The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnessar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St Matthew), a lion (St Mark), an ox (St Luke), and an eagle (St John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel’s prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple. There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel’s description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44:2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet (continued on page 2)
remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

St Demetrius of Rostov (October 28 and September 21) explains to believers the following concepts in the book of the Prophet Ezekiel: if a righteous man turns from righteousness to sin, he shall die for his sin, and his righteousness will not be remembered. If a sinner repents, and keeps God’s commandments, he will not die. His former sins will not be held against him, because now he follows the path of righteousness (Ez. 3:20; 18:21-24).

Troparion & Kontakion

The memory of Your prophet Ezekiel, / We celebrate today, O Lord. / By his prayers, we beseech You, / O Christ God, save our souls!

In preparation for the pilgrimage in October, there will be a couple of upcoming work days, and we could use your help to “clean up” the church grounds. Plans are underway to paint the St. Raphael House and garage. We have a generous benefactor who will donate new shrubs, bushes and flowers for all of the church properties and we will need volunteers to help plant these. STAY TUNED for more information. Work days will probably be in July or August with planting in September.

We have chosen the community non-profit, “Micah’s House” as our 3rd Qrt. Basket of Love recipient. A wish list is available in the parish hall, next to the Love Basket. The Chronicle will also publish this list in the August issue.

“Micah’s House is located in Lexington, and exists to bring to homeless youth and their families faith-based opportunities that reduce poverty, reverse at-risk behaviors, restore wholeness and redeem potential for a bright and hopeful future.”

When: July 17-20 (Tues. - Fri.)
Time:10:00 am -12:30 pm
*ages 3 and up are Welcome

**Sign-up sheets in parish hall for volunteer opportunities to help with food and craft donations.

Please register ASAP - click link below
St. George - Armor of God

Gabriella had an opportunity to be an alternate, for this Dallas, TX (Sts. Constantine & Helen Orthodox Church) pre-teen team, and they won first place! Way to Go team!!
Dear St. George Chronicle,
Your monthly newsletter is just wonderful!

Love and Thank you,
Josie Awtry & Wanda Maloley
Scottsbluff, NE

Hello Church family,
We have returned from the PLC in Santa Fe and Fr. Phillip sends this
greeting, “Hello to my dear friends of St. George and my love to you all!” and “YES! we just love getting the Chronicle, and sitting down to read it, thank you, thank you.”
Mark & Joanie Klein

Donations
Gratefully Received

July 5
Linda Maloley

July 9
Delaney Denny

July 10
John & Theodora Wolf

July 12
Phillip & Ashley Maloley

July 11
Joanie Klein

July 15
Sidonya Fulton

July 18
Amanda Williamson
Drew Fothergill
Cora Theesen

July 20
Beverly Shada

July 22
Dione Steinbrink
Tasia Theoharis

July 30
Jenny Bergt
Virginia Suleiman

Donation to the St. George Chronicle newsletter from Anonymous donor.

Donations to the St. George Church and St. George Sunday School from Josie Awtry.

Donation to the St. George Chronicle newsletter from Wanda Maloley and Josie Awtry.

Donation to Chronicle newsletter, in honor of Mark Klein and Mennen Suleiman, from anonymous donor.

Donation to St. George Church, in honor of Victoria Salem and Mother’s Day, from Mary Schroeder.

May God bless you all for your generosity!

Dear St. George Sunday School Teachers, your dedication to teaching Sunday school, and all of the many things you do, does not go unnoticed. Please use this donation for supplies or where your greatest needs are.
Thank you,
Josie Awtry
Scottsbluff, NE

The fund-raising ministry of St. George has begun a “challenge” to pay off the mortgage at the parish house. The parish hall has been decorated with a Donation Envelope Display Board, Donation box, Icon of St. Nicholas, Thermometer to show our progress, and drawings of our proposed Parish Hall. Once we pay off the mortgage we can begin our capital campaign for a new hall. PICK UP AN ENVELOPE TODAY and let’s “burn the mortgage” together!

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, KEARNEY NE 68847
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JULY 2018
And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26