



ST. GEORGE Chronicle

SEPTEMBER 2019



The Very Rev. Christopher Morris
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

HAPPY (CHURCH) NEW YEAR!

Fr. Joseph Huneycutt

PAGE 2

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Feast Day September 8

THE ELEVATION OF THE LIFE GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD

Feast Day September 14

PAGE 4

WE GET LETTERS... BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES DONATIONS

PAGE 5

MINISTRY UPDATES

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 8

Sunday School Begins!

OCTOBER 12

Annual Fall Church Breakfast

NOVEMBER 1-2

Ladies Midwest Retreat, Wichita
Guest Speaker: Nicole Roccas

How Can I Serve
My Church?

Happy (Church) New Year!

By Fr. Joseph Huneycutt

Make yours acceptable to the Lord!

It seems odd saying "Happy New Year" in September, but that's when the Church marks Her annual beginning. September 1st is, for the Church, the first day of a New Year. A pious tradition of the Church holds that Jesus of Nazareth began preaching the good news of His mission on September 1st. When our Lord entered the Synagogue, He was given the book of the Prophet Isaiah to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:18-21).

Tradition also holds that it was during the month of September that the Hebrews entered the promised land. And, the custom of beginning a new year with autumn was common in Biblical and Mediterranean lands

because the summer harvest was completed, the crops were stored, and it was a time when people began preparing for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time for a new beginning. This is evident in the services for the New Year as the Church beseeches God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth.

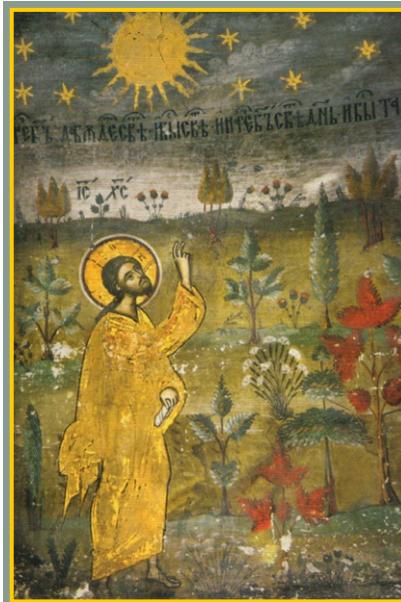
As we begin this new year it should be noted that the church calendar is loaded with important events,

especially the 12 great feasts, the four fasts, and Pascha. Also, each day of the church year is set aside to honor saints; many of whom died on that particular date.

Similar to our personal calendars where we mark the earthly birthdays of family and friends, the Church remembers the saints on their "heavenly birthday" — the day they passed from this life to Paradise.

Liturgically, the church year begins and ends with the Mother of God. The first great feast of the year, September 8, honors her birth; the last great feast of the year, August 15, remembers her falling asleep. Between these two great feasts the Church marks 10 other major Feasts and Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. The dates for Palm Sunday, Pascha, Ascension, and Pentecost vary each year. The Apostles' Fast can vary in length. It begins on the Monday after All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with the

(continued on page 2)



NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS



Feast Day - September 8

"Thy Nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; for from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting."

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord:

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there.

Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for

veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine

became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and

written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing

(continued on page 3)



(continued from page 1)

feast on June 29. Each parish also celebrates its "altar feast" on the day set aside for its patron saint, feast, or name.

The wall calendars that most parishes make available each fall include many of the daily saints and readings for the year. Also, most people have their own patron saint — or "nameday" — to remember, as well as other favorite and family saints' days.



Why not start the new ecclesiastical year off right? Mark your personal calendar with the feasts, fasts, and saints days of the Church. Make a resolution to participate in the liturgical cycle of the Church. Unlike mundane New Year's resolutions, marking your calendar, keeping the feasts and fasts, and embarking for a new life within the annual life of the Church, is a wonderful way to sanctify time. Let's all join together in making this an "acceptable year of the Lord!"

Happy New Year!

SOURCE: antiochian.org

The Ladies Society

"Basket of Love"



3rd Quarter Recipient is:

COMPASS

Assisting children and families...

navigate life

Accepting your donations,
now through Sept. 30th

(continued from page 2)

her with a letter to Saint Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life.

Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name

Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death. Saint Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious

Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by

which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to

walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".



church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established. Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor



SOURCE: antiochian.org

WE
GET
LETTERS . . .

AND
Sometimes . . .



we don't

"Do not fight to expel darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear."
— St. Porphyrios



On August 23, 2019, volunteers set up a booth for UNK's Blue and Gold fair. This is a great opportunity to reach out to incoming freshman for the new year. They had fun sharing about our faith and our church!

Thank you to our committed volunteers.

UNK

Back to School

BIRTHDAYS

September 4

Amy Hadley

September 10

Alexis Hadley

September 17

Kollins Maloley

September 23

Darren Theesen

September 24

Mary Maloley

September 27

Amanda Denny
Mark Buchman

**GOD GRANT YOU
MANY YEARS**



September 1
Steve & Danielle Wolf

September 24
Torri & Jared McCracken

**Donations
Gratefully Received**

Donation to the **Chronicle**
newsletter from anonymous

In Memory of

Donation to **St. George Church**, in
memory of *Betty Patsios*, from
Mark and Joanie Klein

May God bless you all for your generosity!

