



ST. GEORGE Chronicle

The Very Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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SAVE THE DATES

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JULY 24-27, Vacation Bible School
Theme: Fruit of the Holy Spirit

JULY 30, Lunch after Liturgy
Aboud Family Reunion, to visit

AUGUST 6
Transfiguration of Christ

AUGUST 15
The Dormition of the Theotokos

AUGUST 19 - 20
Invitation to St. Mary's in Omaha

Our Beloved Icons

Welcome readers, to our second series of the iconography at St. George. There are 14, beautifully written, Holy Prophet icons that adorn the ceiling above the nave. The first icon featured is the **Prophet, Saint Moses.**

The Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses was of the tribe of Levi, the son of Abram and Jochabed (Exodus 6:20). His life is described in the Bible (Exodus 2 through Deuteronomy 34:12).

Moses was born in Egypt around 1689 B.C. When Pharaoh ordered all male children of the Hebrew slaves to be killed (Exodus 1:22), Moses' mother placed him in a basket of papyrus coated with pitch, and set him adrift on the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him as her own son.

At the age of eighty, Moses fled to Midian, where he spoke to God in the **Burning Bush** on Mt. Horeb (Exodus 3:2). God chose Moses to lead His people from the slavery of Egypt. They crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land, and for forty years they wandered in the desert.

Arriving in the land of Moab, Moses went to the top of Mt. Nabau, or Nebo (Deuteronomy 32:49), which is called Phasga (Deut. 34:1). There, according to the will of God, he died in 1569 B.C. at the age of 120 without entering the Promised Land.



The first **two Biblical Odes** are attributed to Moses: "Let us sing to the Lord..." (Exodus 15:1-9), which was sung on the shores of the Red Sea after the Hebrews had crossed it. "Attend, O heaven..." (Deut. 32:1-43) was sung in the land of Moab, a few days before Moses' death. He is also regarded as the author of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

*Sponsorship of the **Prophet Moses** icon at St. George Kearney, was offered in Memory of Mose & Wadia Yanney by their children*

The holy Prophet Moses **performed many miracles** during his lifetime, and also after his death. **He appeared on Mount Tabor** with the Prophet Elias at the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6).

His scroll reads, "Rejoice ye heavens with Him - and let all the Angels of God worship Him."

source:oca.org

Something old becomes something new . . .

Photo of the parish family gift given to Fr. Christopher, for his elevation to the dignity of Archpriest. Father provided the wood, (from an old cross he had, made of Boxwood), for the artist to carve. This custom hand-carved pectoral cross is encased in silver with a stunning, silver linked chain.

Be sure to ask to see this beautiful **one-of-a-kind pectoral cross!**



“My thanks for the truly awesome and generous gift of the pectoral cross. It is so beautiful! I will wear it before the holy altar with heartfelt gratitude for each of you.”

With love in Christ,
Fr. Christopher

~ God Grant You Many Years, Father ~



A Handful of Sand

Can you measure God’s mercy? In the face of God’s mercy, the sins of the worst person ever are a handful of sand in the ocean. There’s no sin that can defeat God’s mercy.

God’s depicted as our mother; Can the sin of a child overcome the love of a mother? If a mother loves her child, God loves us infinitely more than that. He demonstrated this clearly when he was crucified on the Cross.

Saint Peter denied the Lord three times, and repentance restored him. Through repentance, the great persecutor of Christians, Saint Paul, became one of the chief apostles. Repentance has sanctified harlots, robbers, tax-collectors and thousands of other guilty people. So put aside your worry and the chastisement of your conscience. Become hopeful, take courage and get rid of any thought of despair.

– Elder Ephraim of Arizona



source:<http://pemtpousia.com/2015/12/a-handful-of-sand/>

“Honoring our Past, Building our Future”



BUILDING FUND

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX
CHURCH - KEARNEY, NE

We are so happy to report that we have only \$1885 left to go, and we will complete Phase I of the Building Project. This will bring us that much closer to building a new Parish Hall.

