



# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

WINTER EDITION 2020



The Very Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## SAVE THE DATE

**NATIVITY FAST**  
November 15 - December 24

**PRESENTATION OF  
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November 21

**FEAST DAY OF ST. PORPHYRIOS**  
December 2

**NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
December 25

**THEOPHANY**  
January 6, 2021



### The Unshaken Realm

*by Hieromonk Alexii Altschul*

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.' This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude.

Heb. 12:26-28 (NASB)

Everything that can be shaken, will be shaken, so that the things that cannot be shaken will remain.

When earthquakes happen, and the ground shifts underneath us, the pressure or stress follows the cracks, or places where the earth is divided, deep below, called "fault lines". These existing divisions and weak spots in the earth are the most vulnerable places.

Those that have worked with trauma survivors or done inner work, find that when anxiety provoking events occur or intense stress is experienced, we are tempted to return to our previous "fault lines," our automatic inclinations, places that have brought calm, ease, or

distraction in the past. These are a form of protection or defense that we have known previously.

For some it is overeating; for others, substances like drugs or alcohol; for others it is pornography or acting out sexually; for others overworking; for others it is subconsciously producing a similar kind of encounter (a re-enactment) of the traumatic event. For practicing believers, we are learning a different way.

When a nation or culture or family, experiences a shaking, similar scenarios occur. The addictive responses listed above are common. Domestic violence (often reenactment) increases. And, as a culture we tend to return to our former

fault lines. Consider the amount of fear of the other that is being expressed in these days. It hearkens back to the fear of immigrants at the turn of the 20th century. It hearkens back even to pre-civil war fault lines. Old scapegoats re-appear. The feeling of a siege mentality. Yet we hear the timely words of Psalm 145:2, chanted during the Divine Liturgy, "Put not your trust in princes, or in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation" (LXX).

*(continued on page 2)*



**Everything that can be shaken will be shaken.**

Yet, upon deeper reflection, there is a Divine opportunity in the present. An opportunity to discover those things that cannot be shaken. Many years ago, the Psalmist declared:

*God is our refuge and strength, a Helper in afflictions which mightily befall us. Therefore, shall we not fear when the earth be shaken, nor when the mountains be removed into the heart of the seas... Be still and know, that I am God. I will be exalted in the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.* (Psalm 45(46):1-2, 11 (Psalter According to the Seventy, HTM, Boston, 2007)

At our monastery these days, we consistently offer a prayer service, called a molieben, for overcoming civil discord. The Psalm that is read contains the verses above. When we think about the shaking of the nations, the alternative is the Stillness in the Presence of the One Who is always secure. Jeremiah the prophet uses the simile of a broken cistern, a leaking well, for our attempts to find solutions without the Lord. He says,

For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water (Jer. 2:13, NKJV).

The images of stillness and a fountain of living waters speak to a deeper source of security than those we find in the mirages that promise satisfaction, but so quickly dissolve before us.

St. Paul, in his first letter to the Christians at Corinth, presents a process of testing the strength of what we are building in our lives. He, as an apostle, provided the foundation (Christ Jesus), and each of us, he says, will build upon it. Fiery trials reveal whether the work will stand. The fire can show us what will endure, and what is leading us in the wrong direction (1 Cor. 3:11-15). This fire is not only at the end of the ages. Mercifully, the fire of trials can help us grow and learn now (1 Pet. 1:7; James 1:3-4). It shows us what endures and what simply fades away. They

are powerful ‘stress tests’ for us as individuals, families, and nations.

After learning so many things do not endure, aren’t secure and can so easily change, what then can’t be shaken?

**1. The Foundation: Jesus Christ, is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.** (Hebrews 13:6)



On Saturday evenings, we prepare for the next day’s Liturgy with a prayer service called Vespers. During Vespers we chant from Psalm 95(96):10: “The Lord is King, for He established the world which shall not be shaken.” The Prophet Malachi declares: “I am the Lord, I change not!” (Mal. 3:6) While on earth, Jesus Himself said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the Foundation, the center of all grounding, the source of true security. St. Paul said of Him, “In Him all things hold together” (Col. 1:17, NASB).