Our Baby **Congratulations**

To proud parents **Micah and Christine Kremer** and siblings Ezri, Cedar, Henri, Solace and Everest, on the birth of **Phoebe Gene** on August 20, 2019.



**Phoebe
Gene
Kremer**

**MANY
YEARS!**

Let us hear from you. We welcome your comments, ideas, photos and any info you would like to share with your St. George family. Send additions or corrections to: stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com



MINISTRY UPDATES

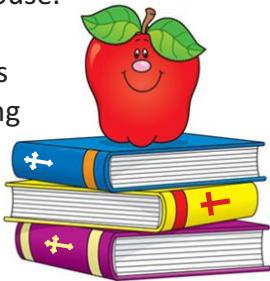
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins
September 8th!

All kids ages three through 18 are welcome to join us.

Gather in the Parish Hall basement during coffee hour. Teachers will ring bell when it's time to line up and we will make our procession to the St. Raphael House.

Enjoy crafts and learning about our Orthodox faith.



Volunteer

Helpers are always appreciated so please give when you can. Thank you.



Next Meeting
SEPT 1

Thank you ladies for your attendance at our August meeting. Our annual **Fall Church Breakfast** will be held October 12th, tickets will be \$5.00 and available soon. The Ladies will also offer ethnic foods for sale (the same items as last sale.) Please save the date and plan now to volunteer. So many ways you can help - kids too! Stay tuned with more information coming soon.

With the arrival of fall and hopefully more predictable schedules, all of the ladies are invited and encouraged to join us for our monthly meetings as we discuss opportunities for sisterhood and service in our parish and our community.

Thank You!

Junior Youth Group at St. George



On August 3rd, the Youth Group prepared and served a meal for the Kearney Habitat for Humanity volunteers. The Ladies Society and Youth Group teamed up to make tacos. After transporting the meal to the work site, over 30 grateful volunteers received a tasty lunch. Thank you to the Ladies for providing the financial aid to complete this service project, and thank you to the youth for volunteering their time and talents to serve. We look forward to helping again next year!



Volunteers needed

HELP WANTED

for Sunday School
at St. George

Skills Required:

A sense of humor
A caring spirit

Top 6 Reasons Why you should help with Sunday School...

6. It will inspire you to open your Bible.
5. Kids will start waving at you in church.
4. You'll learn how to share your faith.
3. You will become part of a team of new friends.
2. Because we all really do have time for what's important.
1. There is no higher calling than helping raise up a new generation of disciples.



BONUS!

Along the way, you'll grow in patience, humility, and selflessness.

ST. GEORGE Chronicle

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St. George Orthodox Church
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Kearney, Nebraska 68847

A parish of the Antiochian
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
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Wichita and Mid-America
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The Very Rev. Christopher
Morris, pastor
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stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com

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Church website:
www.saintgeorgekearney.com



ST. GEORGE

Year-to-date for 2019

\$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of AUG 31 ... We have received \$54,312 of the \$98,340 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of AUG 31 ... We have received \$15,594 of the \$21,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

*Thank you for your
faithful stewardship!*

OUR SEPTEMBER FASTING



The traditional fasting from meats, poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy products is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays.
September 14th, is **The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross**.
This day is a strict fast day.

SAVE THE DATE

Close to Home!

June 10th-13th, 2020
68th Annual DOWAMA Parish Life Conference
Hosted by: St. James/Fort Collins, CO



You are Invited to Attend our Joint Celebration for
the Patronal Feast of
HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
★ and All Angels Skete ★

Saint Xenia
SISTERHOOD

and the Annual Founders Day of
Protection of the Virgin Mary
ORTHODOX MONASTERY

Location & Directions

HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL SKETE
28650 105TH STREET
WEATHERBY, MO 64497

Directions available online:
<http://goo.gl/maps/FOFNz>

2019 Pilgrimage Schedule

Friday, September 13
5:30 pm – Vespers

Saturday, September 14
8:00 am – Matins & Divine Liturgy
Procession to Trapeza for Lunch
Tour of the Monastery

Please RSVP by calling (660) 749-5325 to help us plan accordingly!



"The Lord wants first
that you be filled with
the blessing of peace,
and then communicate
it to those who have
need of it."

~ St. Gregory of Nyssa

SATURDAY SUPPER AFTER VESPERS

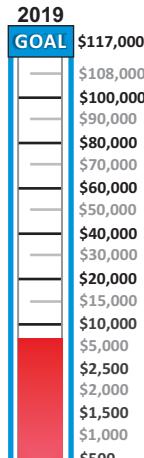
Join us for supper after Great Vespers on Saturday evenings. This has been a fun way to get to know each other, and get to know the guests who attend Vespers and accept the invitation to supper. **We rotate hosting and it's potluck style.**

We'd love to have you join us when it works in your schedule.

If you would like to host, please talk to Sarah or Levi. We will announce locations by e-mail and Facebook.



BURN THE MORTGAGE



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
CONTINUED
SUPPORT

\$117,000
Our Goal

\$ 7,386
Donations in 2019

\$109,614
Funds needed to
burn the mortgage

\$35,000 donated in 2018
Thank You
The Fundraising Committee

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