



ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

NOVEMBER 2018

The Very Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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By Father Thomas Hopko

SAVE THE DATES

NOVEMBER 4
St. Raphael Feast Day
Join us for services on Friday evening

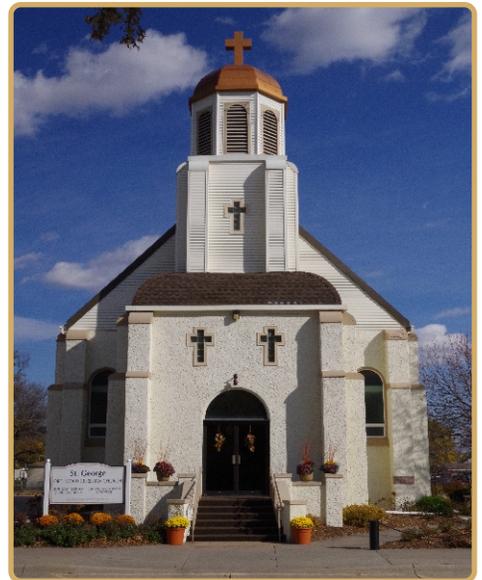
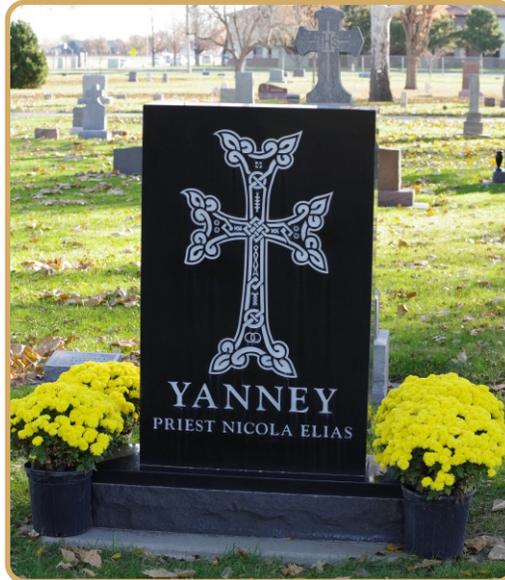
NOVEMBER 15
Nativity Fast begins

NOVEMBER 16 & 17
Midwest Orthodox Women's Retreat
with Fr. Josiah Trenham - Topeka, KS

NOVEMBER 21
Presentation of the Theotokos

DECEMBER 2
Feast day of St. Porphyrios

DECEMBER 5
St. Nicholas Day
(games and activities for children
to follow eve church service)



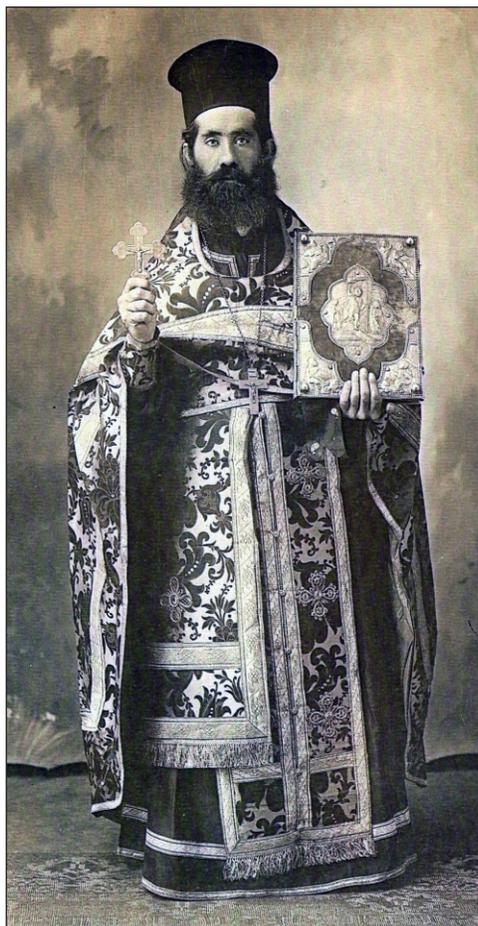
**PILGRIMAGE FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
REPOSE OF FATHER NICOLA YANNEY
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH - KEARNEY, NE
OCTOBER 26, 27, 28, 2018**