**2. The Words of Jesus.**

When giving His instructions to His disciples regarding the final times. He



said, “Heaven and earth will pass away but My Words will never pass away” (Matt. 24:35). In His most famous teaching, known as the Sermon on the Mount, He revealed the one sure way to a secure life: building our lives, our “houses”, upon the unshakeable rock: hearing and doing His words (Matt. 7:24-25). Daily meditation and study of His words and teachings, revealed in the Scriptures, and confirmed by the ancient Church (alive to this day), provides strength, guidance, comfort, and transformation (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**3. The Name of Jesus.**

*The Name of the Lord is a Strong Tower. The righteous runs into it and is safe* (Prov. 18:10, cf. Phil. 2:9-11; Rom 10:13).



A very simple prayer that we regularly pray is called the ‘Jesus Prayer’: “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me” or “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Indeed, the regular repetition of calling on His Name is not a vain repetition. It is like breathing. Breathing in His name, breathing out a cry of mercy for ourselves, and for the whole world. It can lead to ceaseless prayer. When St. Paul wrote to the Romans regarding this, he said, “whoever calls on the Name of the Lord, will be saved (Rom. 10:13). The word “calls’ literally means ‘calls and keeps calling!”

**4. The Body of Jesus, the Church.**



With Christ as the Foundation, the direct followers of Jesus, His Holy Apostles, revealed this unshakeable realm. Jesus called it, His “Church:”

*I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Mt. 16:18).

(continued on page 3)

This Church is unshakeable in that Christ and those with Him now in the Heavens are beyond the shifting sands of this age. Their teachings, examples and living traditions are like beacons for us on earth. As we attune ourselves to Christ and this unshakeable realm, we become more and more like them (1 John 3:1-3). I know I still have a long journey to such stability, but I know that He is the Way (John 14:6). I also know that when I fall if I get up, He will not cast me away. For He Himself said, "All that come to Me, I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

When St. Paul wrote to the Hebrews, he described the most beautiful community between heaven and earth. And he shows that this life is what we're invited to share in:

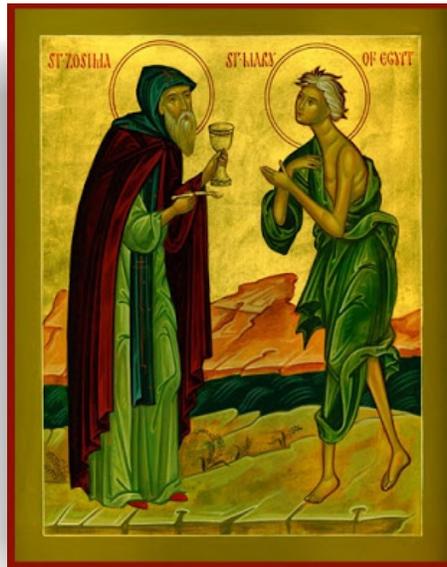
*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel (Hebrews 12:22-24).*

This is the unshakeable realm. This is the "world that shall not be shaken." This is the realm where the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, dwells. This is the place where all of the Holy apostles and prophets live, where the martyrs and mothers and fathers in the Faith, those that kept their faith, experience life everlasting. While we, in the Church on earth, continue our pilgrimage, they have reached the unshaken realm, and console and strengthen us through their prayers and love (cf. p. 237, Fr. Michael Pomazansky, 2015, St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, CA). The closeness of this realm and the nearness of the holy ones there, is further illuminated by the experience of the twentieth century Russian light, St. John of Kronstadt:

*The Mother of God, all the holy angels and all the saints are also in God. What is, therefore, nearer, who can, therefore, be*

*more closely associated with believing Christians than the angels and saints? Therefore, call upon God Himself, the Lord of everything, as well as upon His saints, with faith, hope and love, asking them to intercede before God for you; ask the angels and saints to pray to God for you as you would ask living persons anything for yourself—standing face to face with them, firmly believing that they too stand face to face with your heart (My Life in Christ, St. John of Kronstadt).*

### **5. The Body and Blood of Jesus: Where we all come together.**



*The Lord longs to be gracious to you, He waits on high to have compassion on you... how blessed are all those who long for Him (Isaiah 30:18 NASB).*

Isaiah the prophet reveals two "longers" – the Longer from Heaven, and the blessing of those who long for Him on earth. The Lord longs for us. We are blessed when we long for Him. This is experienced in prayer. It is especially experienced in the Divine Liturgy, where we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. There the angels and saints gather with us in a special way, worshipping and calling together upon the Undivided Three in One, the God Who longs for us.

