



# ST. GEORGE Chronicle

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## Let's Fall in Love!

It's spring-- when a young man or women's fancies turn to love. If you've ever been in love, you know how it goes. First, there's the initial meeting. You see a face, or a figure, and you experience an attraction. **You feel an impulsive urge to know more.** Maybe you introduce yourself (or get someone else to introduce you!) You talk to each other. A lot! Soon you are spending inordinate amounts of time with each other. And you want to spend time with each other. After a while though, you realize that the initial physical attraction, while important, is just not enough. You find yourself wanting to know everything about the other person.

The question phase that follows can be incredibly satisfying and entertaining. What is your favorite color? Where do you like to go to relax? How many brothers or sisters do you have? Do you like broccoli? Eventually however, the questions become more intimate. What are your goals in life? Do you have a relationship with God? Do you like children? Soon you are opening yourself up to someone in ways you never could have imagined.

This is the natural progression of things. However, if your relationship stays at the physical level, and never develops beyond that, your relationship is doomed. **Physical attraction is just not enough to sustain things over time.** It is not true love at all. It is a farce.

Now, let's get serious. Three months ago, our church family was introduced to a group of extremely attractive individuals. Absolutely



*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

gorgeous! **Truly other-worldly in their beauty.** It's really hard to keep our eyes off of them. I am speaking, of course, of our icons.

If you're like me, every time you enter our temple you are amazed again at the beauty of our ceiling. The colors are magnificent. The detail is stunning. The sheer magnitude and scope of the project is awe-inspiring. But we cannot let our relationship to our iconography project end there. We must fall in love with our icons! If we don't—if we let our relationship with them stall out at the physical level, then we have just purchased the most expensive wallpaper the world has ever seen. What's more we will have committed a grave error in the sight of the Lord. **No, we must treat our icons just as we treat the ones we fall in love with.** We must find out everything that we can about them. We must spend time with them. We must question them. Why is there an axe hiding in the bushes in the Baptism of Christ icon? Who are the people

are many who will look at our icons and wonder why we would spend such a great amount of money on them when we could have given that money to the poor and needy. If questioned about this, what would your answer be?

Over the next months, we will take a closer look at our icons, and explain the Church's teachings about them. **What the Bible is to our ears, the icons are to our eyes.** They are an indispensable part of our faith. They truly deserve our love and attention.



*A note from Fr. Christopher ~*

## Christ is Risen!

Dear Members, Friends and Benefactors of Saint George. During this season between Pascha and Pentecost, we have so much to celebrate! In April, we participated in the Feast of Feasts, our Lord's resurrection from the dead, which is the promise of our own resurrection. We had an especially inspiring Holy Week and Pascha at Saint George this year with great attendance. The earth around us, too, has come alive again this Spring after a long winter.

Another thing for us to celebrate ---and another "resurrection," if you will---is what you are holding in your hands or reading online right now. After several years' absence, we are once again publishing a parish newsletter. The new **St. George Chronicle** will be a monthly newsletter about the goings-on at our beloved Saint George community. It will be available in printed form, as before, as well as an electronic format available on our parish website at [www.saintgeorgekearney.com](http://www.saintgeorgekearney.com) and sent out via email. In this month's **Chronicle**, you will find some

beautiful photos of the recently installed iconography project. This is the first of four phases that will be completed over the next several years. Thank you to the many generous donors who are helping make this dream a reality!

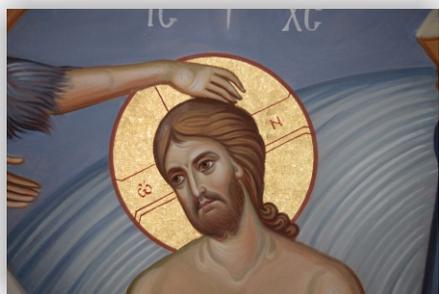
In future months, each issue will include photos and information about two or three of the icons that now adorn our ceiling. You can also find more photos on our parish website under the tab [Iconography Project](#).

As before, the new Chronicle will also include parish news, letters, interesting articles, financial information, photos, committee updates and other offerings. If you wish to submit something to our editors to consider for inclusion in a future issue, you may do so by emailing your submission to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

Thanks to our editors John Wolf and Joanie Klein for giving of their time and talents to resurrect the Chronicle in a new form and format.

And thanks to all of you for your continued love, support, and prayers for our beloved Saint George of Kearney.

