

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEST ORTHODOX  
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Nov. 13-14, Abilene, KS

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### The Nativity Fast

(November 15 through December 24)

Sunday, November 15, 2015, is the beginning of this year's Nativity Fast. The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods. The 1st period is **November 15th through December 19th** when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is **December 20th through 24th** when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period.

Abstinence includes refraining from the food and drink mentioned above, as well as from smoking. The Eucharistic Fast means abstaining from at least the previous midnight for communing at a morning Liturgy.

### The Purpose of Fasting

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.

We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.

We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.

Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.

Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

source: [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

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



Dear Member, Friends, and Benefactors of St. George,

We have had an exciting few months here in Kearney. In early October, we **hosted the faithful of All-Holy Spirit Greek Orthodox Church** from Omaha. It was an inspiring time with Fr. Alexander and his parishioners. They came on a pilgrimage to hear presentations, to see our beautiful church, and to venerate our holy relics. We were strangers when we first met, but we parted as dear friends. How blessed we are in the Church to have such brothers and sisters in Christ.

A few weeks later, we had a fun and successful **Lebanese Breakfast**. Along with feeding folks with our delicious food, we gave many church tours and shared with the community our Orthodox Faith and our new iconography.

Our **youth group** has continued meeting regularly—helping pick up collections for the local homeless shelter, watching movies, having lively discussions, and, recently, attending an inspiring **Pro-Life banquet** held at UNK. God has blessed us with such fine young people.

In the first week of November, we will celebrate our parish's founder and heavenly intercessor, **St. Raphael of Brooklyn**. During his feast, we will receive two catechumens into the Church!

Finally, in the middle of the month, we will begin our annual pilgrimage to the cave in Bethlehem. On **November 15th**, we start the Nativity Fast—with prayer and fasting, preparing for the feast of our Lord's birth on December 25th. May it be a time of spiritual renewal for us all.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support!

Through your prayers,  
Fr. Christopher



## **Thank You, O Lord!**

*by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*



Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed;” Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.



source: [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

**Orthodoxy is what Christ taught, the apostles preached, and the Fathers kept.**

- Saint Athanasius

## 12 Things the Normal Orthodox Christian is Doing

(Not to be confused with what the “Average” Orthodox Christian is doing).

by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

The normal Orthodox Christian - who is living according to the norms of the Orthodox faith - will be doing the following (this is not an exhaustive list, nor is this in order of priority):

### 1. Participating in church services as often as possible.

Attendance at every Sunday morning liturgy is a minimal baseline for worship life--in most cases it is not enough. And participation doesn't just mean attendance, but engagement, whether silently and attentively, singing along, making the Sign of the Cross, etc.

### 2. Prayer at home every day.

Ideally, at least morning and evening prayer, as well as prayer over meals. It is especially important for husbands and wives to pray together regularly and for parents to pray with their children. This will include reading Scripture, too, especially Scripture that is prayer, such as the psalms.

### 3. Receiving the sacraments.

This isn't just communion and confession, but also holy unction (when sick), marriage (in the Church, not outside!), baptism and chrismation (for you and your children), and even considering whether you or one of the men of your family should think about ordination.

### 4. Avoiding Immortality.

What we do with our bodies and minds and words has an effect on our salvation. Use them for good, not for evil. Seek to serve rather than to be served.

### 5. Fasting according to Church tradition.

Your father-confessor will help to apply the fasting traditions of the Church for you and your family. We fast on most Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as during the four major fasting seasons (Great Lent, the Apostles Fast, the Dormition Fast and the Nativity Fast).

### 6. Confession.

The sacrament of confession is critical to our repentance. We should go at least once during each of the four fasting seasons but also whenever there is a need, especially a sin that disrupts your peace.

### 7. Getting spiritual advice.

This often happens in confession, but your father-confessor is there for you at other times, too. He's a resource you should utilize frequently.

### 8. Tithing.

Giving 10% of your income back to God (it is His gift to you!) is a Biblical standard that Orthodox Christians should embrace. If you're not ready for 10% yet, choose another percentage and be disciplined about it, working toward 10%. If you're able to give more than 10%, do so. Don't "give until it hurts" – give until it feels good! Giving our money to God in worship (not because we need to meet a budget) is one part of what it means to give Him everything about ourselves so that it can be healed. (Is tithing Orthodox? Yes! It's [mentioned in the Fathers](#) many times, but here's the kicker - the Fathers usually say that Christians should exceed the tithe expected by the Old Covenant).

