

ST. GEORGE Chronicle

Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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Our Beloved Icons *by Subdeacon John Wolf*

This month's icon is the icon of the **Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women.**

The Gospel of St. Luke states that: "Early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the grave taking the spices they had made ready. 2 They found the stone had been pushed away from the

grave. 3 They went in but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they wondered about what had happened, they saw two men standing by them in shining clothes. 5 They were very much afraid and got down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them,

"Why do you look for the living One among those who are dead? 6 He is not here. He is risen. Do you not remember what He said to you when He was yet in Galilee? 7 He said, 'The Son of Man must be given over

into the hands of sinful men. He must be nailed to a cross. He will rise again three days later.'" 8 They remembered what He had said. 9 When they came back from the grave, they told all these things to the eleven followers

and to all the others. 10 They were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James. Other women who were with them told these things to the followers also. 11 Their words sounded like foolish talk. The followers did not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the grave. He got down to look in and saw only the linen clothes. Then

he went away, surprised about what had happened."

The icon depicts the biblical story of the women arriving at the tomb to anoint the body of Christ. The angel is seated upon the stone that covered the tomb, and he is pointing to the empty garments showing that Christ has risen from the dead.

At this point it bears repeating that the Angel is also holding a staff. **To us, the staff has a theological symbolism.** A staff was always the object used by messengers when they had to make an announcement. Up until recently, even in our villages, a town crier

would come out and strike a stick against the cobblestones in the street, and shout out that this or that event was going to take place. **The staff signifies that the Angel has come to announce something.**

(continued on page 2)



Sponsorship of the Myrrh-Bearing Women icon at St. George Kearney, was offered in memory of loved ones from the Klein and Patsios families

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

Dear Friends of St. George,

As the recent celebration of Thanksgiving reminded us, we have so many things to be thankful for: our earthly and spiritual families, our dear friends, good health, and the many material blessings God has so graciously shared with us. Most especially, we are thankful for Him.

In this spirit of thanksgiving, I want to tell you how thankful we are for all of you! We have a lot going on here at St. George, and we rely on your help.

This coming year will be a busy one for us. Besides our most important work of worship, serving the Sacraments, and studying our faith, we have many other things going on. We will be purchasing the property north of the current parish house to enable our plans for a future parish hall. Thanks to the support of generous benefactors, we also have the opportunity to purchase a new parish house east of the church (something the parish will be voting on in early December). We will be continuing with our preparations for the new hall. And, of course, we have our ongoing iconography project. All of this has only been possible with your continued prayers, friendship, and support! Thank you!

Now, with the feast of Thanksgiving behind us, let us continue with the spirit of gratitude in our hearts for the remainder of our Nativity Fast, preparing to celebrate the most incredible and wondrous gift of all—the birth of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wishing all of you a blessed Advent and a most joyous Christmas,
Fr. Christopher



The Angel also has a stripe on his garment which states that as an officer, he has received instructions. He has been given a power from a higher authority. It is stating that an Angel is not independent. He does not function independently. He does not function per the measures of personal desires, but is obeisant to God. That stripe-insignia denotes the authority given to him. The women depicted are the Theotokos (known in this account as Mary, the mother of James) with her



outstretched arm indicating acceptance. Behind her stands

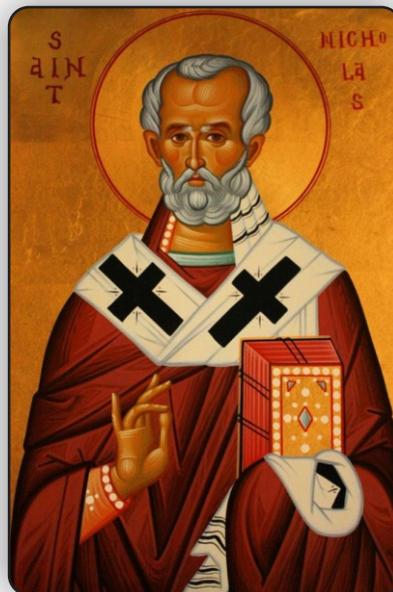
Joanna, and beside her is Mary Magdalene. Lying on the ground are the guards of the tomb.



“Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ has proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.”

St. Nicholas The Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra
Feast Day, December 6

Saint Nicholas lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the



canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, “The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock” ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. In time his fame in northern Europe as a saintly bishop began changing to that of a giver of gifts to children, usually done on December 6. He is the patron of all travelers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.



Canned Food Drive

St. George started a canned food drive in October to benefit the Kearney Jubilee Center. At last count, the 20/40 group IS AHEAD with 79 pounds. The Parish basket has 64 pounds. 25 days left to donate!



A reminder about the friendly competition: the winning group will be treated to an evening of food and fellowship hosted by the losing group. Remember, we will all be winners through our generous giving!



Thank you so much to all who have contributed items in the shopping carts. Please consider donating if you are able; it is traditional for Orthodox Christians to participate in increased almsgiving during the fasting periods. **Our collection will continue through December 25th.**



MITTEN TREE



St. George will have our annual Mitten Tree again this year. Please consider purchasing items to be donated to the **Kearney Head Start** organization which provides basic essentials for **families in need**. This year, in addition to hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves, they

are requesting the following items:

size 3T and 4T pants for boys and girls, size 3T, 4T and 5T brief cut underwear for boys and girls as well as 5T coats.



“How about this - instead of giving you everything that you **THINK** you want for Christmas, I give you what you need? - God



Annual Christmas Program and Talent Show

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016

Join us for a Christmas Program, Lunch, and Talent Show! The Sunday School kids will present a program immediately following Liturgy. Then, we will gather downstairs for lunch and our parish talent show. Please consider sharing your talents! We look forward to seeing you all and making holiday memories at St. George!

Eat Less, Talk Less, Pray More, and Give More

Mystery Basket Raffle Fun Facts:



*We are in our second year of mystery basket raffles!

*All parishioners are invited to provide a basket. The sign up sheet is on the info table in the parish hall.

*Money this year has been used for youth

group snacks, women's retreat gas and lodging expenses, VBS supplies, and more.

If you have an idea for how to use funds, please see Gerald or Sarah (Fundraising/Charity ministry members).

***A big thank you** to those parishioners that continually buy raffle tickets!

Saint Porphyrios - Feast Day Dec. 2



“Our religion is perfectly and profoundly conceived. What is simple is also what is most precious. Accordingly, in your spiritual life engage in your daily contest simply, easily, and without force. The soul is sanctified and purified through the study of the Fathers, through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the singing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer. Devote your efforts, therefore, to these spiritual things and ignore all the other things.”

— Saint Porphyrios, *Wounded by Love*

Holy Saint Porphyrios, pray for us!

St. Ephraim the Syrian on the Nativity

Pure is the present night, in which the Pure One appeared, Who came to purify us! Let our hearing be pure, and the sight of our eyes chaste, and the feeling of the heart holy, and the speech of the mouth sincere!

The present night is the night of reconciliation; therefore, let no one be wroth against his brother and offend him!

This night gave peace to the whole world, and so, let no one threaten. This is the night of the Most Meek One; let no one be cruel!

This is the night of the Humble One; let no one be proud!

Now is the day of joy; let us not take revenge for offences! Now is the day of good will; let us not be harsh. On this day of tranquility, let us not become agitated by anger!

Today God came unto sinners; let not the righteous exalt himself over sinners!

Today the Most Rich One became poor for our sake; let the rich man invite the poor to his table!

Today we received a gift which we did not ask for; let us bestow alms to those who cry out to us and beg!

The present day has opened the door of heaven to our prayers; let us also open our door to those who ask of us forgiveness!

Today the Godhead placed upon Himself the seal of humanity, and humanity has been adorned with the seal of the Godhead!

SOURCE:ANTIOCHIAN.ORG



--by Saint Ephraim the Syrian

Birthdays

December 20
Matthew Brailita

December 23
Gerald Rehtus



HAPPY Anniversary

December 17
Tim & Tracey Shada

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS

Donations
Gratefully Received

In Memory of

Donation to **St. George Church** in memory of **Jean and Frank Nama** from June Murty.