The Parish council would especially like to thank all of the generous benefactors that attended the Banquet in April. We were blessed with a visit from Bishop Basil, celebrated the feast day of our patron saint, St. George, and shared in Father Christopher’s elevation to the dignity of Archpriest. Because of your generosity in giving, we raised over \$14,000, in just one evening, for the Building Fund! **We give thanks to God for your gifts and pledges.**



THANK YOU!

To the **Building & Grounds Committee, and parish volunteers,** for tending to the Flowers, Shrubs and lawn care at St. George and the parish house. The playground is ready for another summer of play and new flowers have been planted. **The corner of “15th and G” looks great!**



OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

April 23rd, 2017 - What a very special day this was - in the life of our parish family and our church. We welcomed a pastoral visit from our beloved Father and Chief Pastor, His Grace Bishop BASIL. He came to celebrate with us, the Feast day of our patron saint, St. George, and to elevate our pastor Fr. Christopher Morris, to the dignity of Archpriest. After Saturday vespers, parish volunteers hosted an honorary banquet. Dinner was provided with donations being accepted for the St. George Building Fund. We gave thanks to God for His many blessings - gifts and donations were over \$14,000. We had clergy and friends travel from Omaha, Lincoln, and North Platte, Nebraska; Wichita, and McPherson, Kansas. Others came from PA, AR, TX, CO, SD, IA and FL. We had an opportunity to laugh and share stories with our past priest, Hieromonk Philip. Sunday morning we witnessed the elevation of Father Christopher, to Archpriest. We were richly blessed by His Grace, as he served a Hierarchical Liturgy. Three "of our own" were tonsured as taper bearers - Joseph Morris, Drew Fothergill, and Mark Klein.

With all of these "highlights" it is difficult to pick out one. The homily given by Bishop BASIL was most assuredly, at the top. His presence alone, evokes peace and love. When he arrived Saturday evening, the faithful filled the church, and nervous anticipation filled the air. And then, quietly, the doors opened. There he stood, patiently waiting in silence while the faithful held their breath.

Such love in those eyes! And then the proud moment, as he watched his young shepherd approach him, the Holy Gospels

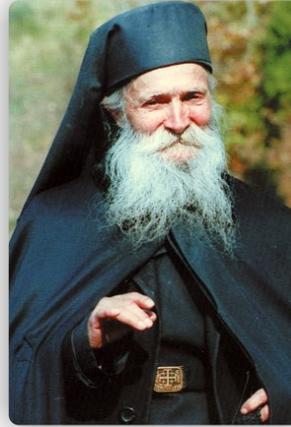


raised high. The clergy, knowing the love of their master, made a solemn and joyful procession together, as they walked towards the holy altar.

The scripture reading this day, was from the book of John and the Belief of Thomas. "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen

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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

ST. TIMON SUNDAY IS JULY 23

Each year on "**Saint Timon Sunday**" the congregations of our Diocese are asked to prayerfully consider the needs of **DOWAMA's "The Hauran Connection"**

which assists our Sister Diocese of Bosra-Hauran in south Syria. This area is shepherded by His Eminence Metropolitan Saba.



After Liturgy on Sunday, July 23rd, we will accept donations for St. Timon Sunday; please make check payable to

St. George **with message line "Bosra-Hauran"**. If you are unable to attend Liturgy on July 23rd, please plan now to give an offering in advance.

Thank you for your continued support to help **St. George Kearney** participate in this community offering to our Sister Diocese. Let us encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, through our prayers and gifts. Any monetary amount you can give, does make a difference, especially in Syria. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Thank you.

WE GET LETTERS . . .



Dear Friends . . . our church family,
Thank you for all the festive and spiritual celebration of Fr. Christopher's elevation to Archpriest. A special blessing for those who organized, practiced, chanted and decorated.

St. George has been so kind and generous to Fr. Christopher, Kh. Anastasia, Gabriella, Juliana, Joseph and Elizabeth through the years. May God bless each of you.

You are loved by the Morris families.
Yours In Christ,
John & Margaret

The **second annual Tea**, put on by some of the ladies of St. George on May 13 was wonderful. The serving table was beautiful with all of their pretty and delicious delicacies. The seating tables were decorated with neat center pieces, some made by some very talented people.

It was great to hear Mark, Joanie, Mike and Darlene tell and show pictures of the Holy Land that they recently visited.