Diocesan Pilgrimage of Father Nicola Yanney – Centennial Year

There are now many places that are considered pilgrimage destinations in the United States: the relics of St John the Wonderworker in San Francisco, Spruce Island in Alaska, or the first and oldest monastery in America, St Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania. The list of pilgrimage sites can even be expanded beyond those three examples, but, one thing is certain, the majority of Orthodox Christians in America would never consider Kearney, NE as a place to make a pilgrimage. Despite this, over the weekend of October 26-28, three hundred pilgrims, from sixteen different states, met in Kearney to celebrate and honor the 100th anniversary of the repose of Fr Nicola Yanney. During the course of the pilgrimage, pilgrims prayed the trisagion prayers of mercy for the departed at Fr Nicola's grave, as well as Fr Nicola's wife and infant's grave. On Friday night, a dinner and symposium on the life of Fr Nicola was sponsored by St George church in Kearney, and, on Saturday night, a banquet dinner and keynote address on Fr Nicola was sponsored by Fr Nicola's own descendents. The weekend culminated on Sunday with the celebration of the hierarchal liturgy, served by Sayidna Basil, with eight priests and three deacons. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the trisagion prayers were offered once again for Fr Nicola, since Sunday, October 28, was the actual anniversary of his repose in the Lord. Fr Nicola is close to the hearts of our DOWAMA faithful for his ministry

in the early 1900s. As the first priest ordained by St Raphael of Brooklyn, Fr Nicola was given the same missionary zeal as St Raphael. He travelled far and wide, often for six months at a time, finding the Syro-Arabs that resided in the heartland of America. He travelled the length and breadth of the size of our current DOWAMA diocese as the only priest in the entire region. He is also counted as the founding pastor of our own community here in Wichita, since it was due to Fr Nicola's encouragement that the founders of St George would first purchase a church building to meet in. For these reasons, and many more, the faithful of DOWAMA have held Fr Nicola close to our hearts, but as the weekend went on, the pilgrims would come to understand that Fr Nicola is not only special to us, but that he ought to be special to all Orthodox Christians throughout the world. For Fr Nicola's self-sacrificial ministry to the heartland was an example to all Orthodox Christians of the self-sacrificial ministry of our



The priestly vestments that Father Nicola is wearing were a gift from Czar Nicholas II, presented to Father Nicola by Saint Raphael of Brooklyn on the occasion of his ordination. The Gospel Book in Father Nicola's hand was a gift given to him by his parishioners in Kearney in the year 1909. It remains in Saint George Orthodox Church in Kearney, Nebraska to this day.



Watch given to Father Nicola Yanney On his Ordination by the Czar of Russia

Watchband handcrafted from the hair of Father Nicola Yanney

Savior. In Fr Nicola's constant travels and care for the faithful scattered throughout the middle of the country, we are given an example, on par with the greatest of our monastic saints, of what it means to die to the world and live for Christ. The weekend's events only increased our love for Fr Nicola and encouraged us to emulate his life, in whatever small way we can. May God grant eternal repose to Fr Nicola and grant us an intercessor before His throne!

printed with permission by Fr. Jeremiah Phillips



A PRAYER MINISTRY

for the Departed

ANNIVERSARY

we're 2 years old

The Prayer Ministry for the Departed at St. George, began in November, 2016. We currently have 11 volunteers who offer daily devotional prayers during a 40-day memorial, for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Our prayers are for both Orthodox Christians and those who repose outside the Orthodox faith. If you have a loved one, family or friend, that you would like us to pray for, please contact Fr. Christopher.