Fr. Christopher



present in the Resurrection icon? Why does the Theotokos appear fully-grown in the Presentation icon? Once we discover the answers to these questions we will be ready to begin our life-long relationship with the individuals represented within them.

This is a serious matter. There

# From the Archives . . .

## FROM PSYCHOLOGY TO SPIRITUALITY

by Kh. Liliya Vreeland

**Steadfastness** is basically an Orthodox Christian virtue. If it were not, would our faith have survived in it's entirety the way it has for 2000 years? It has survived in the midst of all kinds of worldly changes, upheavals, and chaotic wars.

Steadfastness is not only a virtue of good Orthodox folk--even of saints--it is also above all a characteristic of God Himself. When we steadfastly pray, "Lord, have mercy," we are praying for God's **steadfast love**. That's what **mercy** is. And God is forever merciful. It is we humans who are changeable in our response to Him. Sometimes we are open to God's love, and at other times the devil succeeds in varying degrees to close us off from God.

Steadfastness is the **unchanging**, the steady, the stable, the loyal, the constant and consistent in our attitude.

The world may at times offer lip service to the constant and the persistent, but we know what the world prefers. Instead of working diligently, steadfastly toward a goal, the world prefers instant results--instant winners, instant success.

Instead of preparing one's self to be worthy of a loved one's response, the world prefers instant gratification.

And we know how the world suffers unnecessarily from addictions and deviance and various crimes because it refuses to accept steadfastness as a virtue.

Even many so-called Christians would rather split when differences arise than steadfastly work for a solution to problems. So it is with human relationships. We see it in the divorce rates and in the friendships that die when people disagree.

And people will disagree--and sometimes in very disagreeable ways (that's our fallen nature). But if we are **truly Orthodox**, we will continue in a steadfast love toward people in spite of differences. We will not

abandon them. Nor will we allow ourselves to be submerged by their differences. We will continue in a steadfast love toward them as God continues in His steadfast love. **His eternal mercy toward us.**

With love and prayers, *Liliya*

*(previously published in the St. George Chronicle, Summer issue, 1997)*



"It's a present from the congregation."



Three things are especially pleasing to God: illness endured with patience; work done without recognition, solely for love of Him; and obedience rendered to a spiritual Father with total self-denial. This last feat is most splendidly crowned.

+Abba Joseph the Thehite

Hello Fr. Christopher,

I hope you remember me, my name is Olga and I was attending your church for a year, while I was working in Kearney for Eaton Corp. In this glorious evening I would like to express and share the joy of Easter with you.

I hope you, your family and your parish is doing great. I truly enjoyed attending your church when I was living back in Kearney. I must say that in my 28 years I have been to many different Orthodox churches around the globe including my native Ukraine, but I have never felt to peaceful and relaxed, and in touch with God as I felt at your parish. You have wonderful people there and they truly make a church feel like a second family. I often remember St. George and hope to visit it again someday. Please feel free to share my words with your parishioners, they should know what a wonderful church family they are.

I keep you all in my prayers. Please keep Ukraine in your prayers too, we are going through extremely violent and rough times right now. My heart is there day and night. God Bless you all and may you all have a blessed Pascha.

With warm wishes from Cleveland, OH.  
Olga Kolenko

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



## WE GET LETTERS...

Fr. Christopher and St. George Family,

I am so grateful to God and all of you for the beautification of my grandparents', mothers' and beloved relatives' and friends at St. George Christian Orthodox Church.

The enclosed represents the loving memory of my precious mother, Sadie Shada Barton, and beloved husband John Yacio Jr. It is from the John and Judy family. However, the memories of Sadie and John are far more important than the donors. Memory eternal! God grant you all many blessed years. The website is excellent.

With love in the Risen Christ,  
Judy Yacio

\*\*\*

Dear Family of St. George Kearney,

What an awesome tribute to Gido and Sito. As their seventh grandchild, I had the privilege and pleasure to know my Gido and Sito, even despite the distance between Spring Valley, IL and Lexington, NE. Memory eternal!

