



ST. GEORGE Chronicle

JANUARY 2019



The Very Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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FEAST DAY CALENDAR FOR 2019

SAVE THE DATES

JAN. 6 - THEOPHANY

FEB. 2 - Presentation of Christ into the Holy Temple, Feast Day

FEB. 3 - Parish Annual Meeting

FEB. 10 - Sunday of Zacchaeus

FEB. 17 - Sunday of Publican & Pharisee

MARCH 10 - Forgiveness Sunday

MARCH 11 - Clean Monday

MARCH 11 - GREAT LENT BEGINS

APRIL 28 - PASCHA

The Glory of Theophany – Saint John the Baptist Day

*The following is an excerpt from a sermon given by
Fr. Josiah Trenham in January 2018*

Oh, the smells of the season. These are happy days brothers and sisters, and the smells of Nativity and those incredible poinsettias, in the church and then yesterday, the smell of the magnificent basil and the rosemary and that scented geranium, speaking forth new life and the sanctification of the waters. Splendid days. Not the best, second best.

Pascha's the best, and Nativity and Theophany, a close second. But just like in that first Christmas, that sublime night, there were angels rejoicing, and a few men, those humble shepherds piping and singing praise to the Lord, there was also scheming. Herod was about his nasty business. There was a mix of joy and happiness; and there always is, in our celebrations of the Feast of the Lord in this fallen world. We always have a mix, we feel the potency of God's presence and His mighty acts that He has done for us, that thrill us, and establish us in joy, as the normative way we Christians live. And we carry that joy carefully, in the midst of many sorrows.

I had a conversation with a young one, it ended very beautifully. One of our young ones was sent by his or her parents to come see me because he was having a hard time with going to church, and staying

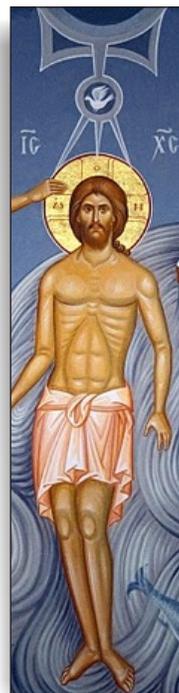
in church, and I said, "what's the hard time?" And this little one said, "church interrupts my fun time." We had a nice conversation about reasonable fun time and what 'reasonable fun time is', meaning that nice time for relaxation when your duties as a person, as a son or daughter of God, and as a member of a family, a friend, and maybe a student, or worker are done. Reasonable fun time. I'm afraid that Christmas in some places, especially the services to commune with the Son of God, who has become a man, interrupt our fun

time. I really don't think that is going to fly. It certainly doesn't fly to my ears or any priest I know, and it's certainly not going to fly on the day of judgement. How backwards that the celebrations, supposedly in honor of Christmas, steal from the actual celebration of Christmas!

Recently during Royal Hours, due to lack of available chanters, I found myself at the chanters stand, reading the psalms. Royal hours are served before Christmas, Theophany and Pascha. We read three Psalms at the hours in preparation of the feast, at the 1st hour, 3rd hour, 6th hour, and the 9th hour, followed by a magnificent collection of hymnody about the feast itself. We prepare ourselves both mentally and spiritually by these beautiful hymns. At the 3rd

hour we read Psalm 41 - heart of a God-lover towards church, heart of a believer. Thirsting to be near God, to stand before His face, considering the church to be a place that is a wondrous tabernacle. And therefore going with a voice of rejoicing and thanksgiving. The 6th hour we read

(continued on page 2)



Psalm 73 - it describes exactly the opposite mentality, a "Godhater." The psalmist describes the mentality of those that can't be bothered with God. They certainly can't be bothered by the feasts, they want them gone. They want them out. It's sad, of course, when we ourselves abolish the feast days, for ourselves and for our families by choosing to be distracted by the stuff of life, and to miss the heart. Theophany cannot be neglected by God-lovers.

Theophany has to be jealously held onto and cherished as is Christmas and Pascha. On this day, as we celebrate our Savior's Baptism, we remember the preciousness of the hand of a priest. In the Theophany service, it mentions several times St. John the Baptist's hand, and it says something unusual about his hand - it was trembling.