Please remember this ministry in your prayers. If you are interested in learning more about this important ministry, please see Fr. Christopher or Joanie Klein.

Looking for ways to help your community or give to those in need?



Consider a donation to our local **Kearney Jubilee Center**, especially during the holiday season. These items may also be brought to St. George and placed in the **LOVE BASKET**, (an almsgiving project by the St. Helena Ladies Society at St. George.) Here are some helpful ideas to keep in mind when shopping for your own family.

1. **Canned Meat** - Chicken, Tuna, Corned Beef Hash
2. **Canned Veggies** - Green Beans, Peas, Mixed
3. **Canned Fruit** - Peaches, Pears, Pineapple, Fruit Cocktail, Mandarin Oranges, Apricots, Applesauce
4. **Cold Breakfast Cereals** - and Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat
5. **Other Foods** - Peanut Butter, Jelly, Honey, Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper, Pasta in a box
6. **Snack Foods** - Popcorn, Pretzels, Granola Bars, Cookies
7. **Crackers** - Ritz, Saltines, Graham, Triscuit, Cheez-its, Wheat Thins, Clubhouse, Animal crackers for kids
8. **Milk** - shelf stable in cartons
9. **Drinks** - Fruit Juices, Gatorade



Never confuse the person, formed in the image of God, with the evil that is in him: because evil is but a chance misfortune, an illness, a devilish attack. **But the very essence of the person is the image of God**, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement.

— St. John of Kronstadt



Holiday Gift Giving



BAKLAVA

Hand-made just for you



EST. 1903

ST. HELENA
Ladies Society

St. George Orthodox Christian Church
1505 Ave G.
Kearney, Nebraska

Order deadline: Dec. 3, 2018

\$18.00 per dozen

(Order forms available in parish hall basement)

DESIRE AND EFFORT MUST COME FROM YOU. GOD WILL PROVIDE THE POWER AND THE RESULT.

— Saint Paisios of Mt. Athos

WE GET LETTERS ...



Dear to Christ, Father Christopher:
Blessings and much love.

Just a short note to thank you, the St George Parish Council, the Pilgrimage Committee, and your entire parish family for an outstanding and spiritually edifying weekend. Our entire Diocese is so grateful to each of you and exceedingly proud of your entire congregation! Thank you yet again! Your prayers.

+Bishop Basil
Diocese of Wichita & Mid-America

Thank you to the **Pilgrimage Committee** and everyone at St. George for all their help to put on such an amazing weekend. I only heard positive comments from everyone that attended. The attention to detail was a step above what is expected and I think everyone felt welcome and enjoyed themselves. Thanks to you all for everything you did!

Phil and Ashley Maloley and family

Dear Father Christopher,
Prayers are coming your way as you, Khouria, and Parish Family embark on the weekend's joyous pilgrimage. This donation is in memory of:

Sadie Barton (mother), Anna Yacio (mother-in-law), John Yacio (husband) and Tom Yacio (brother-in-law).

The Russian Orthodox Church in Chisholm, Minnesota closed a few years ago. I'm sure Anna and Tom would approve of being remembered at St. George. I know mom and John would. I am so thankful for the loving Living Faith of God at St. George. I am overjoyed with the beauty of my maternal grandparents' parish and the church in which my beloved mother and her siblings prayed. This icon project is so awesome.
Love, Judy Yacio

Dear Father and Parish Family,
We want to thank you for such a beautiful weekend. You all went above and beyond. Learning about Fr. Yanney was truly uplifting.

May God continue to watch over and bless you all.
Donna and Robbie Namee
St. Mary Orthodox Church in Wichita, KS

Dear Father Christopher,
Thank you so much for sending me the St. George Chronicle newsletter. I enjoy reading it, following the news and happenings in your parish. I have loved the series "our icons" and Amber's (Hartley) godmother enjoys them too!