Let us hear from you. We welcome your comments, ideas, photos and any info you would like to share with your St. George family.

In Honor of

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** to commemorate the 1 year anniversary of Bill & Millie’s Baptism & Chrismation into the Holy Orthodox Church from the Denny family.

Donation to **St. George Church, Building Fund** in honor of Bessie Shada, from anonymous donor

Donation to the **St. George Church, Building Fund** in honor of Millie Rempel’s November birthday from anonymous donor

May God bless you all for your generosity!



November

The 20/40 group served a meal at **Crossroads Shelter on November 6.** Thank you to Amanda Denny for coordinating this event. We had several volunteers gather to cook and serve food. This is always a special time to bond with our community members.

December

Our December gathering will be at John and Margaret Morris's home on **December 18th.** More information to follow on Facebook and e-mail. Please join us!



Hello Ladies - our meeting dates for December are **Dec. 5th and 19th**, from 4:00 - 5:00 at the Denny home. Thank you Amanda for sharing your home with us!



Thank you to all who helped with our annual Fall Lebanese Breakfast and Bake Sale. Attendance was down a bit for both but still **successful fundraisers!** As you remember from our last meeting, we voted to "match" the funds raised from both of these and donate to the **St. George Building Fund.** What a joy to be able to give so much!

We were blessed with a wonderful variety of baked goods, excellent packaging and labels. **Thank you for all that baked!** We noticed a large increase in the amounts offered, the parish hall was **FULL OF YUMMY GOODIES!** Leftovers were donated to the Knights of Columbus community Thanksgiving Meal. Thank you to the volunteers who helped to deliver these after the Sunday Liturgy.



We offer many ideas for your **Gift giving needs:** Icons, Incense, Books, Jewelry, Prayer Ropes, Cards, T-shirts, Gift Cards, License plate covers, and much more!

Keep in mind - Christmas Cards and Calendars for the new year will be ordered soon so remember St. George for these gift ideas.

Do you need help finding a book? Have a suggestion on what you would like the Bookstore to offer? Contact Levi, he will be happy to help you.



December 11th - Please join us for our Christmas Program, lunch, and Talent Show.

The Sunday School children will present their program **immediately following Liturgy.** Everyone is invited downstairs to enjoy a soup lunch and the parish talent show. All parishioners are encouraged to share a talent with their church family. Talents are not restricted to musical entries!! We look forward to spending this day together in fellowship. Parents, if you have questions about the program, please talk to a Sunday School teacher.



ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP

The St. George Teen youth group met several times in October and November on Sunday evenings. We enjoy meeting for snacks and discussing religious and social topics that affect our every day lives.

Thank you to Fr. Christopher for his efforts in educating our youth and his continual support of our youth programs. If you have ideas for how the youth can serve our parish and community, please visit with Sarah Fothergill.



The Prayer Ministry for the Departed, at St. George, began in November. We currently have 10 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.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

Christmas Program

We need you! Please consider sharing your talents on December 11th. Singers, pianists, instrumentalists, solos, duets, poem readers, card tricks, puppets...you name it! This is open to ALL AGES. Please see Sarah F. or Kim R. to plan your offering. Thank you!



**N
E
W**

Handcrafted, one-of-a-kind Orthodox t-shirts available now for purchase. A variety of colors and designs to choose from. \$10.00 each, all will be donated to St. George! Thank you Bill.

*Merry Christmas
To You!*

from the
THE CHRONICLE

Our 6th Annual Holiday
BAKLAVA FUNDRAISER

Baklava Baking is here!
* * * * *

Orders are due Dec. 4th, and we're counting on the willingness of the St. George family to once again help with this important fund raiser. Even if you have no prior baklava experience, please see sign-up sheets downstairs, and we will teach you what you need to know. This is a great opportunity to work together and experience the truth of "many hands makes light work". Thank you.

**HOLY
PROSPHORA**

Holy Bread Sign-up sheets are in our parish hall, down stairs. Thank you for taking the time to reserve your dates. What a very special way to serve St. George. May God Bless your offering.



ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK

Potluck Sunday!



Fellowship time during coffee hour

Ladies Meeting



Did somebody say Baklava?



This can't be Micah?

Raffle Time!



"I just want the winning ticket please"



Look at these smiles!

The Midwest Orthodox Women's Retreat

was held November 11 and 12 in Salina, KS. Kim Rehtus, Sarah Fothergill, and I attended. We met up with Linda Maloley and her friend Anne Timms from Omaha when we got there. It was great fun to see people that we

remembered from last year and new faces too! It was such an amazing time to come together with other Orthodox women at **All Saints Orthodox church in Salina.**

The Fall has been so busy for us and I kept trying to back out of going, it is so hard to leave everything there is to do and go to a retreat for myself! Also...when I read about the speaker, Kh.

Krista West and her presentation, ["Envisioning the Kingdom: the Why and How of Beauty in the Orthodox Church."](#)

I was thinking this would be a great retreat for people that were very into crafts and sewing and I really didn't think that I was going to enjoy it or get much out of it. However, God works in mysterious ways... everything at home just happened to work out and my heart was urging me to go — the time spent with the other ladies is such an amazing time even if the speaker isn't good! :) **It turns out, I was blown away by Kh Krista West and her message within the first**

10 minutes of her opening presentation. I didn't want to go back to the Hotel! She does make vestments...but she does so much more and did such a phenomenal job **opening our eyes and our hearts to the layers and layers of beauty in the Orthodox Church** and how much it all is

instrumental in our entire journey through Liturgy and Orthodoxy. The next time you are in our church, take a look at the beauty around you. Look at the iconography, listen to the music, savor the smell of incense...look at the woodwork, the vestments, the candles, etc. All of this contributes to the beauty of our



WOMEN'S RETREAT - 2016



with Kh. Krista West



worship experience. **God created the physical world to be a beautiful place** and we can do our part to keep our church and homes beautiful in our prayer, decor, our family traditions, and the way we treat each other.

All in all it was an absolutely wonderful weekend. We had prayer services in the church, which was amazing and the time spent with other ladies was beyond measure! **I strongly encourage all of you to try to attend next year.** It truly is a much needed spiritual retreat for your mind and body! It also gives us a new sense of excitement and love for our faith!

by Ashley Maloley



My hope is the Father,
my refuge the Son, my
shelter the Holy Spirit;
O Holy Trinity,
glory be to Thee.



A "TIP" AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE NATIVITY SEASON

Sarah F. shared this with our Ladies Book Study group and the Chronicle thought it would be nice to pass on to you. Fr. Joseph Honeycutt

suggested "instead of focusing on a passion to "correct", try diving into it's corresponding virtue instead". Certainly worth considering since

the virtues we acquire here on earth are the **ONLY** things we will take with us, we when repose and our Heavenly Father calls us home.

Trade this
PASSION

Pride
Anger
Lust
Envy
Gluttony
Avarice/Greed

For this
VIRTUE

Humility
Patience
Chastity
Contentedness
Moderation
Liberality/Freely Giving



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop BASIL



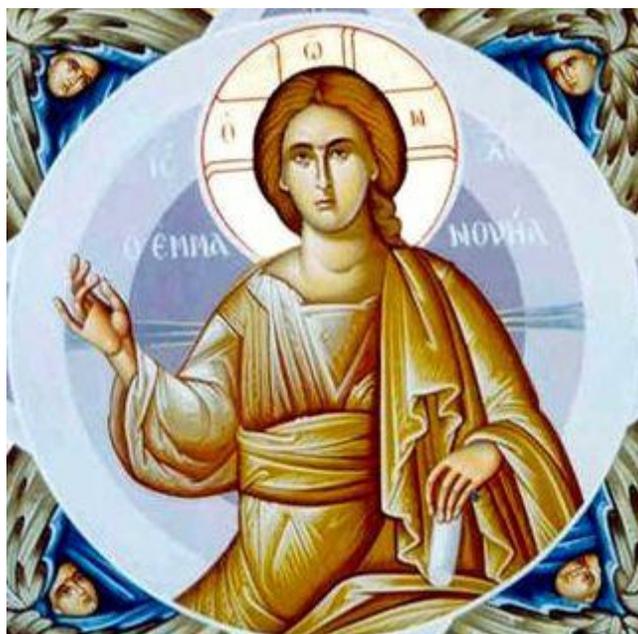
Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Wichita and
Mid-America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Nativity of Christ
2016

To the Right Reverend Archimandrites, the Very Reverend and Reverend Priests and Deacons and their families, the Venerable Monastics, and all the Christ-loving Faithful of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America:



Icon of Christ Emmanuel – God With Us.