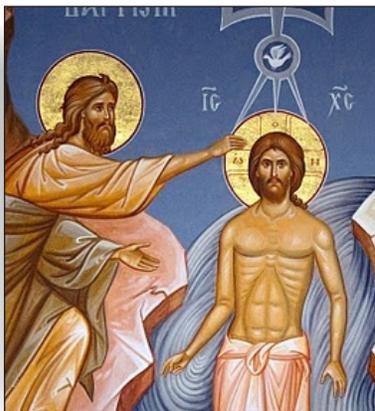
The hand of a priest is an awesome thing. And it's awesome to be touched by the hand of a priest. I remember the very first time the hand of a priest touched me. I remember making my first confession, as a 25 year old young man. I remember the first time, when I was done, I thought I was going to die! I did.

Nervous is not even a word sufficient for describing my experience. And, I remember when I was done, the priest putting his Epitrachelion on my head, and then I felt his hand, I can feel it now, for the first time on my head. What a relief!

It's awesome to be touched by the hands of a priest, it's even more awesome, as a priest, to touch heads. To be able to touch them regularly in the confession, and especially on Great Saturday, to be able to stand at the font as a witness and a participant, a servant of the sacrament of baptism, and to be able to bring people into a union with Jesus' death and resurrection, to be an agent, to help people attain eternal life. It's an awesome thing. But it's most awesome to touch the head of Jesus, and that's what is happening today. John was undone. He was used to baptizing. He

had baptized more people than he could count. He was a preacher, par excellence of repentance. People came to him in tears, wanting to change their lives. And he altered their lives and he brought them to be able to receive Jesus, by helping them take their sins seriously.

He had baptized so many, but One he was not prepared for. When Jesus drew near to the waters of the Jordan, and John saw him, he must of been absolutely breathless. How did he even speak? How did he even form any words? Somehow he did. He said, "Lord I have need to be baptized by You". The humble one being humbled. This is the man who lived in the wilderness his whole life. He was so pure he refused even earthly marriage. He lived literally with the angels, but in the presence of



Jesus, all he could think about was his need of the forgiveness that Jesus came to bring. "Lord I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" And Jesus said to John, something very similar that He said to Peter

before He went to the Passion, when He had told Peter that He was going to wash his feet, and He had clothed himself with a towel, Peter said, just like John, No, No! And Jesus said to Peter, "Peter you'll have no part with Me unless I wash your feet." Jesus said something very similar to John, he said, "it's necessary." It's necessary for us to fulfill all righteousness.

Jesus didn't just humble Himself, brothers and sisters, to become one of us. That is past amazing. But he also humbled himself to take on the very condition of a sinner. He presented himself to John, in the condition of a sinner, the sinless One. He went into those waters, for us. When He went under the waters, He fore-shadowed his going under the earth, to plunder hell, when He came up out of the waters, He

foreshadowed His resurrection and His bestowal of life and as soon as He did it, **the Heavens broke open**. He revealed in a blaze of light, His Father who spoke and said, "this is my Beloved Son." And the Holy Spirit descended as a dove. The Baptism of Christ, opened for us, the truth that He had come to save us and to induct us, to bring us and invite us into a life of the knowledge of God.

To know the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the very essence of Christian life, to know and love the Holy Trinity. "This is eternal Life" by St. John, chapter 17, quoting Jesus, "this is eternal Life that they might know Thee, the Only True God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." Those dragons, as described in the Psalms, that hid in the waters, those demons who possessed the waters and the lower parts of the earth, were terrified, when Jesus broke their necks. When He went Himself into the waters, He sanctified them and He turned the waters, rather from being "cauldrons of darkness" he turned them into "bearers of light," literal spiritual electricity, the energy of Grace now being carried by water, communicating life which is what baptism is all about. This is what He did, He came not because He needed the waters, He came because the waters needed Him! And He made them Holy, and He made them capable of giving us life, so that we can be born of water and the Spirit.

And John was thrilled, yes he was frightened, and his hands trembled, but he also saw the very thing he had been looking for his whole life - he saw the Holy Spirit descend, he saw salvation in the Messiah and he laid aside his baptism. From this moment, he stopped baptizing, he recognized everything he was preparing people for was done. The reality is here. And he says these beautiful words, "He who has the bride, is the Bridegroom, but the friend of the Bridegroom who stands and hears him, rejoices exceedingly, and for this reason, **my Joy is full!**" That's John the Baptist.