This realm opens up to us after turning away from distancing ourselves from God and believing in Jesus Christ; after being washed by Baptism and being sealed with

the Holy Spirit through Holy Chrism (the anointing of the Holy Oil); after being renewed and forgiven when we've confessed our falls and failings. (For the way up, is the way down, through humility.)

We experience this realm in every Divine Liturgy. "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." It is not yet in its fullness in our experience, but we taste "the coming age." We receive the deposit of the Holy Spirit. The grace we receive enables us to go out into the world, as members of the Body of Christ, as His pilgrim Church on the earth.

The Apostle John reveals one overarching aspect of this realm. He declares, "God is love" (1 John 4:7). In this realm of love something happens. "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). Instead of seeing people different from us as the "other" to be feared and avoided, we are moved by this love to embrace, co-suffer, heal and walk together. Our old fault lines of fear are being replaced by an eternal, unseen reality of Love.



We are called to be signposts, pointing to the Unshaken Realm. We seek to say to the world, "Join me on this journey. We carry a light within. We carry an unquenchable flame that lights our way." That flame is Jesus Christ, the light of this world. His Words. His Name. His Church. His Body. His Blood. These are the things that can't be shaken.

[SOURCE:TheUnshakenRealm](http://TheUnshakenRealm.com)

# WE GET LETTERS . . .



Dear Joanie and Prayer Ministry,

I wanted to thank you and other members of the **prayer ministry** for the wonderful service you provided for my dad and for all who have departed family members. You provide a much needed service and I cannot tell you how much it meant to me and to my family to know that people were praying for my dad.

My dad was Roman Catholic. They allow for cremation. The mortuary held my dad's body for five days so that my sisters and I could visit before the cremation. Only immediate family members were allowed to see him. So Sh. Marina(Sandee) and my brother in law were not allowed to attend. We were not allowed to have a priest come and pray for him at the funeral home. We

had to wait until Sept 14th for the funeral due to covid and the schedule of the parish where my dad was registered. Andrew, my son, and I, were able to say the Akathist for the departed and give a farewell kiss.

Your prayers have been greatly appreciated. I shared the ministry card you sent that Julie Jones requested (thank you, Julie) with my family. My Aunt Marie, my dad's sister and another Roman Catholic, was so impressed that she wants to share this with her parish with the thought of starting the same type of ministry.

Thank you and may God save you for all your work.

In Christ,  
Deacon Mark



To the Saint George congregation,

The **East Lawn Missions Committee** gratefully acknowledges your donation of paper supplies to be distributed to those in need at East Lawn. We are so grateful that the community at large has generously donated all kinds of food and household products to this mission. So thank you for stepping up and assisting.

It is by working together in Christian love and service that we are able to help those less fortunate.



Bless you all!  
East Lawn Missions Committee

To Father Christopher and our Saint George church family,

**Thanks be to God** for your many prayers this past year for our dear friends Dave, and his wife Kris. Dave's diagnosis of liver cancer was not very encouraging and not even sure if treatment would benefit him. By your prayers he received the best news - no evidence of cancer anywhere! Glory to God!

