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SAVE THE DATES

JULY 23
St. Timon Sunday

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

JULY 30, Lunch after Liturgy
Abood 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.

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).

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).

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.

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 gi 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

“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!

~ God Grant You Many Years, Father ~
**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

(continued on page 7)

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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

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**ST. TIMON SUNDAY IS JULY 23**

Each year on “Saint Timon Sunday” the congregations of our Diocese are asked to prayfully 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.
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

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

In Memory of
Donations to the St. George Memorial Fund 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.

May God bless you all for your generosity!

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, KEARNEY NE 68847 4 JULY 2017
Women's Book Study

Summer is here and a change in our Book Study schedule. We will meet on Mondays, at 11:00 am. Meetings last 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!

MINISTRY UPDATES

St. George Parish Council

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.

Sunday School

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.

Ladies Society

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.

Vacaon 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.

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!

ST. HELENA
Ladies Society

(continued)

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!

Kibbee ‘n’ Spice and Everything Nice
Popular and easy recipes for the Lebanese and American family

By Janet Kalush

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!
You’re Invited to the wedding of:

**Darren & Cora 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.

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)

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.

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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!

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 me, 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)
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*

We made our own Pascha Candles

*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, pastor

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**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!*

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**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.

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**Please Remember**

St. George and your parish family in your daily prayers.

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

~ St. Isaac the Syrian

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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

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

~ St. John Chrysostom

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