When you think of John the Baptist, do you usually think of joy? Or do you think rather of extreme asceticism? Usually we

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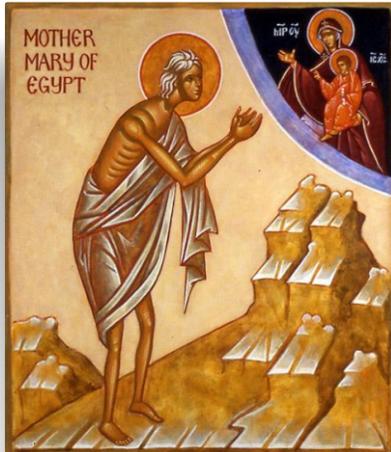
SURROUNDED BY

A Great *Cloud...* of Witnesses



Like all saints, **Saint Mary of Egypt** has an annual feast day (the date of her repose—April 1st). However, we also remember Saint Mary's life on two additional days. The fifth Sunday of Great Lent is dedicated to her memory, and during the Wednesday of the fifth week of Lent, we actually read her life story in church during a special lenten service.

Saint Mary died in AD 522. During her youth, she had lived the wretched life of an addict, giving herself over to every form of harlotry. While on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, however, she heard the voice of the Theotokos in answer to a prayer. From that moment, Saint Mary completely repented and lived as a solitary ascetic for the next 47 years. At the end of her earthly life, the very woman who had once prostituted herself was transformed into a vessel of the Holy Spirit. Filled with divine grace, she was clairvoyant, was seen levitating during prayer, and even walked upon water when she crossed the Jordan River.



When I first read the biography of Saint Mary of Egypt many years ago, I was struck by the supernatural aspects of her life. Not having grown up in the Orthodox Faith, encountering a wonderworking saint was a bit of a shock! But it was also a confirmation of the truth. In Orthodoxy, I was finally encountering followers of Jesus Christ who actually did the same works that He had done, just as He promised (John 14:12). In Saint Mary of Egypt, I saw that truly holy people still existed long after the pages of the New Testament. She is an inspiration to every Christian that God will not only forgive our every sin, but also bestows His boundless grace and divine gifts upon those who truly repent. Saint Mary's life—and the life of every saint—tells us that God is still with us doing what He has always done: making people holy, just as He is holy!

Holy Mother Mary, pray to God for us!

by *Father Christopher*

This space is reserved for our parish family and their favorite saint. Please send us your story. Share with us why you picked your saint, their feast day and a photo of their icon to: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com.

Thank You!

In the Orthodox Church, there are a lot of customs and traditions that are important parts of our worship. Some



are cultural; some are pious customs. Some are essential; some are not. From time-to-time, we need to address some of these various etiquette issues to inform our communities how we can best understand each other and work together to worship the all-holy Trinity.

KISS - (DON'T SHAKE) - THE PRIEST'S HAND

Did you know that the proper way to greet a bishop or priest is to ask his blessing and kiss his right hand? How do you do this? Traditionally, one approaches the bishop or priest with the right hand over the left hand and says, "Master (if a bishop, or 'Father' if a priest), bless." In the Byzantine tradition in this country, the faithful usually take the bishop's or priest's right hand as though to shake it, but instead kiss it.

It is not appropriate to merely shake the hand of the bishop or priest, because, after all, they are not "just one of the boys." When you kiss their hands, just as when you kiss an icon, you show reverence and respect for their holy office which is to be an iconographic icon of Christ, the one High Priest. Moreover, they are the ones who bless and sanctify you, and who offer the Holy Gifts on your behalf in the Divine Liturgy. So, the next time you greet your bishop or priest, do not shake his hand, ask for his blessing.

A FINAL THOUGHT

North American society in the late 20th century is rather casual in its approach to life. Don't allow this prevailing attitude to enter into your Orthodox Christian piety. There are surely a lot of other areas that could be covered here. Much of church etiquette is based on common sense and showing respect for God and others. Always remember that you are in church to worship God, the Holy Trinity. The priest says, "With the fear of God and faith and love, draw near." Let this be the way you approach all of worship. If you do, you will probably have good church etiquette.