With heartfelt appreciation, Mark & Joanie Klein



## Donations Gratefully Received

Donation to **St. George Church** from Michael Yanney

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** in honor of *Marina Hartley* baptism, from Josh & Amber

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** from Jim & Kelly Shada

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** from Mike & Darlene LiaKos

## In Memory of

Donations to **St. George Church** in memory of *Soreya Suleiman* from: David Schanbacher, Jenna Derr, Virginia Suleiman, Mennen and Karen Suleiman, Sidonya Fulton, Karen Prosocki, Margo Maloley, Lori Driml, Katie Ramsey, John and Theo Wolf, Georgia Bakas, Robert Barlow, and Linda Maloley

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** in memory of *June Margaret Koeppe*, from anonymous donor

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** in memory of *Milly (Yanney) Shada*, from anonymous donor

Donation to **St. George Church Building Fund** in memory of *Carol Yencer*, from Tim & Tracey Shada

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*



## Birthdays

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>November 5</b><br>Paxton McCracken  | <b>November 24</b><br>Thatcher Guikema |
| <b>November 8</b><br>Don Schmoll       | Kristy Korensky                        |
| <b>November 11</b><br>Connie Schmoll   | Zane Williamson                        |
| <b>November 12</b><br>Katrina Browne   | <b>November 28</b><br>Wanda Maloley    |
| <b>November 13</b><br>Mike Maloley     | <b>December 3</b><br>Jared McCracken   |
| <b>November 14</b><br>Radu Neamu       | <b>December 14</b><br>Chris Browne     |
| <b>November 14</b><br>Alexandra Wolf   | <b>December 20</b><br>Matthew Brailita |
| <b>November 17</b><br>Sarah Fothergill | <b>December 22</b><br>Fr. Phillip      |
| <b>November 17</b><br>Olivia Denny     | <b>December 23</b><br>Gerald Rehtus    |
| <b>November 23</b><br>Torri McCracken  | <b>December 26</b><br>Rissa Guikema    |
| <b>November 23</b><br>Daniel Brailita  |  |



**December 17**

Tim & Tracey Shada

## Our Baptism Congratulations

To **MARINA HARTLEY** on Saturday, October 17, 2020. Proud parents are Josh and Amber Hartley. God parents are Gerald and Kim Rehtus.

**GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS**

*Babies touch the world with Love!*

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS



Our parish donated the profits from our Spring 2020 Breakfast to the **Orthodox Girls School in Kenya** to help pay tuition, room and board, and teacher salaries. Mother Johanna has graciously provided us with an update on the school.

– The girls were in school for a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit Kenya, and the government closed all of the public and private schools. His Grace Bishop Neofitis continued to pay his teachers so that they would not lose income and be able to continue feeding their families. Each week of the shutdown, the high school girls were called by the principal and a teacher, by phone, and given assignments to complete. The students eagerly completed these assignments!

– His Grace said that the number of teenage pregnancies in Kenya has skyrocketed during the pandemic, but the girls of the **St. Anthony's Orthodox High School have remained outside of that statistic. Thank God!** This is attributed to the contact with the teachers and the assignments.

– None of the work from this past school year will count to a completion of a year as the department of education decided to call this past year a wash and bring everyone back safe and healthy in January 2021.

– **All 32 students are planning on returning.** Around 80% of the privately-owned schools have now permanently closed because of the COVID pandemic. **The bishop's school, small and totally sponsored by donations is one of the lucky ones planning to remain open.**

Building a dormitory and providing sponsorships for the girls' tuition are the current fundraising projects for the school. If you are interested in learning more about the **Orthodox Diocese in Kenya** that sponsors the girls school, check out their website at <https://orthodoxnyerimtkenya.com/about-us>.

Watch the bulletin and **St. George Facebook page** for more information in December about an opportunity to partner with the Ladies Society to help support this important work of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kenya!

The Ladies Society November **Basket of Love** for this last quarter will be **Kearney Head Start** with our annual "Mitten Tree". We welcome your donations as we collect items during November.

## Women's BIBLE STUDY

The St. George Ladies Book Study meets on Zoom every other Monday from 4:15 to 5:15 pm.

On Nov. 16th, we are starting a new book and would love to have you join us! The book is *Elder Porphyrios: Testimonies and Experiences*. Please contact Kh. Anastasia or Sarah if you would like more information.

<https://www.amazon.com/Porphyrios-Testimonies-Experiences-Klitos-Joannidis/dp/9606890236>

We hope to see your faces and smiles!