God Bless you and your parish!
Your daughter in Christ, Dawn Ranstead

Dear Father Christopher and all the wonderful parishioners of Saint George Kearney:

Thank you so much for organizing, sponsoring, and hosting the wonderful pilgrimage this last weekend. It was a time of learning, fellowship, veneration, and worship, and was just fantastic. Thank you so much for your hospitality as well as your generosity. We are deeply grateful for everything you all did to make it possible.

Reader Moses, Lana-Katherine, and the rest of the Fillmore family
St. Mary Orthodox Church in Omaha, NE

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Micah House in Lexington. I also would like to thank the pilgrimage committee for organizing such a blessed event this weekend. It was truly amazing!! Tracy Shada



Birthdays

November 5
Paxton McCracken

November 12
Katrina Browne

November 13
Mike Maloley
Radu Neamu
Gene Shada

November 14
Sarah Fothergill

November 17
Olivia Denny
Torri McCracken

November 23
Daniel Brailita

November 24
Kristi Korensky
Zane Williamson

November 28
Wanda Maloley



Donation to **St. George Church** in honor of *Father Christopher and the altar servers* from Nimir and Margo Maloley.

Donations *Gratefully Received*

Donation to **St. George Sunday School** from anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Chronicle** from anonymous donor.

Donation to the **Father Nicola Yanney Pilgrimage** from Donald and Lorraine (Yanney) Nemer.

Donation to **St. George** and the next garage sale from Josie Awtry.

Donation to **St. George Sunday School** and the **Junior Youth Group** from anonymous donor.

Donations to the **Father Nicola Yanney Pilgrimage** from James Yanney, Jon and Wendy Yanney, and Pat Carr.



Donations to **St. George**, in memory of those *celebrating their birthdays, the Sunday School, and the Junior Youth Group* from an anonymous donor.

Donation to **St. George Iconography project** in memory of *Sadie Barton, Anna Yacio, John Yacio, and Tom Yacio* from Judy Yacio.

Donation to **St. George Church** from Ann Maloley

May God bless you all for your generosity!

MINISTRY UPDATES



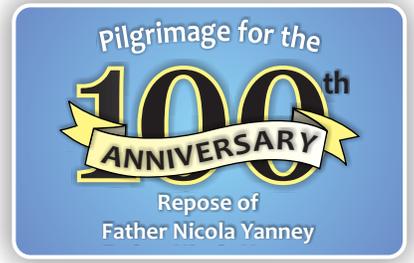
Junior Youth Group at St. George

In October, the youth group traveled to a pumpkin patch by St. Libory. After prayer time in the church, we rode together and shared with each other the life of a saint (given as "homework" from our last meeting.) We enjoyed fellowship time together doing pumpkin patch activities, followed by supper together before heading back to Kearney. We had three guest-friends with us. Everyone had a wonderful time getting to know each other.



The Love Basket for November and December will be collecting food for our local food

pantries. See page 3 for helpful tips and information about the Jubilee Center. We will also offer the annual **Mitten Tree** in December. Order forms for the 8th annual Baklava fund-raiser are in the church basement. \$18.00 per dozen (\$16.00 per dozen when ordering 10 dozen). For questions see Kim Rehtus. **Volunteer opportunities for all.** Deadline for orders and payment is Dec. 3, 2018.



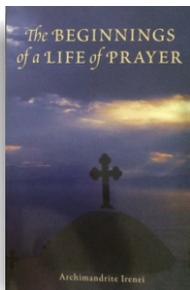
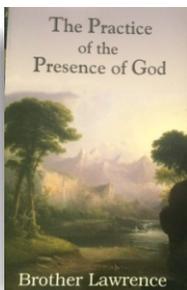
Many thanks to all of you who helped host the pilgrimage. Many hours of planning combined with you, our volunteers, helped to make this a well organized event. The Chronicle would like to share your photos, comments and stories in the December issue. If we have enough interest, the Chronicle would like to put together a small 6" x 8" soft cover, photo scrapbook of the weekend. Please send your photos and/or comments to: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

Many thanks also to the many benefactors who offered their monetary gifts to help us provide the very best in accommodations, meals, decorations, and event activities. We thank God for His many blessings, and especially to those that gave of their time and resources. – *The Pilgrimage Committee*

Women's BOOK STUDY

The **Women's Book Study** group will meet Monday, November 5th, and the 19th, from 4:15 - 5:15pm.