It was very interesting and informative.



Thank you all,
Jenny Bergt

I have enclosed a small donation for your building fund. My cousin Jenny Bergt tells me what great plans the church has.
Blessings,
Dorothy Ridolfi
P.S. I love your St. George Chronicle!

A special thanks to our **generous benefactors** and **St. Helena's Ladies Society** of St. George, for their donations to help fund the Banquet during Bishop Basil's visit in April. Your support provided a fun evening for all.
Yours in Christ, the Banquet committee

Thank You!



Birthdays

July 5
Linda Maloley

July 9
Delaney Denny

July 11
Joanie Klein

July 15
Sidonya Fulton

July 16
Bill Rempel

July 18
Amanda Williamson
Drew Fothergill
Cora Lyall

July 20
Beverly Shada

July 22
Dione Steinbrink
Tasia Theoharis

July 30
Virginia Suleiman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 7
Mark & Sandee Buchman

July 10
John & Theodora Wolf

July 12
Phillip & Ashley Maloley



Donations to the **St. George Memorial Account** in memory of Sadie Malooley from Mike and Ronda Maloley; in memory of her father Nick Patsios (May 23, 2011) and uncle James Patsios (May 25, 2011) from Joanie Klein.

Donations *Gratefully Received*

Donation to the **Chronicle newsletter** from Anonymous donor.

Donations to the **St. George Building Fund** from: Dorothy Ridolfi, Hierodeacon Benedict (Armitage), Hierodeacon Mark (Berge), Josie and Greg Awtry, Wanda and Jim Maloley



Donations to **St. George Building Fund**, in honor of anniversaries for Amanda & Ron, Tony & Bessie, and birthdays for Margaret and Subdeacon Michael.

Donations to **St. George Building Fund**, for Father's Day in honor of Fr. Christopher, Nimir Maloley, John Morris, and Mark Klein.

May God bless you all for your generosity!



Yes, we are a small church family but by God's grace, we work together to get things done. Thank you for keeping your parish council in your prayers. Much of what we do, couldn't get done without your continued stewardship and love for St. George. It is a joy and honor to serve our priest and you, our parish family.



May 14th was our last day of Sunday School for the year and we enjoyed yummy popsicles after classes. Thank you to all of the parents for faithfully bringing your children to class each week and contributing to our wonderful year of classes! Many thanks to our teachers as well.

Summer VBS is planned for July 24-27. We will meet from 12:30 to 3:00 on these days. Be sure to register and plan now to attend. We look forward to seeing your children!



ST. GEORGE YOUTH GROUP

Thank you to Rocky and Dionne Steinbrink for donating **May's Mystery Basket**. We will use the funds to help with Camp St. Raphael expenses.



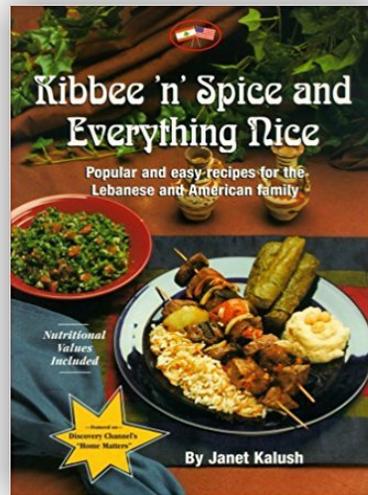
Thank you ladies for your attendance at our June meeting. We had a visit from reader Michael (Levi Hadley). He expressed his gratitude for the monetary donation we gave, to help with travel expenses to a **monastery in New Mexico**. He has returned with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the service of chanting, prayer and the ministry of music in our church services. Thank you Levi for sharing.

Many thanks again for those who provided treats for the **Spring Bake Sale**. We chose **Habitat for Humanity**, as part of our alms giving during Great Lent. We were able to give \$1322.00 from our sales. What a joy to give to our community in this way! We couldn't do it without you.