Sincerely and with love, Kim and Jeannie Malooley Leonard, Nicholas and Mary, Angela and Matt, Christopher and Melissa, Harrison and Grant, Gabriel and Mackenzie

\*\*\*



## Birthdays

May 8  
Levi Hadley

May 11  
Elizabeth Morris

May 27  
Georgia Bakas

May 31  
Jackie Shada



May 18  
Mike and Darlene Liakos



## Donations *Gratefully Received*

To the Iconography project from Ms. Sadie Malooley

To the Iconography project from Melinda Powers

To the Iconography project from the Kim and Jeannie Leonard family

To the Iconography project in memory of Sadie Shada Barton and John Yacio Jr. from the family of John and Judy Yacio

To the Iconography project from Dr. William and Linda Vosik

In honor of the chanters, altar servers, and our priest from the St. George Ladies Society

In honor of Victoria Applegarth from Joe and Linda Maloley

In honor of Victoria Salem from Mary Schroeder

In honor of Victoria Salem's birthday from Victoria Salem

From Nick and Kay Abood

## *In Memory of*

In memory of Blaise Roy from Joe and Linda Maloley

In memory of Abdou Salem from Tom and Kate Salem

In memory of Michel Malouli from John and Mary Maloley

In memory of Michel Malouli from Victoria Salem

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*



Glory to God for all things! Our annual **Spring Bake Sale** was well attended. Our local community is so good to come out and support us; we raised approx. \$2650 in Donations. **Thank you** Ladies and St. George parish for all of your help to prepare the hall for our sale, and for all of those wonderfully baked goods you provided to help us have another successful fund-raiser.

In addition to a wide variety of Spring/Easter treats, many of our repeat buyers were anxious to fill up their baskets with our Lebanese Flat Bread, Kibbe, Dolmathes, Cabbage Rolls, Lebanese Green Beans, Spinach Pies, Baklava, Fruit Pies, Coffee Cakes, and Cinnamon Rolls.

We look forward to **seeing you all in the Fall**. Date coming soon.

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Have you visited **St. George's Bookstore**? Please do! Thank you Reader Michael (Levi) for the many hours you devote to providing such a variety of reading material for our parish.

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, family and even your God-children. 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.

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Hello from Mark, Michael, Kim, and John M. your **Building & Grounds committee**. We had a busy fall with preparing the church for winter. We worked with the **Beautification Committee** to help install a New St. George sign, in front of the church. With the help of an anonymous donor we we're able to install two paver patios in the south yard of the church. We hope you enjoy sitting in the shade of our beautiful trees and relaxing.

We have installed a new faucet in the ladies restroom - a hand rail is coming soon. If you find other areas that need our attention, please let us know.

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The St. George Parish Council meets the **first Monday** of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

**Council members for 2015**

- Fr. Christopher
- Tim Shada, chairman
- Mark Klein, vice chairman
- Mike Maloley, Treasurer
- Sarah Fothergill, Secretary
- Gerald Rehtus, council member
- Mike LiaKos, council member
- Rocky Steinbrink, council member

\*\*\*



WOW - truly so much going on at St George! **The Beautification Committee** volunteers are John W, Joanie, Kim and Father. We were so excited to have Dmitry Shkolnik and his assistant Aleko M. begin the Iconography project in Feb. Our vision to beautify our temple became a reality as **Phase 1** was completed in their first visit.

Many thanks to all of the parish members that helped by giving their time, gifts, sharing their talents, providing food and encouraging words. We have many wonderful photos available on the website that you can enjoy viewing, and videos of the installation process of the ceiling [Feast and Prophet Icons](#).

The **Kearney Hub** covered our story as well as NTV news with a short video. It was a very exciting two weeks.

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The **Women's Bible Study** group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, at 4:00. Our meeting time lasts for approx. 1 hour and child care is provided by a few of our kind, caring and responsible St. George youth members. **Thank you!**

We are currently reading the holy wisdom of one of our beloved saints, *Elder Porphyrios*, in his book titled, **"Wounded by Love"**. Next time you're at coffee hour, ask one of the ladies what the title of this wonderful book says about Orthodox Christians.

**Come join us!** We would welcome seeing your smiles.

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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. We have had an incredible year meeting monthly for different activities.

Each meeting begins with Small Compline and is followed by a meal, presentation, volunteer project, or fellowship. We kicked off the year with a night of **Middle Eastern Cooking** at the Rehtus home. Margo, Bessie, and Virginia taught us how to cook a variety of tasty treats! In October we had an **All Things Pumpkin** theme hosted by Mike and Ronda Maloley. We brought, ate, and judged pumpkin-themed foods and enjoyed an evening at the lake! The November **wine/beer tasting** gathering was held at the Hadley home.

We also hosted a **pancake breakfast** for the parish and raised money for **Project Mexico**. In December we held a **cookie exchange** and fellowship time at the Neamu home. January featured a **Greek Cooking Night** at the Wolf home where we learned how to make a Greek dinner and dessert.

