



# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

JANUARY 2016

HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## Our Beloved Icons *by Subdeacon John Wolf*

This month's icon is entitled "Teaching in the Temple." It is a representation of the passage in Luke's Gospel (Luke 2:41-52) where Jesus lingers in the temple after the feast of Passover while his parents return home with their relatives. When they realize he is not with them, they return to Jerusalem and **find him seated among the elders in the temple, asking and answering questions.** It is the only passage in the New Testament concerning a particular episode in the life of the young Jesus.



*Sponsorship of Christ Teaching in the Temple icon at St. George Kearney, was offered by Donald & Lorraine Nemer and Families of Saint George*

One of the first things we perceive when looking at the icon is the **size of the young Jesus.** Even though he is the furthest figure, he is much larger than the elders. If you have been following this series, you will remember that even though artists of the period were well-versed in perspective, those rules took a backseat to theological considerations. **Jesus is the largest figure in this icon because He is the most important.** His large size represents the fact that He much more knowledgeable about the scriptures (and everything else!) than those who surround him.

*(continued on page 2)*



Another astounding part of this particular passage is the fact that **Jesus calls God His Father.** (“Did you not know I must be about my Father’s business?”) It is at this point that we realize that Jesus, from the beginning, knew that He was God come to earth to save mankind. **He was fully God and fully man.** Realizing that He knew this within Himself, it is even more incredible to think that he limited himself while he was on earth and was subject to His parents in all things until He began his ministry. Thus, **this icon offers us a glimpse into the divine side of Our Lord,** which was present, (although hidden) from the beginning.

## HOLY THEOPHANY

The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on **January 6.** The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation from above, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.



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

**Dear Members and Friends,**

What a blessing that God has given us another year to grow in His love and share it with each other! 2016 is here! And, yes, it is time for our New Year's resolutions. With the best of intentions, many people are promising to stick to that diet or finally get a membership to the gym. Maybe it's taking up a new hobby or making time for a special book that has been collecting dust on the shelf for far too long.

While the resolutions above are all worthwhile, do we also have spiritual resolve? What kind of God-pleasing resolutions are we going to make for this year?

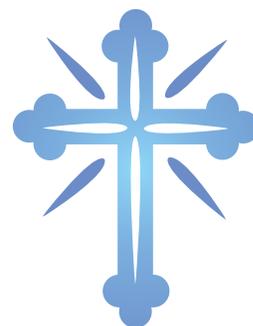
Looking back on 2015, what did we learn? Was it wonderfully fruitful? Or was it mostly fruitless? Did we grow in love for Christ and our neighbor? What habits of prayer, fasting, giving, and thankfulness helped us to grow in our faith? Or was last year a season of listlessness and spiritual lethargy?

Did we leave 2015 with hard-won victories and stinging defeats? With thanksgivings, tears, and regrets? Are we leaving last year with new experiences and tools to further us in our life in Christ?

Whatever happened in this past year, whether good or bad, can become a part of our pursuit of God in 2016. We can build on those things that helped us turn our hearts to God and neighbors, and which aided us in our ceaseless struggle against self-love and deadly pride. And we can also recommit – using that sad wisdom that comes with hindsight – to avoiding those thoughts, words, and deeds that carried us far from Christ.

**In 2016, will we do more to pursue our God? Everyday brings us one day closer to meeting Him face to face. Let us use each day of this coming year wisely and with godly resolve!**

May you all have a Happy and Blessed New Year!  
Fr. Christopher



# Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

*Commemorated on January 7*

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

St John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. St John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John was related to the Lord on His mother's side, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son

was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. St John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, St John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, St John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. (On St John the Baptist, see Mt.3:1-16, 11:1-19, 14:1-12; Mark 1:2-8, 6:14-29; Luke 1:5-25, 39-80, 3:1-20, 7:18-35,

9:7-9; John 1:19-34, 3:22-26).