“God is with us! God is on earth, God is among us, not now as Lawgiver – for there is no fire, trumpet blast, smoke-wreathed mountain, dense cloud, or storm to terrify whoever hears him – but as one gently and kindly conversing in a human body with his fellow men. God is in the flesh. Now he is not acting intermittently as he did through the prophets. He is bringing back to himself the whole human race, which he has taken possession of and united to himself. By his flesh he has made the human race his own kin, for God is with us!” – *St Basil the Great, Homily 2 on the Birth of the Lord*

I send to each of you my paternal love, festal greetings and prayerful best wishes for the merriest of Christmases and a healthy and happy 2017.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

+ Bishop Basil

+Bishop Basil
Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

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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

Design & Content, Joanie Klein
Contact:

stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

Church website:

www.saintgeorgekearney.com

Year-to-date for 2016 St. George Church

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **NOVEMBER** ... We
have received \$69,899 of the
\$91,000 we have budgeted
for pledges.

As of **NOVEMBER** ... We have
received \$19,010 of the
\$19,000 we have budgeted
for trays and candles.

Thank you!

OUR FASTING DISCIPLINE DURING DECEMBER

The Nativity Fast began Nov. 15th
and is divided into two periods:

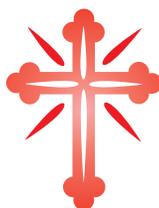
The 1st period is Nov. 15th
through Dec. 19th when the
traditional fasting discipline (no
meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish,
wine and oil) is observed with
katalysis for wine and oil on
Tuesday and Thursday (some
permit fish also in this first
period) and for fish, wine and oil
on Saturday and Sunday.

The 2nd period is December 19th
through the 23rd (the period of
the Forefeast) when the
traditional fasting discipline (no
meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish,
wine and oil) is observed Monday
through Friday, but with katalysis
for wine and oil on Sat. and Sun.



As Orthodox Christians, we don't
view our spirituality as
something that does not concern
our bodies, but as something
that is made possible through
and within the body. Therefore,
the purpose of our fasting is
spiritual, and our fasting is a
means of restoring the balance
between soul and body, a means
of bringing the flesh under the
control and will of the mind
and spirit.

**Fasting is a
means of
putting our
Faith into
practice.**



Brooklyn, NY Newspaper Features Festal Services for St. Raphael



Photo by Denise Alexander

On
November
14, 2016,
reporter
John
Alexander of
the *Brooklyn
Daily Eagle*
featured St.
Nicholas
Cathedral's
services for
St. Raphael,

in his article "**Brooklyn's own St. Raphael
venerated at St. Nicholas Antiochian
Orthodox Cathedral.**"
The article recounts the story of St.
Raphael's life, and explains the significance
of the beloved saint to the faithful of the
Antiochian Archdiocese and the greater
Orthodox community. "St. Raphael was the
first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in
America from any ethnic background,"
Cathedral Dean the Very Reverend Thomas
Zain is quoted as saying in the *Brooklyn
Daily Eagle* article.

"In 2000, Raphael was canonized as a saint
of the Holy Orthodox Church by the
Orthodox Church in America. That service
16 years ago, as well as last Friday's festal
liturgies, attracted worshippers from all
over, who gathered in Boerum Hill to
celebrate an extraordinary individual who
helped reaffirm the roots of Orthodoxy in
North America."

Read the full story in the [Daily Eagle](#)

PLEASE NOTE

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

*Please submit content to:
stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com*

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Church of Kearney, Nebraska.*