SOURCE: antiochian.org

(continued from page 4)

think of extreme asceticism, the man who never ate hardly anything, he ate bugs and akrida that grew in the desert. A man who didn't even allow himself human company for most of his life. A man who came in such an intimidating way that he confronted a king, and then gave up his head for the Lord. When we usually think of John the Baptist we think primarily of his great efforts, of his great devotion, his ascesis, but we should also think of his immense joy! Because this is the witness of his own mouth.

Why did he have so much joy? Because all of his efforts were for ONE REASON. He wasn't trying to buy salvation, he wasn't trying to be ascetical and fast so much that God owed him something, he did all of those things because with prophetic foresight he knew the result would be that he would be near God. He would

be able to stand next to his friend, the Bridegroom, and hear His voice and His joy at being near Christ, would overflow.

This is what's behind us brothers and sisters, and all of our spiritual efforts; this is why we come to church, is to be near God . . . to stand near to Christ, to hear His voice, isn't it? When we fast, when we labor, it's for this reason, it's to be near Him, so that the result could

be that everything He is, just splashes over on us. **His Joy can be our Joy.** That's why we do it and that's what we miss when we allow somehow the feasts of God to be abolished from our lives, we're just thinking wrongly that worship somehow is interfering with our fun time, when in fact, worship is the means of securing Joy for the rest of your life!

Christ is baptized - In the Jordan!

Fr. Josiah Trenham is the pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, California. He is also the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the propagation of the inspired theology of the Church Fathers. patristicnectar.org

This article is written with permission from Fr. Josiah. His sermon can be heard in its entirety on Ancient Faith/The Arena Podcast: Glory of Theophany



Birthdays

January 1

Grace Maloley

January 14

John Wolf

Alexandra Neamu

January 15

Ashley Maloley

January 21

Juliana Morris

James Wolf

January 29

Allison Denny

January 31

Travis Maloley

GOD GRANT YOU
MANY YEARS

No Anniversaries
in January

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Greetings of the Nativity season to everyone at St. George! We were so overjoyed to hear of the great pilgrimage and though we were unable to make it, Linda and Joe, and Victoria, shared so many mementos and memories with us. Just amazing to hear all of the St. George parishioners' efforts to host such an event. Glory to God! Missing everyone. Love to all! *Tom and Kate Salem*

Donations

Gratefully Received

Donation to **St. George Orthodox Church** from Varthie and Leeann Eliakis

Donation to the **St. George Chronicle** newsletter by anonymous donor

Donation to **St. George Orthodox Church** from Alan and Lori Jacobsen

Donations to **St. George Orthodox Church & The Chronicle** newsletter from Tom and Kate Salem

Donation to **St. George Orthodox Church** in honor of *Joe and Linda Maloley*, from Matt and Katie Maloley

In Memory of

Donation to **St. George Orthodox Church** in memory of *Father Nicola Yanney and family and Bill and Yvonne Pape* from Jim and Anne Pape

Donation to **Saint George Orthodox Church** in memory of *Lorraine Maloley* from Joe and Linda Maloley

Donations to **Saint George Orthodox Church** in memory of *Josephine Awtry and Lorraine Maloley* from Kim and Jeannie Leonard

Donations to the **St. George Building Fund** in memory of *Shibble and Virginia Maloley* and to the **iconography project** in memory of *George and Mary Maloley* from George and Sharon Maloley

Donations to **Saint George Orthodox Church** in memory of *Josie Awtry* from June Walker, Robin & Karen Smith, and anonymous

May God bless you all for your generosity!

