". We aren't dealing with comic strips here, where we need to insert expressions and words.

Acceptance is also denoted by a lowered head. We can see a minimal, very slight bowing of the head, which, together with the hand gesture, is a statement of acceptance. Thus, wherever we see or want to express acceptance of an event, we portray a bowed head. A minimal, tiny move of humility which is not overly apparent; that is, not an explosive humility. That would have also been a romantic or "deafening" element. An open palm also denotes acceptance."

"In Her other hand the Holy Mother is holding another object. It is a spindle for making yarn. This denotes something else that the Holy Mother is - Who is more precious than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim; Who resembles the angelic hosts and is far more precious than all of them - but Who simultaneously remains human and is preoccupied with human work.

That is why She is holding that spindle. No one in the life of the Church is an exclusively spiritual person. Given that people bear everything carnal and a carnal nature - which is not a sin per se - they must also perform human labours. Work. And you should remember that ascetic theory in its entirety, that is, by the simultaneous application of work and prayer. That is why the Holy Mother is holding a spindle."



"The three stars that are depicted on the Holy Mother - one on Her head and the other two on each of Her shoulders denotes that the Holy Mother is ever-virginal. She was, is and forever will be a Virgin - before, during and after the Birth."

"In iconography, we never depict an interior space (as for example the interior of a temple). All events are external; there is no internal space. Nothing is closed within walls in iconography. **Everything exists outside.** An event may take place

somewhere inside, internally, but a house will be depicted as an outdoor setting. In iconography we never close ourselves in. Everything is an exit. There is no interior. Even if a liturgy is depicted, you will never see where there is a closed temple, you will never see any walls. Because the Liturgy itself is an exit from the things of this world. Woe betide, if the Church were to be closed in, or performed a Liturgy for enjoyment, or to acquire solemnity, and nothing more. The Liturgy is an exit. And we participate in the Liturgy, so that we might acquire the potential to make an exit, towards the world, towards God and the others. **There is never any closed space in iconography.** Never. Even when it refers to Doubting Thomas, "with the doors closed", where "the disciples were gathered for fear of the Judeans", the Apostles are depicted in an open space. Even though the Holy Bible itself states "with the doors closed", nevertheless, iconography portrays them as standing outside. The same thing can be observed in the icon of the Pentecost - even though the Pentecost happened inside a loft."

As you can see, there is an incredible amount of information to process while contemplating even the simplest of icons. Let us dedicate ourselves to further study, so that **our icons will truly be an aid to us in our prayer life** both in church and at home!

Please note

Articles and photos for the Chronicle are due on the 20th of the month, prior to the month of the desired publication.

Please submit content to:
stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

The Chronicle is the monthly newsletter of St. George Orthodox Christian Church of Kearney, Nebraska.



Birthdays

August 13
Ronda Maloley

August 17
Joe Maloley



August 12
John & Margaret Morris

August 15
Fr. Christopher & Kh. Anastasia



Our Baby Congratulations

To Matthew and Barbara Noffke
on the birth of their daughter
Margot, born July 22, 2015



Margot
Marie
Noffke

MANY
YEARS

To Toni Ann and
Scott Jackson
on the birth of
their
granddaughter
Monroe,
AND to Tony
and Bessie
Shada on the
birth of their
first great-
grandchild,
born July 3,
2015



Monroe
Annabel
McDermott

MANY
YEARS

In Memory of

In Memory of Abdou Salem from
Mary Schroeder, in honor of
Father's Day

In Memory of Maxine Greever
from Mary Rivett

Donations In Memory of Leenda
Liakos from John Liakos for: The
St. Helena's Lady Society, the St.
George Chronicle, St. George
Church, and to the loan for the
hail damage to St. George.

In Memory of Presbytera Mary
(Kappas) Pallas from Michael and
Stacy Homatas.

*May God bless you all
for your generosity!*

*Note:
please send any additions or
corrections to the editor at
stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com
thank you*

Donations Gratefully Received

Anonymous Donation to St.
George for the kids's VBS

Donation to St. George Church,
given by Lee Ann Eliakis

Donation to the Chronicle from
Ashley Maloley & Family

Several anonymous Donations to
the St. George Chronicle
Newsletter - thank you!