Our **second annual Tea** was another success! The treats and table decorations were wonderful. Thank you to the volunteers who helped prepare for the event. Michael, Darlene, Mark and Joanie each shared a "highlight" from their recent trip to the **Holy Land of Jerusalem**. Even our guests were inspired by their stories and photos. We are working on a summer or early fall, social gathering of fun and fellowship. Suggestions have been: shopping a local boutique, visiting a winery, or gather for treats and a craft activity. Do you have an idea? please let Ashley or Joanie know. **Vacation Bible School** is planned for July 24-27. Sign-up sheets will be posted, if they do need our help. Jenny Bergt shared info regarding their **Abood family reunion** in July. They plan to attend church services on **Sunday, July 30** and we're invited to join them for lunch, after church.

(continued)

The Ladies Society will provide a "main dish" (meat) and all ladies that are able, should plan to bring a **side dish or dessert**. What a wonderful opportunity to extend our love and hospitality to our St. George visitors. Jenny's niece, Janet Kalush, who published a Lebanese Cookbook: **Kibbee 'n' Spice and Everything Nice**, has offered to bring several copies for us to purchase and sell in our bookstore. **A wonderful resource for popular recipes that your family will enjoy**. There is a picture of Jenny's mother in the book and fun facts about Lebanese cooking. Janet will even autograph your cookbook! Plan now to purchase, and get an extra copy for yourself because you may not get it back, if you loan it out!



Women's **BOOK STUDY**

Summer is here and a change in our Book Study schedule. **We will meet on Mondays, at 11:00 am**. Meeting time lasts for approx. 1 hour. We thank our gracious hosts, Amanda Denny and Sarah Fothergill for letting us meet in their homes. All ladies of St. George (or bring a friend) are invited to participate in our fellowship of reading and sharing their stories. Please Come!

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD



FOR ST. GEORGE
SEPTEMBER 15, 16
 Friday eve & Sat. morning
Save the Date!

More info to come. Start planning now to sort through your offerings for St. George. **Save the date** and volunteer to help by setting-up, working or cleaning-up after it's over. **NO PRICE TAGS.** This will be another "Free Will Offering" sale.

"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK."



You're Invited to the wedding of:

Darren & Cora
 THEESEN LYALL



Saturday, July 29th, 2017
at 3:00 pm

St. George Orthodox Church
Kearney, Nebraska

Reception to follow. Please let Cora know if you plan to attend, directions with map will be handed out

the **ABOOD**
Family
REUNION

Jenny Bergt (Abood) and family, will be attending St. George for church on **Sunday, July 30th.** The Ladies Society will be hosting a special lunch and **YOU'RE INVITED!** Please come join us for a "summer theme picnic lunch" and meet Jenny's family!

"Freely you have received, freely give".



(Matthew 10:8)

Calling All Kids!



VBS 2017
"Fruit of the Holy Spirit"
July 24 - 27
12:30 - 3:00

We will offer **Vacation Bible School July 24-27, 2017.** Classes will be held from **12:30-3:00 pm** in the St. George Parish Hall. We invite all pre-school and school-aged children (Ages 3 -12) to attend. We will begin each afternoon with a prayer service in the church and then move to

classrooms for lessons, crafts, snacks, and games. We will end each day back in the church with closing prayer. If you would like to help by **volunteering to bring snacks or help with craft time,** please see Kh. Anastasia or sign-up in the parish hall.



Visit us today!



www.saintgeorgekearney.com

We offer numerous resources to encourage you in your Orthodox journey. Video clips, Articles, Podcasts, Photos, Weekly Church Bulletin, The Chronicle Newsletter, and our Monthly Calendar.

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Olivia Denny's poem "Church", from St. George Kearney, earned a silver ribbon and 3rd place in the 1st grade division



Church

I pray in church.
I sing in church.
I do the cross in church.
We eat in church.
Then we leave from church.

by Olivia Denny, Grade 1

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish Council, in cooperation with the Building & Grounds Ministry, have made a decision to purchase a new lawn mower and tools necessary to maintain the properties of St. George. We would like to thank the generous benefactor that has been paying a monthly lawn service company to do this for us, these past few months.

It is our desire to have **Lawn-Mowing teams**, minimum of two people per team, to take turns mowing the church lawns weekly, through the summer months. *All volunteers will be asked to attend a safety training session, before they can begin mowing.* **Grab a partner or two, pick a fun name for your team, and register on the sign-up sheet** posted in the basement. (Training sessions TBA.)