The Kearney Head Start program appreciates our annual "Mitten Tree" collection of *mittens, gloves, scarves, and clothing*. Head Start provides basic essentials for **families in need**.

### ★ MITTEN TREE ★

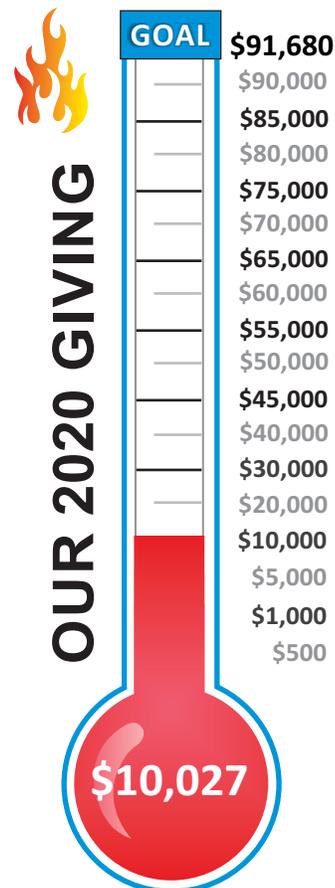
Our goal this year is to provide winter clothing **before the children leave for winter break in December**. We will be collecting items in the *Basket of Love during November*. **Items most requested are underwear (brief cut only please) and sweatpants in sizes 4T through 6T, gloves, and scarves.**

**They do not need hats** due to a donation from another organization. We will collect items through the end of November.

May the Lord bless you for your generosity! ❧ ❧ ❧



## BURN THE MORTGAGE FUNDRAISER



### YES, WE'RE STILL HERE

2020 - what a year! Many thanks to those of you who still donated to the **BURN THE MORTGAGE Fundraiser**, despite the difficult times during the year. We kicked off our campaign in July of 2018, and successfully raised \$35,000. With **\$117,000** remaining, this became our new goal for 2019. We were able to raise \$25,320 in 2019, leaving our goal for 2020 at **\$91,680**.

So far, we have received \$10,027 and that's even with COVID! With about six weeks left to go, we're hopeful that our amount will continue to grow. Please pray and ask the Lord for ways you and your family can give. Your continued support is very appreciated.

– The Fundraising Ministry

## Is There Room In Your Inn?

by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis

*And she gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because **there was no place for them in the inn.** – Luke 2:7*

In the Mexican culture there is a Christmas-time tradition called Las Posadas. In this tradition, a couple dressed up as Mary and Joseph go from home to home, asking if there is any room at "the inn." Each home takes on the role of an inn in Bethlehem. They are rebuffed each time until they reach the home that has been designated as "the inn;" at which point they are allowed in and a celebration ensues.

Imagine your heart as an inn—there are lots of rooms in it as there would be at an inn. At many inns, there are economy rooms, rooms with a view, rooms with a balcony, perhaps even a penthouse, or top floor room. Some rooms are more expensive and more lavish, others simpler.

The inn of your heart is similar. There are things in life, like relationships or family, that tug at our heart strings, and they often get the biggest rooms at the inn of our hearts. Careers get large rooms as well. Material possessions occupy space and so do our friends. Hobbies and things that bring us joy have a place, perhaps a smaller room, but there is still a place for them. Friday nights out with friends, Saturdays in front of the TV watching sports, the Sunday afternoon barbecue, they all find accommodations. Hopefully one's heart is big enough that there is room for charity.

The question for today is which room does the Lord get in your heart? Is it the biggest one? Or the economy room? Is there a room for prayer? Worship? Charity? Are these rooms well-kept or in need of a remodel?

In the Nativity story, a woman who was about to deliver a child, and her betrothed, went from inn to inn, asking for lodging and help. There was no room in any inn. But even

more poignant, there was no room in anyone's heart to extend charity and help to a woman at her moment of delivery. How could a city so filled with people not have had even one room, even one bit of charity for someone in need? Never mind that this woman was not just anyone, but God's chosen vessel for our salvation.