MINISTRY UPDATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

... at St. George

The St. George Sunday school classes meet every week (except potluck Sundays) at the St. Raphael house. We have three classes going strong! Here are some highlights from our teachers:

"The highlight of my year has been getting to know our new kids and being able to teach them our Sunday School songs! We've had some great conversations, and we're getting to know each other while we get to know more about our faith." - Miss Amy

"Our class has been reading the Old Testament and making connections with the people and events that we are studying. We learned about the creation of the world, the blessings we have received, and what we can learn from figures like Abraham and Noah. We have learned how to be faithful in difficult situations, and how to be thankful for what God has provided us. It has been fun to read the Bible together and make it come to life with our church friends." - Miss Sarah

"My favorite part of Sunday school so far this year has been teaching and learning about ways to love God in church (church etiquette). The children are so eager to learn why we do what we do. Entering the church with reverence, making the sign of the cross, dressing appropriately, venerating the icons, and saying prayers while lighting the candles are just a few things we have talked about. I love getting to know the children more. They each have such wonderful and unique personalities. We have fun together. I look forward to spending more time with them all this coming year." - Miss Amanda

"The middle school class has had some great conversations as we continue to discuss the Book of Acts." - Kh. Anastasia

St. George PARISH COUNCIL

With a joyful heart, we give thanks to God and to you, our benefactors of St. George, and for another year of blessings in 2018. With Phase I of our Building Campaign completed, our fund-raising ministry launched the "St. Nicholas Match Challenge" in July, to help burn the mortgage at the new parish home, located at 710 E. 15th St.

Our goal was \$37,500 and even though we didn't make it, we were able to raise \$17,692. Pair this with matching funds from generous benefactors, our total raised was \$35,384. That's huge, for less than 6 months of fund-raising. THANK YOU! Look for new announcements on how the ministry will plan for 2019.

Very generous benefactors provided new trees along the property to the north of the church and landscaping "make overs" for the church and both properties. THANK YOU!

Your continued prayers and support as we begin a new year, and work to prepare plans for Phase III, which will get us closer to building a new parish hall.

ANNUAL + MEETING

Our all-parish annual meeting will be **Sunday, February 3rd** (Potluck Sunday). Please plan now to attend to help us review and vote on the 2019 budget.

Thank You!

ST. HELENA Ladies Society

Our next meeting has been moved to January 13th. We will go over duties of the offices and accept names of those ladies who would like to be considered for these offices. Elections will take place at the next monthly meeting on February 10th.

On January 12th, we will have an ethnic baking day led by Joyce Maloley at St. George. She will teach us how to make traditional Lebanese appetizers. These family favorites will be part of the food offerings at the upcoming wedding of Terah Maloley. All ladies are invited to attend. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn new baking recipes.



Junior Youth Group at St. George

Our youth group enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the St. Raphael house on December 16th. We ate snacks together and played some games with Father Christopher and Sarah to get to know each other better. The highlight was playing "Minute it to Win it Challenges", such as Penny Drop, Pom Pom transfer, and Extreme Unwrapping. We look forward to each youth group event, as it brings us closer together as a church family.

Women's BOOK STUDY

Another new year and all ladies of St. George are invited to participate in our Book Study group. Our meeting dates in January will be the 7th and 21st at 4:15 pm. Location TBA.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD



It's that special time of year! Gather friends and family and start your new year by having your home blessed with Holy Water from Theophany!

Talk with Fr. Christopher to schedule a time between **January 6th and February 17th**. When he comes, have a candle lit and a few icons either set up on a clean table or in your icon corner. Have a list written out with the baptismal names of all members of the household. Please remember to turn off all music and television. Sing the Troparian together, thanking God for His many blessings.



Our Baby Congratulations

To **Rocky and Dione Steinbrink** (proud grandparents), **Paul Steinbrink** (proud great-grandparent) and to **Roxanne and Paul Knutson** (proud parents) on the birth of **Avery Autumn**, on December 7, 2018.



Avery
Autumn
Knutson

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS

CONGRATULATIONS!

LUKE



UNK
Graduate

December
† 14th
2018

“Unless we look at a person and see the beauty there is in this person, we can contribute nothing to him. One does not help a person by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly, what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone he met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was beauty none the less, and what he did was to call out this beauty.”

— Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Welcome to the world precious Avery!



A very proud Grandma!



Four generations of Love & God's many Blessings!



SATURDAY SUPPER AFTER VESPERS

And You're All Invited!

Join your fellow parishioners for supper after Great Vespers on Saturday evenings. This has been a fun way to get to know each other, and get to know the guests who attend Vespers and accept the invitation to supper. **We rotate hosting and it's potluck style.** We'd love to have you join us when it works in your schedule, and if you would ever like to host, please talk to Sarah or Levi. We will announce locations by e-mail and Facebook.