### 9. Almsgiving.

This is directly aiding someone in need. It might be monetary, but it also might be with your labor, your encouragement or even just your attitude.

### 10. Education.

We seek a deeper understanding of our faith not only so that we can know what our piety means but so that we give even our minds to God for His healing and transformation. Our whole intellect should be engaged in Christ - whether through spiritual reading, classes or some other form of education. Knowing and understanding the Scripture should be at the top of our educational efforts.

### 11. Sharing the faith.

If you're grateful for the salvation God has given you, you will want to share it with others.

### 12. Going on pilgrimage.

It's a journey with a holy purpose. Common destinations include monasteries and important shrines.

Reprinted with permission from the blog, [Roads from Emmaus](#)



## ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Do you 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?

**Or tell us what you like about the Chronicle.**

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

Email us at:

[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

*Our Sympathy*  
TO THE FAMILIES OF:



*Our Baby*  
*Congratulations*



**John and Theo Wolf**, in the loss of John's father, **Richard**, on October 19, 2015

**Jeanie and Stan Hoff**, in the loss of their son, **Troy**, on October 19, 2015



To **Travis & Katie Maloley** and **Mike & Ronda Maloley** on the birth of their daughter and grand-daughter **Kollins Jean**, born Sept. 17th, 2015



*Kollins Jean Maloley*



To **Radu & Alexandra Neamu** and **Vasile & Alexandria Gurgu**, on the birth of their son and grand-son **Albert Dimitrie**, born Oct. 15th, 2015



*Albert Dimitrie Neamu*



 Birthdays

November 13  
Mike Maloley  
Radu Neamu

November 14  
Sarah Fothergill

November 16  
Millie Rempel

November 17  
Olivia Denny

November 24  
Kristi Korensky

November 28  
Wanda Maloley

HAPPY Anniversary 

(None that the Chronicle knows about)

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

Donations  
*Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **St. George Sunday School** program from Anonymous Donor

Anonymous Donation to the **Beautification Committee**

Donation to **St. George Orthodox Church** from Anonymous Donor

Donation to the **Chronicle**, from Tom and Kate Salem



*In Memory of*

Donation to **St. George Church** from Anonymous Donor, in memory of Richard Wolf



*May God bless you all for your generosity!*





Monthly meetings will be the **first Sunday of each month** (Potluck Sunday).

Mark your calendars now and start baking your goodies! Our **Fall Bake Sale** will be held **Sat. Nov. 21st** at 9:00 am. We have church services, Fri. at 6:00 pm, let's plan to attend together and after services, we will set-up and price items for the sale.

If bringing your items Sat. morning, please plan to have them delivered by 8:30, priced and tagged if possible. A reminder to use **ONLY** whole dollar amounts (for example, no .50 or .75 labels, please). Price Stickers and Labels will be provided for labeling your product. These can be picked up in the basement. If you would like a custom Label or Price tag made for your item, see Joanie and she will be happy to help you.

The Fund raising Committee will be organizing our **Baklava Holiday Fund raiser**. Deadline for orders will be **Dec. 7th**. We will have **sign-up sheets** for the many volunteer opportunities to help make the Baklava. From offering your time to prepare, shop, or bake; your monetary gifts if you desire, as well as your prayers, we can offer a product that we can enjoy giving as gifts. Stay posted for updates and more info to come at our

November meeting.

You can help us advertise these events, by posting our **Ad Flyers** (located in the basement) at your favorite locations with **Community Bulletin Boards**, (Grocery Stores, Schools, where you work, etc.) We have cards and order forms that you can also share with your friends. See Joanie if you would like a pdf file to use on your Social media sites.

A personal invitation from Ashley to plan now, to attend the next **Parish Life Conference** in 2016, June 10-13 in Tulsa, OK.



**Upcoming Sunday School Activities**

**December 6th** - To celebrate St. Nicholas Day, immediately following potluck the kids will complete a craft and hear the story of St. Nicholas.

**December 20th** - Please join us for a **soup lunch and a parish-wide Christmas Program** in the basement. The Sunday School children will kick off the program with a group song they have been practicing and are excited to share! The rest of the parish is also invited to sign up to participate. More information to come!