Come join us for fun and fellowship as we continue our journey into the two books we are reading: **The Practice of the Presence of God** by Brother Lawrence and **The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer** by Archimandrite Irenei.



St George +++ FELLOWSHIP

Join the **St. George Fellowship Group** for supper after Great Vespers on Saturday evenings. Everyone is invited to be a part of this fellowship group. 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'd ever like to host, please talk to Sarah or Levi. We will announce locations by e-mail and Facebook.

SATURDAY SUPPER AFTER VESPERS



THE CHRISTMAS FAST

For us, the Nativity Fast serves to refresh the last part of the year - mystically renewing our spiritual unity with God and preparing us for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. According to St. Simeon of Thessalonica, "...the Nativity Forty-day Fast represents the fast undertaken by Moses, who, having fasted for forty days and forty nights, received the Commandments of God, written on stone tablets [of the Law]. And we, fasting for forty days, will reflect upon and receive from the Virgin of the living Word – not written (continued page 8)



Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick and Matthew Namee in front of the newly completed icon of Father Nicola Yanney with Saint Raphael.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD



Many Years
Virginia!

Our dear Virginia Suleiman moved to Cheyenne Wyoming, to be closer to family. The Saint George parish family presented her with this very special icon of our patron saint, Saint George. The icon is a photo of our newly finished iconography that adorns our temple at Saint George. Our patron saint is on the south wall of the nave. Perhaps someday Saint George will bring her back to us. We love you Virginia and thank you for the many, many good memories and your service to Saint George. 

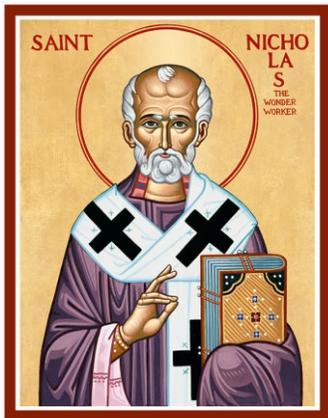


Congratulations!
Delaney Denny

Delaney auditioned and was selected to take part of the "Sing Across Nebraska" event happening in Lincoln, Nov. 2nd and 3rd. Only 132 kids were selected from the whole state.



SAVE THE DATE!



WHEN: Wed, December 5, 2018
WHAT: Come help us celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas - bring the kids and let's make memories together!
We will have evening vespers followed by activities for the kids. Help us make this a tradition at St. George as we celebrate the evening before his feast day together. Bring the family and join the fun!

Junior Youth Group

October 2018



MITTEN TREE

and Almsgiving



- THANK YOU -

St. George will have our annual Mitten Tree again in December. Please consider purchasing items to be donated to the **Kearney Head Start** organization which provides basic essentials for **families in need.**

It is easier to measure the entire sea with a tiny cup

than to grasp the ineffable greatness of God with the human mind.

- St. Basil the Great

Observe and you will see unholy vanity abounding even to the very grave in fine clothes, oils, servants, perfumes, and such . . . A vain person is a true idolater; he seems to honor god, but in reality he wishes to please men, not God. --St. John Climacus

The "Winter Pascha"

Introduction by Father Thomas Hopko

The liturgical services for Christmas, officially called The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, are consciously patterned after the services for the festival of the Pascha of the Lord, the holy Resurrection. There is a forty-day fast. There are prefast preparations.