Blessed New Year Resolutions

by Priest Luke A. Veronis

Why do so many people make New Year's resolutions? Is it because we see something in our lives we want to improve? We all look at ourselves from



time to time, and see things we want to improve. A new year gives us a reason to reflect and strive for a new beginning. So maybe we want to improve our health. Or fix up our finances. Or maybe simply try to become a better person.

Well, as Christians, this type of self-reflection that many do for their New Year's resolutions is something we are called to do on an ongoing basis. We are to constantly do self-evaluations and strive to re-orient our lives back to God, again and again. We fall down and then we get back up. We are constantly taking stock of ourselves, confessing to God, repenting (which ultimately means changing our direction from a self-centered one and reorienting our lives toward God). God gives us a second, third, fifth, tenth and hundredth chance to start anew!

So with this in mind, what would be some good resolutions for us to make as Christians? Here are ten suggestions:

1. Pray every day. Accept a Prayer Rule in your life, and then try to follow that rule every day (ask your priest for a blessing). Prayer is connecting with God, communing with the Source of life. Say set prayers every morning and evening, but then seek to talk with God throughout the day. Don't let an hour

go by where you don't "check in" with God and turn your attention to Him.

2. Do not only pray, but meditate. This means sitting in silence for 10 or 15 minutes each day, and trying to clear your mind of all clutter, simply sitting in the presence of God. You can do this in front of an icon, or you can sit anywhere and close your eyes, reciting the Jesus Prayer – "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have Mercy On Me, a Sinner."

3. Strive to fill your mind each day with something that is "true, noble, just, pure, lovely, holy" (Phil 4:8). In other words, take time every day to read Holy Scripture, and other edifying spiritual writings – for five or ten minutes. Fill your mind with words and thoughts that will sanctify you. Meditate on what you read, and try to apply what you read in your life.

4. Take time each day to express gratitude, first towards God and then towards others. Even when you are having a tough day, pause and think of five things for which you can thank God. And make it a point that whenever you are frustrated, you thank God even more!

5. Each day hand over any anger or resentment to God. Don't allow the day to end while holding on to any bitterness. This means that we have to practice forgiveness daily. Take time each day to reflect on your own mistakes, asking God for forgiveness. Then, offer your forgiveness to anyone who may have hurt or offended you.

6. Refuse to let jealousy, covetousness, greed, and envy preoccupy your mind. Thank God for what you have, and "rejoice with those who rejoice."

7. Every day remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and then think about how you can humbly serve others. And strive to serve others with joy. Remember that it's a blessing

to be able to serve and to give to others.

8. Do some random acts of kindness each day. Better yet, be deliberate in each day. Better yet, be deliberate in conscious acts of kindness. Each day think about how you can do something special for the people who cross your paths.

9. Smile, and try to brighten up each person who crosses your path. Say words that will "edify and bring grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29)

10. Keep an eternal perspective on life. Each day remember that some people have tragically died. Remembering death can help us live life better. If we

remember that we are but brief sojourners on this earth, and that our ultimate citizenship is in heaven, it changes our perspective on how to live.

These are 10 concrete resolutions that each of us can try to do. IF we do each of these every day, they will greatly bless us, as well as bless others. We will become instruments in God's hands, shining forth His light of love to the world around us!

May the New Year bring happiness to keep you sweet; trials to keep you strong; sorrow to keep you compassionate; hope to sustain you; failure to keep you humble; success to keep you eager; friends to give you comfort; wealth to meet your needs; enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow; and determination to make each day better than the day before.

A happy and blessed new year!



source: Pravmir.com

ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK

TALENT SHOW DECEMBER 2018 Joy, Song, and Laughter



Hey
Kids!



The Chronicle would like to invite you to participate in our monthly newsletter! **Your parish family would like to know more about YOU.**

Your entry could be published in an upcoming Chronicle, and your name will be saved for a special drawing. At the end of each quarter (March, June, September, December) **one name** will be drawn and the winner will receive a \$25.00 gift card from either DQ, WalMart, Target or Hobby Lobby.