If your heart or your life is like an inn in Bethlehem, is there room in your inn for the Lord, or have all the spaces been filled with other things? In order to have Christ in your life, there needs to be not only room in "your inn," but the committed Christian offers Christ the best room, the first portion, of your life. The committed Christian has a room for charity, for prayer, for scripture reading, for obedience to the commandments. As we journey

through Advent and prepare to celebrate the Nativity, it is a good time to clean the rooms of your heart and of your life, to make sure there is room for Christ in them.

Because just as they do at Las Posadas in Mexico, Christ comes to knock on the door of your heart every day. Do we turn Him away, saying there is no room at the inn,

that all the rooms have been filled with other "things?" Or do we welcome Him with joy? Do we give Him the economy room? Or do we give Him the biggest and the best? Spend some time today evaluating how you spend your time. And reflect seriously on which rooms Christ occupies in the inn of your heart. Just like they upgrade rooms at hotels for special guests, consider giving an upgrade in your heart to Christ, the most special guest of all.

Gladsome light of the holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; and therefore the world glorifies You. (Vespers Hymn)

Open the door to your inn for Christ today!

**SOURCE: goarch.org**



If one studies a great deal in order to acquire knowledge and to teach others, without living the things he teaches, he does no more than fill his head with hot air. At most, he will manage to ascend to the moon using machines. The goal of the Christian is to rise to God without machines.

– St. Paisios

## The Churching of Rexten "Victor" Williams



"On the fortieth day the child is brought to the Temple to be churched, that is, to begin attending church."

June 14, 2020



"The servant of God Victor is churched, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

## Our Baby Congratulations



To proud parents **Terah and Connor Williams**, and to proud grandparents **Mike and Ronda Maloley**, on the birth of *Grayden Edward Williams* on November 2, 2020. He was 4 lbs. 12 oz.



*Grayden Edward Williams*  
**MANY YEARS**

The heights of humility are great, and so are the depths of boasting; I advise you to attend to the first and not to fall into the second.

– St. Isidore of Pelusium

## Our Sincere Sympathy TO THE FAMILY OF:

William and Kathy Suleiman, on the loss of his sister, Suri Suleiman, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 25, 2020.



MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL

Examine your self and strive to adorn it with love, humility, compassion and hope. Seek the regeneration of your soul, enlightened by the voice of the Gospel and helped by God. With fear and love for the Heavenly Father, proceed to sow the seeds of God's word on good soil. Cultivate the talent given by Christ for the salvation of your soul.

– St. Raphael of Lesvos

Mothers, teach your young children to cross themselves. If they cannot make the Sign of the Cross by themselves, sign them yourselves with your own hands.

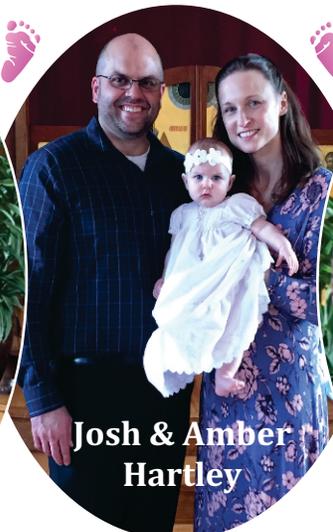
– St. John Chrysostom



## Our church family just grew by two feet!



Our Priest



Josh & Amber Hartley

with Marina Rose



Happy Godparents

**HOLY BAPTISM - Oct. 17, 2020**

St. George Orthodox Church • Kearney, Nebraska - October 17, 2020

Thanks to generous donations and memorials, we have three lovely additions beautifying our church grounds. After years of searching, we found a company that is able to make icons specifically to go outdoors. Normal icons printed on paper or painted on wood quickly fade and degrade when exposed to sunlight and weather. Our new outdoor icons, however, are made of ceramic material (think of the glaze on your coffee mug) placed on sheets of metal. They will not fade or degrade even after many years of rain,



In Memory of **Nick Abood** from the Nick Abood estate



In honor of **John and Margaret Morris**, from Ment and Angie Morris

snow, or shine! The icon of the Crucifixion was sponsored by Ment and Angie Morris in honor of John and Margaret Morris. The icon of the Theotokos is offered in memory of Soreya Suleiman by William and Kathy Suleiman and memorial donations. The icon of Christ is offered in memory of Nick Abood by the Nick Abood estate. Thank you for these beautiful icons!