Several anonymous Donations for
the summer Vacation Bible
School - thank you!

Donation to St. George from Sara
Theoharis

Anonymous donation to St.
George Sunday School



MEET
OUR
NEWEST
ACOLYTE



LUCAS

COMMITTEE UPDATES



The New Sunday School Year
at St. George
will begin Sept. 13
with an
Open House

Our Teachers will be:

3-6 year olds

Ronda Maloley, Amy Hadley

7-10 year olds

Kim Rehtus, Ashley Maloley

11 - Up

Sarah Fothergill

We are looking for parishioners that would be interested in helping with Sunday School occasionally. We feel it is very important to have Sunday School **consistently** throughout the school year, but occasionally there may be times when the teachers aren't available, or can't get to church due to road conditions, etc...

The lessons would be planned for you and everything there, we are just looking for a few substitutes.

If you are interested in this, please let one of us know. Thank you for sharing your children with us....it is so amazing to watch them grow spiritually and **we are all learning together!**



On July 28, a **Mediterranean dinner** was held in the St. George parish hall for approximately 40 guests. Guests were seated at tables decorated with a Mediterranean theme and started their meal with a Greek salad. The main course included pastichio, kibbe, grape leaves, beans and rice, flatbread, with baklava as dessert.

Many thanks to Tracey Shada for providing this fundraising opportunity, Sarah Fothergill for organizing the event, Father Christopher for leading the guests on a **church tour**, and all the parishioners who cooked, cleaned, served, and helped with clean up. This event required much work but there were many parishioners that volunteered to help with all aspects of the event. **Many, many, thanks!!**

The evening was a lot of fun and we look forward to the next time we can **outreach to the community** and raise funds for our church in this way!



Thank you for your continued support to our **St. George Bookstore** and remembering us for your Gift-giving needs!

Books, Icons, Incense, Prayer ropes, Jewelry, Crosses, T-Shirts, and Gift Cards. **Can't find what you're looking for?** Contact Levi and he will be happy to help you.

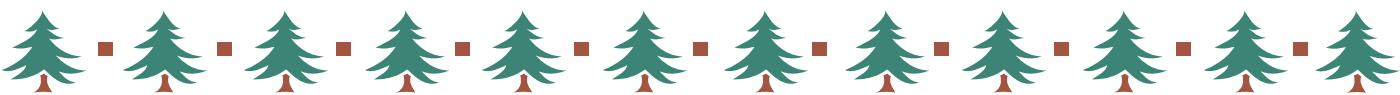
Did you read a good book recently? Please consider sending your "**Book review**" to the **Chronicle** at: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com and we will be happy to share it with your church family. Kids are encouraged to participate. Share your thoughts and **inspire others** with **YOUR** love of reading!



New Fall Schedule for the **Women's Bible Study**. Starting August 10th, we will meet on Mondays, every other week, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Many thanks to Amanda, Kim and Alexandra, for the times they have opened their homes to us.

We have started a new book, **The Hermitess Photini**, and what a very interesting story of this blessed soul and her truly ascetic life. Ask any of the women who are reading this book, what makes this story so unique. Wow!

Come Join Us! we would enjoy seeing you.



CAMP SAINT RAPHAEL

Several of our St. George Youth attended [Camp St. Raphael](#) in Oklahoma this Summer. They had many opportunities to play games, enjoy the water, meet new friends, attend church daily and grow in their Orthodox journey.

When the **Chronicle** asked about their camp experience, here's what some of them had to say!