The Transfer of the Right Hand of the holy Forerunner from Antioch to Constantinople (956) and the Miracle of Saint John the Forerunner against the Hagarenes (Moslems) at Chios: The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.

When the Moslems seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter.

Besides the Synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates his memory on the following days: September 23, his Conception; June 24, his Nativity; August 29, his Beheading; February 24, the First and Second Finding of his Head; May 25, the Third Finding of his Head; October 12, the Transfer of his Right Hand from Malta to Gatchina (1799).

## SOURCE:

<https://oca.org/orthodoxy>

# FROM OUR READERS ...



**Thank you** for sending me the Chronicle each month and enclosed please find a donation for the publication, or to use however you wish.

Sincerely,  
Dick Abood



2016

**Joyous Feast of the Nativity!**  
Beautiful Chronicle you put out every year - thank you so much!

In Christ's love,  
Paul and Marge Shada

**Please accept** the enclosed donations in honor of Margo & Nimir Maloley for Christmas, from their children and families. Ashley mentioned that the kitchen may be getting a make-over. Please use these funds for this project or as you see fit.

With all our love,  
Paul, Pierre, Ann, Phil, and families

*Thank You!*

On behalf of the St. George newsletter, **The Chronicle**, we would like to thank all of our generous friends and benefactors who graciously made monetary donations, throughout the year. Your gifts have allowed us to print and mail the monthly newsletter to parish families and friends with **no expense** to St. George. Glory to God! Your prayers for 2016 as we continue another year of "**St. George happenings**".



## Birthdays

January 1  
Grace Maloley

January 14  
John Wolf

January 15  
Ashley Maloley

January 21  
Juliana Morris  
James Wolf

January 28  
Victoria Applegarth

January 29  
Allison Denny

GOD GRANT YOU  
MANY YEARS

## HAPPY Anniversary

None that the Chronicle knows about



## In Memory of

Donation to St. George Church, in **Memory of Irene (Yanney) Blomquist** from Jenny Bergt

Donation to St. George Church, in **Memory of Leenda Liakos**, from John Laikos

\* \* \*

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*

## Donations Gratefully Received

Donation to the **St. George Chronicle** from Dick Abood

Donation to the **St. George Building Fund** from Jenny Bergt

Donation to the **St. George Chronicle**, from Anonymous donor

Donation to the **St. George Chronicle**, from Paul & Marge Shada

Donation to **St. George** from Nick and Kay Abood.

Donations to **St. George**, in honor of Nimir and Margo Maloley, from Paul, Pierre, Ann, Phil, and their families.

\* \* \*

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



**Baklava!** Thank you to our devoted parishioners that advertised and purchased Baklava. And to the volunteers who helped make our **5th annual fund-raiser a success.** What a joy to see all of our efforts come together so that we could offer this “sweet treat” for holiday gift-giving. **Thanks be to God** for our organizers Kim Rehtus and Margo Maloley - you made it fun!



We are currently reading “**The Seer**”, by Metropolitan of Nafpaktos Hierotheos. This has been a very enjoyable study on the **life of the Prophet Samuel and it's relevance to us, today.**

The early chapters focused on marriage, family, and children. We were introduced to his wife, the very holy Prophetess Hannah, and the very beautiful “**Hannah's Prayer**”. We have enjoyed discussing how their lives can inspire ours to be more devoted to God, as well as growing our hearts spiritually.

Even if you can't attend our study sessions, consider picking up a copy of this book to read at your leisure. Each page is full of **timeless wisdom** that may inspire you, and become a treasure to your heart.

In January, we will meet on Monday the **4th and the 18th**, from **4:00 - 5:00**. Hope to see You!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016**

**Sunday School classes will resume January 10th.**

Thank you for attending our parish-wide Christmas program on Dec. 20th. The kids started the program off with a new song they learned. They were very excited to perform this for their parish family.