**No Sunday School December 27.**



**ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP**

We met weekly during October. We went to a movie, **The Martian**, which prompted interesting discussions on life, space, and prayer. (Thanks for the free popcorn, Drew!) We also met for dinner and discussion at the Fothergills. On October 25th we attended the **Central Nebraska Pro Life Banquet**, featuring guest speaker Rebecca Kiessling, who, conceived through rape, shared her life story. The **Youth Group** would like to thank the parish for their generous donations to our group, especially those received through the **mystery basket raffles** and our anonymous donors.



We are enjoying our time together as we study scripture and the holy life of the Prophet Samuel, from the book **"The Seer"** by Metropolitan of Nafpaktos Hierotheos.

We will meet on Mondays, the **9th and 24th in November**, from 4:00 - 5:00.

We invite you to come and share this hour with us. Child care is provided. Invite a friend!



August 2014 our parish started a **20/40 group**. The purpose for this group is to provide opportunities for common worship, fellowship, service, and learning for the young adults connected with St. George. The group is open to anyone around the ages of 20 to 40. We created a **Facebook page** for members to stay connected and we also e-mail members with meeting times and updates.

On **October 18th** the 20/40 Group enjoyed an evening of fellowship with a **pumpkin-themed cooking competition**.



Our special guest judges, Tim and Tracey Shada, joined us in our usual prayer and fellowship. They then judged the 11 entries, and the following were the winners for each category:

**Best Savory**-Amy Hadley (Chicken Pumpkin Soup)



**Best Sweet**-Kh. Anastasia (Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls)



**Most Unusual**-Amanda Shada and Amanda Denny (Pumpkin Mac and Cheese)



**Best Hidden**-Matt and Sam Rolfe (Pumpkin Pizza)



**Best Presentation**-Sarah Fothergill (Pumpkin Queso and Roasted Pumpkin and Acorn Squash)



*Thank you to all our participants and judges. What a fun evening!*



We have a generous anonymous donor who has **offered to match our offerings, up to \$5,000**. You can help

us reduce our loan, from the hail damage St. George suffered in the storm of 2008. Our remaining balance is now \$18,225. **Any money donated, between now and Dec. 31, 2015, will be "matched" and applied to the loan.** If paying with a check, please include a message in the memo line, "**hail damage loan**". What a great opportunity to apply \$10,000, to pay down this loan. Please prayerfully consider

giving, if you can. Thank you.



Visit our website for helpful information about **St. George**. Keep up with important dates by using the **calendar** that is published monthly and updated often.

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

"What is the True Meaning of Christmas?"



Orthodox Christians ask this question along with everyone else, but our answers might be different. During America's favorite season of feasting, we fast, and our festal season culminates on Theophany, two weeks after most Americans' holiday is done. It may be a struggle to partake of the fullness of Nativity while still sharing in the warmth and fellowship of the Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions of our families. How do we embrace our Orthodox practice amidst the conflicting demands of our culture?



Please visit the [pre-feast](#) and [nativity](#) pages for helpful resources to provide

food for thought and for the spirit throughout the fast, and a feast of good words as we celebrate the Feast of the Word's Birth in the Flesh.

source: [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

Many thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets for the **October Mystery Basket**. This month's lucky winner, The Rehtus Family, will be treated to a home-cooked, **traditional Greek dinner for 6**.





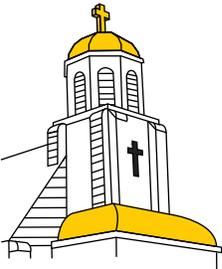
*Come Shop Our Fall*

## BAKE SALE

### ST. GEORGE CHURCH

**Saturday, Nov. 21st**  
**9:00 am**

- Kibbe & Stuffed Grape Leaves
- Meat Pies
- Cinnamon Rolls
- Fruit Pies
- Cookies
- Sweet Breads
- Baklava
- Flat Bread
- Rice
- Gift Ideas
- Holiday Favorites






THE LADIES SOCIETY OF  
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PRESENT THEIR

*5th Annual Holiday*

## BAKLAVA FUNDRAISER



PRICE \$16.00 (SOLD PER DOZEN)