Rachel, age 15

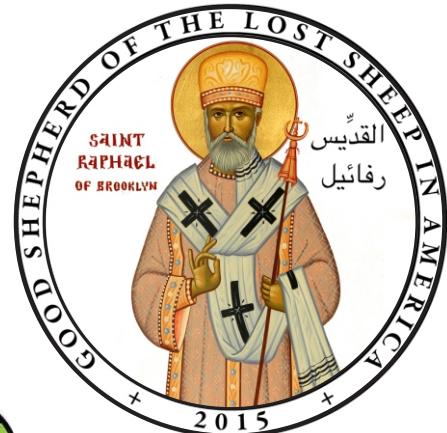
"My favorite thing to do was Arts and Crafts. One of the friends I met was special to me because we had a lot in common. Another friend I met, lives only 4 hours away from me. At first I didn't want to go but after I went, and at the end of camp, I was really glad I went! I hope to attend CAMP RAPHAEL again next year because it was so much fun. It was hard to leave my friends".

Gabriella, age 9

"I loved camp so much. I went Tubing, went to Arts & Crafts, we played Angle Ball, Dodge Ball, Soccer, Basketball, Kick Ball and Ping Pong. One of my friends I met was special to me because I found out my Dad knew her Mom before he met my mom. We had a sports night, a swimming party, Color Wars (Counselors vs. Kids). We had Orthos and Vespers every day. Raphael made me grow a little the church and I can't wait until next year so I can go again. I'm kind of starting to believe what some people say: Camp Raphael is like a chunk of heaven on earth. I didn't even get home sick. It's kind of like your home away from home and I can't wait till next year! The hardest part about leaving Camp was saying good-bye to my friends".



"We LOVED Camp St. Raphael and we can hardly wait until next year, so we can go back again"!



Emma, age 9

"I really liked Camp St. Raphael because I got to meet all my friends. One of things at camp that I didn't want to do was the Climbing Wall but after I did it, I really liked doing it. One of my new friends that I met in El Paso, Texas! I hope I can Camp Raphael again next year so I can go Bumping. It will be fun. The hardest part about leaving camp was leaving all of my friends and saying good-bye to them all".

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

Congratulations!

LEVI HADLEY

was selected as "Supervisor of the Year" at Kearney's YRTC.

This Month!

Sunday, August 30, 2015

St. George Annual Parish Retreat
at Yanney Park, Mitzi's Pavilion,
immediately following Liturgy.
Potluck lunch to be followed by
adult bible bowl and kids craft
and splash-ground time.

Bible Bowl Theme:

"The Life of St. Raphael". Teams
of (3) should sign up in the parish
hall. All are invited to participate.

Hope to see you all there!



Visit Us Often



www.saintgeorgekearney.com



PLEASE HELP

Sunday School teachers are looking for "substitutes" or a teacher willing to help once a month with the pre-school aged kids.

Thank you for
considering
your time in offering
your gifts to **St George**
and our parish youth.

St. George Garage Sale will be
Sept. 11 and 12.

Friday 1:00 - 6:00

Saturday 8:00 - 12:00

Save your stuff now and please price your items ahead of time. This will help when setting up. Mark and Joanie will accept items starting Wednesday, Sept. 9th after 12:00. Please call ahead (293-5090) or email to stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com to let them know when you would like to deliver your items.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, to work it, and clean up. Thank you for your donations, and for your gift of time to help ensure a **successful fund-raiser for St. George**.

We offer numerous resources to encourage you in your Orthodox journey. Video clips, Articles, Podcasts, Photos, Weekly Church Bulletin and our Monthly Calendar. Stay Informed by visiting often.



We Loved
VBS



Where we learned what it means to Touch,
Smell, Taste, Hear and See Jesus!



SEE



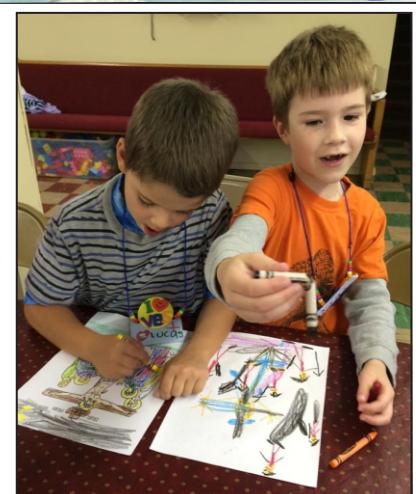
HEAR



TASTE



TOUCH



See you next year
ST. GEORGE!