Several of the students shared their musical talents with us by participating in the Talent Show – **Glory to God!**



**ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP**

The **St. George Youth Group** continued to meet in November and December. Mid-November **we assisted the 20/40 group in serving a meal** at Crossroads Shelter. In December we met for **hot chocolate and picked up Win Bin items** for Crossroads Shelter. The Hadley family graciously allowed us to meet in their new home for **snacks and discussions**. We also met to watch **Elf** and would like to thank the Rehtus family for allowing us to meet in their home to watch **It's A Wonderful Life**. The youth group enjoyed dinner and fellowship time this month. We look forward to all that 2016 will hold for us! **Thank you to the parish for your prayers and generosity!**



Come visit us! We have **Books, Magazines, and Videos** you can check out. Or if you prefer to purchase, some are available for that too. Don't forget **gift ideas** for your friends, and family members. We have **Cards, Calendars, Jewelry, Incense, Icons** and if undecided, Levi offers **Gift Cards** as well.

If you can't find what you're looking for, talk to Levi to see if he can help you find that special gift.

**QUESTION:** Would you find it beneficial for the Chronicle to list **new items and/or Book titles** when they are available for purchase? Please send your thoughts or opinions to the editors at:

[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)  
We would enjoy hearing from you.



**As a reminder**, the 20/40 group is open to anyone in the parish who is approximately 20 to 40 years of age. **We meet once a month** for food, fellowship, or community service projects, and are excited for what the year 2016 will bring. If you have any ideas for gatherings or are interested in hosting the group at your home, please talk to Levi Hadley. **Also, if you are on Facebook, please join our group so you can stay in the know.**

# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

**TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS, THEIR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS,**



**Thank you** for all of your hard work and time in offering your parish family with a **special Lenten Soup Luncheon** after Liturgy, on December 20th. What a treat to offer us such a variety of soups, snacks and desserts. Games, puzzles

and Songs for the Christmas Party was fun for all. **We are blessed to have such a loving and generous parish family!**

**Many thanks** to Tim & Tracey Shada for being our December Mystery Basket Donors - Mark and I were the lucky winners of this **Fun Holiday Basket!** Chocolate, Coffee, and Games with a Christmas-Winter theme. The adorable and funny Snowman Books will offer us many hours of fun reading with our grand-daughter, Schylar. Thank you for your generosity.

Glory to God for All Things!

Mark & Joanie Klein

*Thank You!*

*Our Congratulations To:*



**Megan Shada**



Megan received her Masters Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management. **Glory to God!**

**Many thanks to the Elf** (or Elves) who decorated St. George for the Fall Holiday and Christmas Season. The hanging wreaths on the front and back doors made me smile. The window decorations as well as the pine boughs on the candle stands, all added a festive touch to the holiday decor. Thank you!

In Christ's love,  
A parish family member of St. George



Many thanks to all who purchased **raffle tickets** for the

**December Mystery Basket.** This month's lucky winner, was Mark & Joanie Klein. Thank you to Tim & Tracey for donating their "Christmas Theme" basket full of GOODIES! Money raised will go to our **St. George Youth Group** to help fund their projects and meals for fellowship after Wed. services.



**Dear St. George parish family and friends,**

Thank you for your many letters and notes of encouragement throughout the year. For sharing your stories, your photos, news and announcements, so that your parish family can stay connected. Your efforts allow the editors of the Chronicle to create a fun and informative newsletter for all to enjoy!