THE DETAILS. Lawn care, one day a week, at St. George, the parish houses and new property to the north. Will need volunteers to operate a rider mower, a push mower for smaller areas, a trimmer and a blower. With teams of two or more, this should take about 2 hours to complete. We will not bag the clippings.

Do you like the smell of fresh mowed grass? This ministry is for you! Grab a hat, a water bottle, put on some sun screen and let's get mowing! You can say the Jesus prayer while you walk or ride. **A Win-Win for you and St. George!**



(continued from page 3)

and yet they believed." Without hesitation, he reminded us, "this is us, you and me." "We have not seen but yet, we believe." May we strive to have the same heartfelt desire as Thomas, to want Christ in our daily lives.

Emphatically, our beloved Bishop quickly affirmed, that "even though Christopher is telling you this gathering is not about him, IT MOST CERTAINLY IS!" And for the next 20 minutes or so, the faithful were lifted and blessed by His Grace, his words regarding "our good shepherd" and what St. John Chrysostom calls the "second greatest gift - the priesthood."

"A Good Shepherd leads his sheep, and is one who lays down his life, for his sheep." We knew the words to be true. One look at Father Christopher's young family, his wife, his mother and father and the piercing truth that he sacrifices daily, time he could spend with them, but yet faithfully offers it to us. Our Chief Pastor orchestrated beautifully, the importance and blessings that flow from a



priest's hands. **Through the Holy Sacraments, his hands are continually showing us God's steadfast love.** From our Baptism, to marriage and confession; the Holy Eucharist each Sunday, and even unto our own death - his hands are God's chosen instruments to extend His eternal love to each of us, as we journey through our salvation.

Then to the gut-wrenching truth about our day of judgement before the awesome seat of Christ. Comforting yes, to be reminded that we will be accompanied by our guardian angel. Not so comforting to hear again that unless we "loose that which binds us on earth", Christ will not "loose" in our final judgement. Many of us learned, for the first time, the sobering news, that our Shepherd will be judged by an even higher standard. His judgement will include every parishioner he had an opportunity to minister to, including those who choose to walk away from Christ. Our hearts became heavy as we contemplated the sacrifices a "good shepherd" must make, to keep his sheep together, including the lost or broken ones. Lord, please, have mercy.

(continued on page 8)

We're Invited!

***"I am the good shepherd, and I know My sheep,
and am known by My own."*** - John 10:14

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
invites you to an evening of joyous celebration!

Please join us in recognizing:

- › His Grace Bishop BASIL's 25-Year Anniversary
 - › V. Rev. Fr. Don's 30-Year Anniversary
 - › St. Mary Parish's 60-Year Anniversary

When: Saturday, August 19, 2017 – Sunday, August 20, 2017

Where: Vespers - St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
10303 Boyd Street, Omaha, NE 68134
Cocktail Hour/Banquet/Dance – DC Centre Banquet Facility
11830 Stonegate Drive, Omaha, NE 68164

Saturday Schedule:

4:00 p.m. – Vespers at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour at DC Centre
6:30 p.m. – Dinner Served/Program Following
Following Program to 10:30 p.m. – Dance and Entertainment

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m. – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

An RSVP now reserves your seat!

In lieu of charging a fee to attend this event, we ask that you consider a donation to St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. We appreciate your consideration and are grateful for your attendance.

For more information regarding the event, please contact Linda Steinbrink at 402.658.0414 or Jennifer Mancuso at 402.319.6389.

RSVP

The **Holy Bread Sign-up sheet** is posted in the parish hall, downstairs. Reserve your dates now. Not able to bake bread?



Several of the ladies will be happy to bake for you and you can still offer your family names for prayers. See Father Christopher for more information. What a special way to serve St. George and your parish family. May God Bless your offering.

(continued from page 7)

Our Master thanked us for the parish gift, a beautiful pectoral cross, befitting for the “good shepherd” and worthy priest in Father Christopher. He lovingly encouraged us to continue to “walk with Christ” knowing that through our priest, our walk has grown deeper, “because of his goodness.” Finally, the best gift we could ever give our Shepherd is to live a life that is “worthy” of being called a Christian. May it be blessed.