A GREEK REFLECTION

by Sarah Fothergill

Just a few weeks ago I was blessed to spend **two weeks** with my family in **Greece**. We went to over twenty destinations (both ancient and modern sites), as well as many churches and beaches. I enjoyed the time spent with my family, and old and new friends. We laughed, we cried, we walked, we climbed, we relaxed, and we ate, and we ate and ate (**seriously...Greek food, people!**). As much fun as it was to be surrounded day and night by my seven best friends (love you guys!), I really enjoyed the times I was able to quietly pray and reflect on my life in the many churches we visited. Whether it was

the grand [St. Andrew Cathedral in Patras](#),

which can seat over 5,000 people, or the tiny [Church of the Holy](#)

[Apostles](#) in Kalamata which barely fit the eight of us, I found myself truly in awe of the mystery that is the Orthodox faith.

While I was growing up at **St. George in Kearney**, I truly loved my church family (as I still do!). I knew that I was part of **something special** but I didn't really know just how special and blessed I was. I often felt isolated because none of my school friends understood the Orthodox faith.

After attending **Parish Life Conferences**, I felt an instant connection with the other kids from different parishes who shared my passion and love for God and His church. In high school, I attended **Camp St. Raphael** and

immediately felt like I was "coming home" to 300 of my closest friends. It was there that I truly felt that I was part of something much greater than myself. Our theme that year was the **Creed** and it just hit me during a service that week at camp that I no longer had to feel so alone and isolated when I returned home. I realized that every single Sunday, hundreds and thousands of teens all over the world were going to be reciting the same, exact creed that I was! It made me realize that the **Orthodox church** was not simply St. George in Kearney, Nebraska, but a **true home to millions of Orthodox throughout the world**.



As I walked into the many churches in Greece, I felt at home. I walked in and venerated icons and relics, lit candles, kissed the hands of priests, and looked up at beautiful icons on the walls and ceilings, just like I do at home. I felt that I was a part of something greater and I **felt a rush of peace** come over me. I felt the presence

of all the **saints** in the iconography who were there, **watching over us**, protecting us, and keeping us safe on our trip and I realized that those same saints would also do the same for me in **Kearney, Nebraska**.

I admit there were times towards the beginning of our vacation when I felt envious of the Greeks because I discovered Orthodox churches in every single town, sometimes one on every street corner. Whole communities of faithful Orthodox! I wish I could have stayed just a little longer and enjoyed what that would be like. No one asking questions about icons, saints, reliques, and incense.

Suddenly, **images of St. George** in

Kearney, Nebraska came into my mind. I pictured the **new iconography** and the faces of our **beloved parishioners**. I recalled dear friends, mentors, and loved ones that I see week after week. The people who ask me about my family, marriage, job, and who pray for me when I'm sick. Who send me quick notes to let me know they are thinking of me. The **incredibly talented youth** I am blessed to work with. The 20/40 group that is always so hospitable. The ladies of

the parish that consistently serve the church. I don't need an Orthodox church on every corner. I don't need to visit Greece to "find" my faith. As one dear parishioner put it so eloquently in a text message to me just hours after I got home, "Thank God you have your little piece of heaven at St. George to come back to!" Amen! **Glory to God!**

ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

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Wichita and Mid-America
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God Always
Rewards
Generosity

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



AUGUST FASTING

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

Year-to-date
for 2015

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **July 31** ... We have received \$54,124 of the \$81,055 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of **July 31** ... We have received \$10,316 of the \$17,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

Thank you!

A GIFT FOR ST. GEORGE

I am committed to Stewardship and growth at St. George Orthodox Church in Kearney, NE. As an expression of my gratitude to God for His many blessings in my life, I would like to make a donation to my church.

Please use this donation for _____

I would like my donation to be in Memory of _____

or in Honor of _____

*Please make my donation (circle one) **anonymous** or you may use **my name**.*

*Name _____
amount donated \$ _____
(please print)*

Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity



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