In Christ's Love,  
The Chronicle

*Chronicle*

*Clue: doesn't have anything to do with your race, your culture, your economic status, or your education.*

# St. George Christmas Party & Talent Show

2015



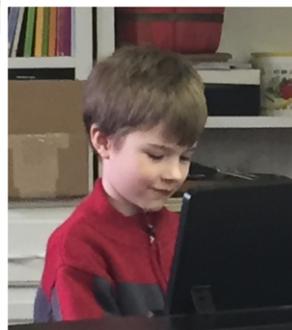
**WE  
HAD  
PIANO  
SOLOS**

**Joy**

**to**

**the**

**world!**



**WE HAD  
DUETS**



**WE ALL SANG  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS**



# ST. GEORGE BAKLAVA FUNDRAISER



# SCRAPBOOK MAKIN MEMORIES



## House Blessings

Between Theophany and the beginning of Great Lent, we have the opportunity to have our homes blessed with Holy Water from Theophany. It is also a time to gather together to pray for our loved ones during the beginning of the New Year.



**Please talk to the priest to arrange a time for him to come bless your home!**

When the priest comes, have a candle lit and a few icons either set up on a clean table or in the icon corner. Have a list written out with the baptismal names of all members of the household.



When the priest comes to bless your home, please turn off all music and television.

It is traditional to go from home to home with friends and loved ones, sharing this blessing together. If you would like, please invite friends and loved ones.

It is not necessary to put out refreshments. If you wish to, water or tea is fine. But, please, it is not necessary to stuff the priest's belly or pockets. Thank you.

**Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.** It is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us. **Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I believe..." as proof of that belief.**

Incredible support is unleashed from Stewards who unselfishly and joyfully offer their time, talent and treasures, which in turn enhances the spirituality and ministry of the local parish.



"It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today."

-FR. ANTHONY M. CONIARIS

Dear God,  
So far today,  
I've done  
all right.  
I haven't  
gossiped.  
I haven't  
lost my temper.



I haven't been greedy,  
grumpy, nasty, selfish or  
overindulgent.  
I'm very thankful for that.  
But in a few minutes, God,  
I'm going to get out of bed;  
and from then on, I'm  
probably going to

need a lot  
more help.  
**Amen.**



## 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. May God Bless your offering.

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Volume 2, No. 1, January 2016

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

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A parish of the Antiochian  
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America, Diocese of  
Wichita and Mid-America  
The Right Rev. BASIL, bishop

\*\*\*

The Rev. Christopher Morris,  
pastor  
[stgeorgekearney@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgekearney@yahoo.com)

Editor, Sbdn. John F. Wolf  
Design & Layout, Joanie Klein  
Contact:  
[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

Church Office Phone:  
(308) 234-6969

Church website:  
[www.saintgeorgekearney.com](http://www.saintgeorgekearney.com)

## January fasting

From December 25th through  
January 4th, there is no fasting  
as we celebrate the 12 days of  
Christmas. **January 5th**  
however, is observed as  
a **strict fast day** for the  
eve of **Theophany**.

The traditional fasting discipline  
(no meat, dairy, poultry, eggs,  
fish, wine or oil) is again  
observed on all  
Wednesdays and  
Fridays,  
beginning  
the week of  
January 10th.



## YOUR *Offerings*

**Thank you for your generosity  
to St. George.** When sending  
your donation (or placing it in  
the offering tray) please  
include a note to designate  
your gift, **and** if you desire your  
name to be published in the  
Chronicle or made anonymous.  
Forms are also  
available for  
you to use,  
on the  
candle table.  
Thank you



## Our Orthodox Christian Faith gives to us, our “true identity”. Do you know who you are?

send us your answer at:  
[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)  
Only one winner, be the **first** person  
with correct answer and you can claim  
the prize! Clue on page 6.

## PLEASE NOTE

Articles and photos for the Chronicle  
are **due on the 24th** of the month, prior  
to the month of the desired publication.

Please submit content to:  
[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

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



## Troparion

When Thou, O Lord, was  
baptized in the Jordan,  
worship of the Trinity was  
made manifest; for the  
voice of the Father bore  
witness unto Thee, calling  
Thee His beloved Son;  
and the Spirit, in the  
likeness of a dove,  
confirmed the truth of  
His word. O Christ, our  
God, Who hast appeared  
and enlightened the  
world: Glory to Thee.

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