There are the special royal hours with their prophecies, epistles, gospels, and hymns on the eve of the feast, followed by the vesperal liturgy of St. Basil the Great. There is the solemn all-night vigil, crowned by the matin's canon and hymns. And finally, after the Eucharistic Celebration of St. John Chrysostom on the day of the feast itself, the celebration continues to its completion in the festival of The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple forty days later. At the center of the festal season remains the original "Festival of Light," the holy Epiphany, officially called in the Orthodox Church: The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The liturgical verses and hymns for Christmas and Epiphany, the Pascha of Christ's incarnation and manifestation in the flesh, repeat those of Easter, the Pascha of Christ's death and resurrection. The Lord's birth and baptism are directly connected to His dying and rising. He was born in order to die. He was baptized in order to be raised.

Jesus lay as an infant in the cavern in the reign of Caesar Augustus that He might lay in the tomb under Pontius Pilate. He was hounded by Herod that He might be caught by Caiaphas. He was buried in baptism that He might descend into death through the Cross. He was worshipped by wise men that the whole of creation might adore Him in His triumph over death.

The Pascha of His Cross was prepared by the Pascha of His Coming. The Pascha of His Resurrection was begun by the Pascha of His Incarnation. The Pascha of His Glorification was foretold by the Pascha of His Baptism. This is what Christians celebrate each year in what Father Alexander Schmemmann was the first to call "the Winter Pascha."

Nativity/Theophany

Today, he who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin.

He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-clothes as a mortal man.

God who in the beginning fashioned the heavens lies in a manger.

He who rained manna on His people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His mother's breast.

The Bridegroom of the Church summons the wise men.

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts.

We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!
We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Theophany!

Pascha

Today, He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the tree.

The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns.

He who wraps the heavens in a cloud is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped in the face.

The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!
We worship Thy Passion, O Christ!

Show us also Thy glorious Resurrection!

Taken from the book: *The Winter Pascha* (SVS Press)

SOURCE: oca.org

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Kearney, Nebraska 68847

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,
pastor
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**OUR FASTING DISCIPLINE
DURING NOVEMBER**

*The Nativity Fast begins
November 15th
through
December 24th*



This Fast is divided into two periods: The first is **November 15th** through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with katalysis for wine and olive oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second is the period of the Forefeast, **December 20th through 24th**, when the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday. ***

Let us hear from you. We welcome your comments, ideas, photos and any info you would like to share with your St. George parish family.
stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com
Thank you!



"A soft life makes people useless. Without toil and struggle sanctification does not come."
— Saint Paisios



God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I'm so far behind, I will never die.



Year-to-date for 2018

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **Oct 30 ...** We have received \$66,825 of the \$91,410 we have budgeted for pledges.

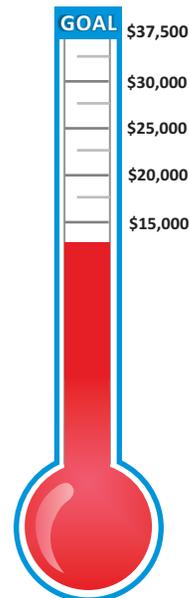
As of **Oct 30 ...** We have received \$19,731 of the \$20,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship

"WE MUST NOT LET ANY SEASON PASS WITHOUT THANKSGIVING"
— St. Athanasius The Great



BURN THE MORTGAGE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

\$37,500
Our Goal

\$12,495
Raised so far

The Fundraising Committee

upon stone, but born, incarnate, and we will commune of His Divine Body." The Nativity Fast was established to allow us through repentance, prayer and fasting to cleanse ourselves before the Nativity of Christ, so that with a clean heart, soul, and body, we might reverently meet the Son of God, Who has come into the world and so that in addition to bringing the usual gifts and sacrifices, we might bring Him our clean hearts and a desire to follow his teachings. SOURCE: www.stjohndc.org

(continued from page 5)

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