**ORDER DEADLINE:**  
**Mon. Dec. 7th**

**ORDERS READY FOR PICK-UP:**  
**Sat. Dec. 19th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

*Ask for an Order Form today!*

contact: **308-236-7051**  
[stgeorgekearneyevents@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgekearneyevents@yahoo.com)



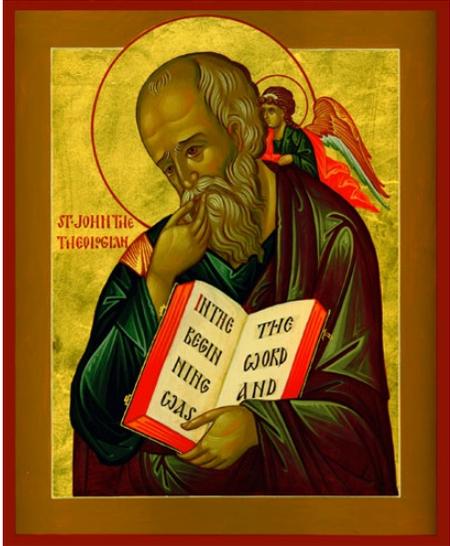
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1505 AVE G  
KEARNEY, NE  
68847

*Thank you for your generous support and letting us be a part of your Holiday gift giving!*



**G**od's commandments 'are not grievous' but a light burden. But they are light only where there is love — if love is not present, everything is difficult. Therefore, preserve love, do not lose it, for though it is possible to recover love, this can only be at the cost of much weeping and praying, and without love, life on earth is hard. To continue in malice means death to the soul, from which may the Lord preserve us.

*~ A Commentary on St. John the Theologian*



**thank you!**

From the **St. George Ladies Society**, to all of you who came out to support our annual **Fall Lebanese Breakfast**. To the many volunteers who helped set-up, prepare, cook, serve and clean - we couldn't have done it without you! Many visitors toured our church and enjoyed seeing Phase I of our Icon project. **Glory to God for All things!**





# ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK



ALL THINGS  
PUMPKIN  
2015



ANNUAL  
FALL  
LEBANESE  
BREAKFAST  
2015

THANK  
YOU!

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Volume 1, No. 11, November 2015

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

A parish of the Antiochian  
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America, Diocese of  
Wichita and Mid-America  
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Year-to-date Giving  
for St. George in 2015

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

As of **Oct. 31** - We have received  
\$71,115 of the \$81,055 we have  
budgeted for pledges.

As of **Oct. 31** - We have received  
\$15,024 of the \$17,000 we have  
budgeted for trays and candles.

*Thank you!*

THE MAN WHO CRIES OUT  
AGAINST EVIL MEN, BUT  
DOES NOT PRAY FOR THEM  
WILL NEVER KNOW  
THE GRACE OF GOD.

*~ St. Silouan The Athonite*

## Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple November 21



Soon after the  
beginning of  
the Nativity  
Fast (Advent),  
the Holy  
Church  
celebrates the  
Feast of the  
Entrance of  
the Most-Holy  
Theotokos into

the Temple.

Here we encounter the holiness of  
Mary a small child separated from  
the world, brought to live in the  
Temple a life set apart,  
consecrated, and in a state of  
intimacy with God something that  
all of us are called to be.

# BAKLAVA ORDER FORM

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH LADIES SOCIETY  
“We’ll do the Baking, You do the Giving”

BUYER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (        ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

**PRICE \$16.00 (SOLD PER DOZEN)**  
**order deadline: Monday Dec. 7th**

For questions, please call **308-236-7051** or email us at  
[stgeorgekearneyevents@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgekearneyevents@yahoo.com)

Mail your **personal check** (sorry, no credit cards) to:  
St. George Church, 1505 Ave G., Kearney, NE 68845  
**Orders Must be received by Monday, Dec. 7th**

**QTY ORDERED** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
(sold per dozen)



**YOUR RECEIPT** (cut along dotted line and keep for your records)

ORDER DATE \_\_\_\_\_ QTY ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ (sold per dozen)  
CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE TO PICK-UP ORDER Sat. Dec. 19th, 9:00-11:00 A.M.**  
**AT ST. GEORGE CHURCH, 1505 AVE G (BACK DOOR South side)**

*Thank you for your generous support and letting us  
be a part of your Holiday gift giving!*

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