Ideas for consideration:

- Did you read a good book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Tell us the **name** of the book, **who** it was written by and **why** you liked it.
- Tell us who your patron saint is; include their name, feast date and why they are special to you.
- Do you draw, color pictures, paint or craft other pieces of art?
- Perhaps you write poetry?
- Do you like to bake and have a favorite recipe? Take a picture of what you baked and share the recipe.
- Do you have a pet? Send a favorite picture and tell us why you love your pet.
- Write a story about you, your family, or one of your friends and why you like them.
- Share a photo and tell us why it is special to you.
- Do you like St. George or Sunday School? Tell us why!



Rules and Guidelines:

1. All kids, 16 and under, are invited to participate
2. Each entry must include your full name, the date, and your age
3. Only ONE entry per person, per month
4. If submitting art work, finished size must be 8" x 10" or smaller

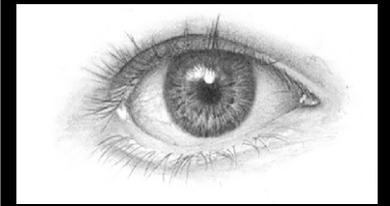
Send your entry via email, to the editor at:

stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

OR give your entry to Joanie, at church

OR you can mail your entry to:

St. George Orthodox Church
attn: KIDZONE
1505 Ave G
Kearney, NE 68847



The bodily eye cannot tolerate even the smallest speck of dust on its surface, so too the conscience, when soiled by something, cannot attain prayer.

– Elder Moses of Optina

If one wishes to do something but cannot, in the sight of God, Who knows men's hearts, it is as if he had done it. This principal is to be understood as applying both to good and bad actions. The mind can do many things, both good and bad, without the body. However, without the mind, the body can do neither good nor evil; because the law of freedom exists in the mind prior to any action.

– St. Mark the Ascetic



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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 Very Rev. Christopher Morris,
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www.saintgeorgekearney.com

OUR JANUARY FASTING

From December 25 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 Wednesday and Fridays, beginning the week of January 7, 2018.

ST. GEORGE Year-to-date for 2018

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **DEC. 23** ... We have received \$82,246 of the \$91,410 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of **DEC. 23** ... We have received \$21,782 of the \$20,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

*Thank you for your
faithful stewardship!*

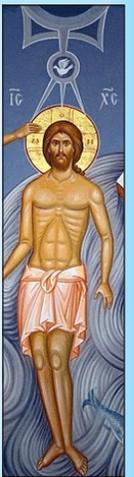
The Presentation of Christ into the Holy Temple



Happy Feast Day - Feb. 2

THEOPHANY 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.



Our lives are meant to be more than just a celebration at Pascha and the Nativity of Christ. Plan now to attend a variety of services, and let the "rhythm of the church" help shape you and your family's lives into the persons you were created to be. **MAKE A RESOLUTION NOW**, to schedule daily activities to include the important church feast dates, and salvific teachings from these saints. **Do this, and your life will be changed!**

Twelve Great Feasts & Holy Week

The Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8
The Elevation of the Holy Cross	September 14
The Presentation of the Theotokos	November 21
The Nativity of Christ	December 25
The Epiphany (Theophany) of Christ	January 6
The Meeting of Christ in the Temple	February 2
The Annunciation of the Theotokos	March 25
Palm Sunday	Sun. before Pascha
The Ascension of Christ	40 days after Pascha
Pentecost	50 days after Pascha
The Transfiguration of Christ	August 6
The Dormition of the Theotokos	August 15
Saturday of Lazarus	April 20
Palm Sunday	April 21
Holy (Good) Friday	April 26
Pascha (Our Easter)	April 28

FEAST DAY CALENDAR 2018 - 2019

Sunday of Zacchaeus	February 10
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee	February 17
Sunday of the Prodigal Son	February 24
Sunday of Last Judgment (Meatfare Sun)	March 3
Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sun)	March 10
Great Lent Begins - Clean Monday	March 11
Sunday of Orthodoxy (Bring your Icons)	March 17
Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas	March 24
Sunday of the Holy Cross	March 31
Sunday of St. John the Ladder	April 7
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	April 14
Bright Week	April 29 - May 4
Ascension	June 6
Pentecost, The Descent of the Holy Spirit	June 16



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