The February gathering was at the Denny home and we brought Lenten recipes and participated in a **Lenten recipe exchange**. Each member created a recipe book of fast-friendly recipes. We also held another

pancake lunch for the parish and raised money for Crossroads. In March we prepared and served dinner at Crossroads, a **homeless shelter in Kearney**.

Future plans include volunteering again at Crossroads, helping with **Habitat for Humanity** builds, fundraising for our parish, and more!

Many thanks to Levi Hadley for getting our group started and setting up many of our events and to those parishioners that have opened up their homes to us for meeting places. We have been blessed with large crowds at our meetings and we thank God for the opportunity to fellowship with young adults in our parish.

Our group is always looking for service ideas, if you or someone you know needs any help with a project, event, or something small in your home, please let us know! We would love to find **new ways to serve** our parish and community.

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What an exciting year it has been for the St. George **Sunday School** classes! We were so blessed to offer three classes this year. The **preschool class** started the year talking about all of the reasons we need to pray, as well as who and what we pray for. Each student received their own **personal prayer book** to remind them to pray daily for themselves and others. They also received calendars to record their prayers each day. Each week we started our class with prayer and then directed our attention to the lesson which was centered around **Sunday's Gospel**. The teachers were always so excited to hear how well the kids listened to the Gospel in church and were able to discuss the

meaning and lesson we learned from it. **Three to Six year olds** are very busy little people...so each week there was some type of craft or hands-on activity planned. Our year found us making all kinds of fun projects from prayer rainbows to thankful turkeys, heart framed scripture and dipped pretzels to remind us that Christ died on the cross for us! **Miss Ronda** and **Miss Amanda** thank God for allowing us to teach this class. The best part about our time together each Sunday is... we learned as much from them as they did from us! **Each little boy and girl are beautiful gifts from God!**

The **elementary school children** were taught by **Ashley Maloley** and **Kim Rehtus**. Their classes learned about **St. Raphael** and completed projects for Parish Life Conference. They also focused their studies on the **Divine Liturgy**.

The **middle/high school class** was taught by **Sarah Fothergill**. They learned about the lives of the saints, feast days of the church, and continued through their curriculum titled **The Way, The Truth, and The Life**. In August, they prepared and served a lunch for the workers of Habitat for Humanity. They also hosted a coffee hour and created posters for the parish to learn more about their lives. In December **all classes participated in a Christmas Program and Talent Show**. In May, the children presented the mothers of St. George with flowers in honor of Mother's Day.

We truly appreciate all the help, love, and support of the parents of our parish. **Thank you for bringing your children to worship and to learn about their faith**. What a blessing it is for them to grow in their faith surrounded by their peers and you, their role models.

Stay tuned for information about a **Back to School Open House** in the fall, open to all St. George parishioners!

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# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

*Save the Date!*

**Kearney Garage Sale**  
for St. George:  
Fri. and Sat.

**Sept. 11th**  
1:00-6:00  
**Sept. 12th**  
8:00-1:00

hosted by  
Mark & Joanie  
Klein at **1407 8th Ave.**  
More details as we get closer to the dates,  
but for now, save the **DATE** and your  
**STUFF** for St. George!



# THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Kim Rehtus and Bob Jones for sharing their beautiful icon photos with us.

Another wonderful example of Stewardship at work in our church. Your gifts of time and talents to help better St. George, is appreciated!



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

Unable to attend Liturgy? Weekly Bulletins are also available. (To access bulletins please sign-in with **stgeorge** as the password to both, *Username* and *Password*). Parishioners can read and learn the Sunday Gospel and Epistle readings, as well as, learning the names of those on our prayer list.

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

*Thank You*

Spring time is such a beautiful time of year. **Doesn't St. George look nice** with new mulch, trimmed shrubs and trees? Green lawns and the smell of fresh mown grass, **ahhh summer is almost here!**

When you see Rocky, Dione (*Steinbrink Landscaping*) and John M., thank them for **their gifts of time, equipment, and bodies** to do this work for St. George.



*Glory to God for all things!*



Several parishioners have expressed a desire to **recycle** our trash. In an effort to **reduce** the use of disposable coffee cups, a donor has provided **mug racks** to hold your coffee cup. They are located in the kitchen above the sink. Please bring your own Mug to use for drinks and let's **reduce** the amount of trash that goes into our landfill. We will **save \$\$\$** too and reduce our budget. yea!