In Memory of **Soreya Suleiman** from William and Kathy Suleiman and memorial donations

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW ICONS?**

## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS ~ ~ ~

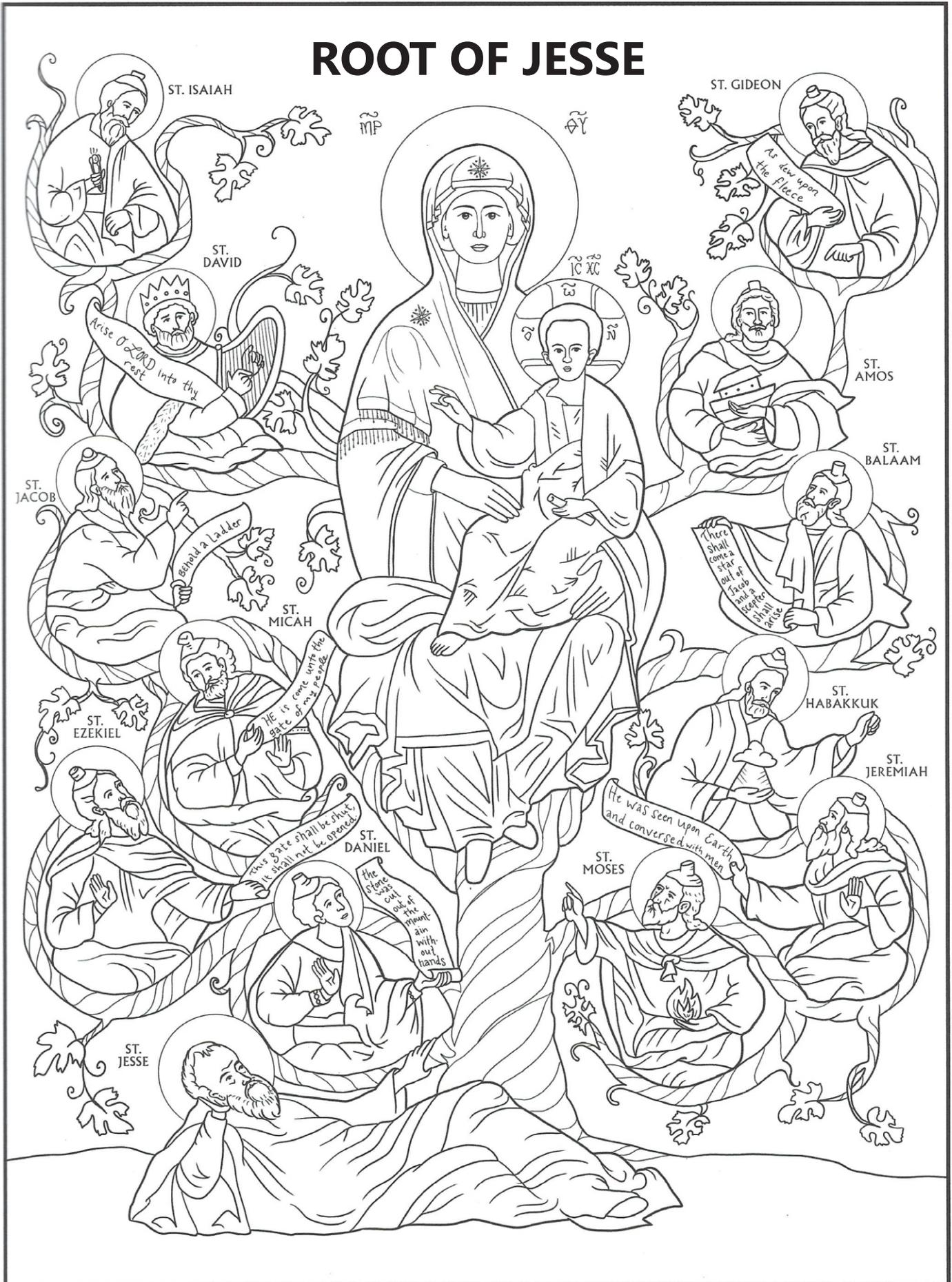
Making a start of a prayer rule is a rather painful process. One needs to break out of this endless circle, as if he was pulling a leg out of a swamp. More precisely, it is not a single leg, but the whole body. God knows how painful and hard it is! It's like some kind of a surgical operation amputating you from the world. Your body parts creak and groan like tackle on an old wooden sailboat. Many parts of you resist prayer. And you're so tired... Ever so tired! **But if you do not give up and continue with the prayer rule, then a miracle happens.** It often happens quite unexpectedly and may be a total surprise for you. Suddenly you feel as if the sun peeked out through impenetrable leaden clouds. You feel a whole different world. It may seem to you that you have been saying the prayer absentmindedly, without due attention, but suddenly one single word opens the door to God for you. Letting you approach Him, He Himself enters your dwelling. Everything in you suddenly becomes cleansed, even and "unravelling". And then the light comes making it feel as if one person stood up for prayer, and a completely different person finished it.