On this day, the faithful in attendance, couldn't help but know in their hearts, their lives had been blessed. May this knowledge strengthen each of us to “pick up our cross daily” with a renewed spirit. **Glory to God for His steadfast love - through His good shepherds, our esteemed Bishop BASIL and the Very Rev. Priest Christopher.**

MAKING MEMORIES AS WE JOURNEY TO HOLY PASCHA WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

* SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY *



* LAZARUS SATURDAY CARNIVAL *



* CRAFTS *



ST. GEORGE
Chronicle

Volume 3, No. 7, JULY 2017

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 Very Rev. Christopher Morris,
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“God never abandons
those who fight in His
armies, although at
times He lets them
suffer wounds.”

Unseen Warfare
by *Theophan the Recluse*

Year-to-date for 2017

**\$ FINANCIAL
REPORT**

As of **June 30 ...** We have
received \$33,556 of the
\$88,969 we have budgeted
for pledges.

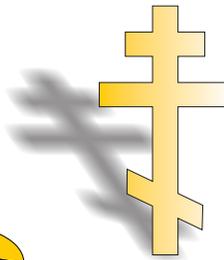
As of **June 30 ...** We have
received \$10,628 of the
\$20,000 we have budgeted
for trays and candles.

Thank you!

**FASTING DISCIPLINE
DURING JULY**

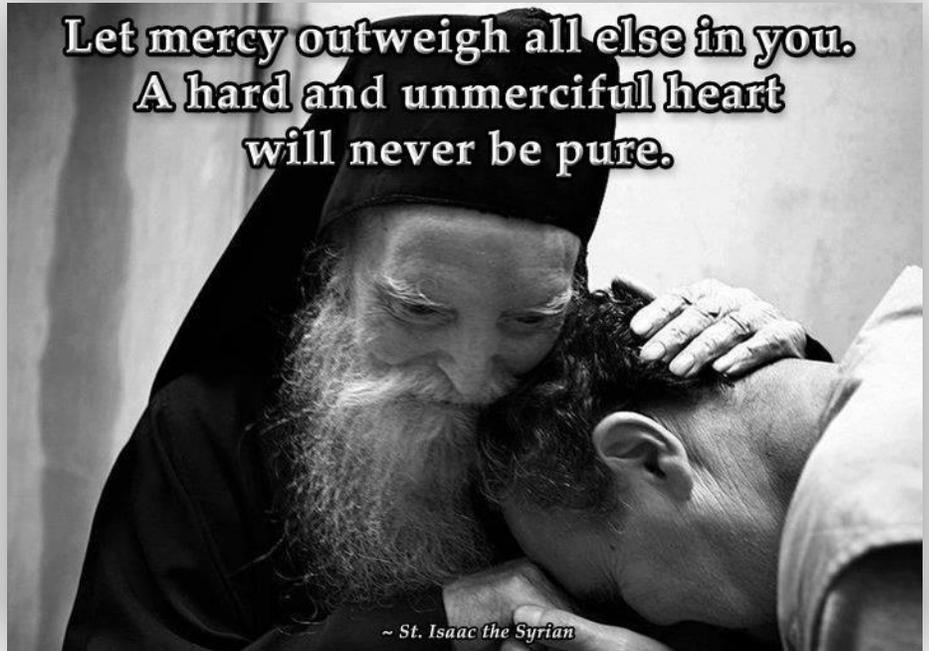
The Traditional fasting discipline of the
Orthodox Church is observed on all
Wednesdays and Fridays of this month. We
fast from meat, poultry, eggs, fish, dairy
products, wine, and oil.

The Dormition Fast takes place August 1 -
14th, we fast everyday with exception on
Sat. and Sun., when wine and oil are
permitted. Saturday, August 6th is
the **Feast of our Lord's
Transfiguration**, there is an
allowance for fish as well.



*Please Remember
St. George and
your parish family
in your daily prayers.*

**Let mercy outweigh all else in you.
A hard and unmerciful heart
will never be pure.**



~ St. Isaac the Syrian

**Hell does not appear to the faithless; it is clear and
obvious to the faithful....**

– St. John Chrysostom