Share your ideas on other ways we can go **Green**. We would enjoy hearing from you.

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

ST. GEORGE  
*Chronicle*

Have an event you would like to share with your St. George parish family? Do you have an idea, photo, article, or cartoon, to be considered for an upcoming newsletter?

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

email us at:

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

**Smile...say Cheese!** Hey, all of you St. George camera buffs - did you capture a "special" picture that you would like to share with us? When the **Chronicle** was first born, by our own Kh. Liliya Vreeland, (of blessed memory) she, and her "**Chronicle Kids**" would designate one page to "happenings" at St. George. We would like to continue this tradition so send your pix for consideration in a future issue of the Chronicle to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

TIP: generally your camera photos will have better quality and resolution than your phones, depending on your settings.

What a fun way to document the history of our St. George family.

**We're Makin' Memories Together!**



# ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK



CHRIST  
IS  
RISEN!



EGG HUNT - PASCHA 2015



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Year-to-date

As of May 1st ...  
We have received \$36,554 of the \$81,055 we need in pledges for 2015.

## Year-to-date Financial Information con't

As of May 1st...  
We have received \$5,960 of the \$17,000 we need for trays & candles for 2015.

In addition to these donations, we have paid off \$5,000 of the \$25,000 loan taken for repairs and renovations after the 2008 hail storm.

*Thank you for your continued support to the St. George Annual Budget*

Have you turned in your pledge card yet? If not, please use the one below. Thank you

## 2015 PLEDGE FORM

In thanksgiving to God, I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to St. George Orthodox Church for the year 2015. My pledge will support the operating expenses, ministries, and up-keep of our beloved St. George. **By making a pledge for 2015**, I help St. George meet our annual budget which we voted to increase this year.

I would like to fulfill this pledge through donations offered (*please circle one*):

Weekly      Monthly      Semi-annually      Yearly

**Thank you for your generous offering and all that you do for our parish!**

The Parish Council is also seeking benefactors who may be interested in offering a donation **over and above their pledge** to help pay down our \$25,000-leftover from the 2008 hailstorm repairs. I will also contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help pay down this loan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)



## PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle your preference for the Chronicle)

Paper    Electronic    Both

Please fill out form and place in offering tray at candle table. If you would rather send an email, please forward information to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)



# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

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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  
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)

## We want to know...

Our goals for providing a parish  
newsletter are to:

1. to inform
2. to educate
3. to inspire/encourage all  
parishioners to participate in their  
parish community.



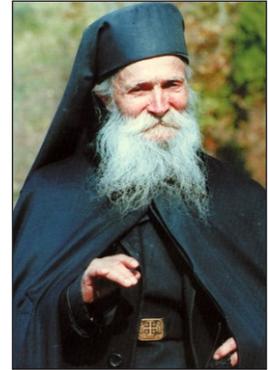
Your opinions matter. Please share  
your comments about the **St. George  
Chronicle**. Let us know if there is  
something you would like to see  
added or changed.

Too many pages? Not enough? Easy  
to read? Have questions you need  
answers to? Do you have an idea for a  
regular column or content you would  
like to see added?

Let us hear from you:  
[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

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## Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives



Our life depends on the kind of  
thoughts we nurture. If our  
thoughts are peaceful, calm,  
meek, and kind, then that is what  
our life is like.

If our attention is turned to the  
circumstances in which we live,  
we are drawn into a whirlpool of  
thoughts and can have neither  
peace nor tranquility.

~ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



## CHRIST IS RISEN!

## MAY FASTING

This May, the traditional fasting from  
flesh meats, dairy products is observed  
on Wednesdays and Fridays, although  
Antiochian custom allows for freedom  
from fasting for the entire 40 days  
following Pascha.

There is **no fasting** on the leavetaking  
of Pascha, May 20, 2015.



## HOLY FIRE 2015

**Christian Orthodox worshipers** hold up candles lit  
from the 'Holy Fire' as thousands gather in the Church  
of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City on April  
11, 2015, during the Orthodox Easter ceremony of the  
'Holy Fire.' The 'Holy Fire' ceremony has been

celebrated  
in the same  
way for **11  
centuries**,  
and is  
marked by  
the appear-  
ance of the  
'sacred fire'  
in the two  
cavities on  
either side

of the Holy Sepulchre. To learn more about the sacred  
'Holy Fire' in Jerusalem, click here [Holy Fire](#).