**That is the healing and purifying spiritual effect of the prayer rule!** After all, our main task on this earth is to learn to talk with the living God. Everything else is just water running away through a leaky sieve, or sand flowing through our fingers.



SOURCE: [pravmir.prayers](http://pravmir.prayers)

# ROOT OF JESSE



ST. GEORGE  
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of North America, Diocese of  
Wichita and Mid-America  
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The Very Rev. Christopher  
Morris, pastor  
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Church website:  
[www.saintgeorgekearney.com](http://www.saintgeorgekearney.com)

### OUR WINTER FASTING

First Day of the Nativity Fast is November 15th. This Fast is divided into two periods: (1) Nov. 15 - Dec. 19 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed on Mon. Wed. and Fridays, with katalysis for wine, olive oil and fish on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays, and (2) the period of the Forefeast, Dec. 20 - 24, when the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Sat and Sun.

Let us humble ourselves, and the Lord will grant us to know the power of the Jesus Prayer. . . Learn how to have Christ-like humility, and the Lord will grant you to taste the sweetness of prayer. And if you want to achieve pure prayer, become humble, exercise temperance, confess sincerely, and the prayer will love to swell in you. Become obedient, submit yourself with a sincere conscience to all authorities, and be content with all things; then your mind will be cleansed from vain thoughts. Remember that the Lord sees you, and be careful lest you sadden your brother with something— do not condemn him, and do not sadden him even with a single glance. Then, the Holy Spirit will love you, and He will help you in all things.



— St. Silouan the Athonite

**A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.**

— St. John Chrysostom

We need to live the mysteries, especially the mystery of Holy Communion. It's in these that Orthodoxy is found. Christ is offered to the Church through the mysteries and primarily through Holy Communion.

— St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalyvite

## ST. GEORGE

Year-to-date for 2020

# \$ FINANCIAL REPORT

As of **OCT 31** ... We have received \$64,270 of the \$97,085 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of **OCT 31** ... We have received \$14,042 of the \$22,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.



### FROM THE CHRONICLE

This comes with such a heavy heart but after 6 years, it's time for me step down from the Chronicle. Thank you for allowing me to serve you by using my God-given talents to produce an enjoyable newsletter. It has been such a joy and blessing to help keep you informed, encouraged, and hopefully inspired to grow in your faith.

Many of you shared with me how much you appreciated the wisdom from our holy fathers and the multitude of quotes from our saints. I thank you for your notes of encouragement and the donations to help us publish the Chronicle. Our extended family outside of Kearney and Nebraska have been kind to let me know how much they enjoy receiving the newsletter as well.

In Christ,  
Joanie Klein

*Blessed Nativity  
to you all!*



We don't have to fight with people but with rulers and powers, in effect the evil one. But do not be afraid, take power from the name of Jesus.

— St. Luke of Simferopol

### *Always give thanks*

Live in constant glorification of and thanksgiving towards God, for the greatest sin is ingratitude and the worst sinner is the ungrateful person.

— St. Paisios the Athonite