

The Scroll

Sunday Services

Matins.....9:00 a.m.
Church School11:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy10:00 a.m.

Saturday Services

Confession.....4:30 p.m.
Great Vespers.....5:00 p.m.

Church Contacts

Fr. Aaron Warwick, Pastor
fraaron@stmarywichita.org

Fr. John Baize, Attached
jbaize3@yahoo.com

Frankie Jones Admin. Asst
office@stmarywichita.org

Curt Ratliff, Maintenance
janitor@stmarywichita.org

Phone (316) 264-1576

Facebook
www.facebook.com/stmarywichita

The Scroll
Brett Parrott
parrobre7014@yahoo.com

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From Father Aaron

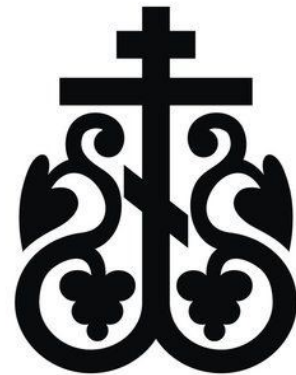
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and Pieces



St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church
344 S. Martinson, Wichita, KS 67213
Very Rev. Fr. Aaron Warwick
Website: www.stmarywichita.org

-From Metropolitan Saba-

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 523/2024

October 9, 2024

Dear Reverend Clergy and Esteemed Members of our Parish Councils,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Everyone across our nation has witnessed with sadness as Hurricane "Helene" cut a path of destruction across many states in our land from Florida to Tennessee and the Carolinas. Winds, rain, and flooding in many areas led to collapse of roads, destruction of properties, loss of businesses and livelihood, much suffering and loss of human lives.

As words have been received regarding the parishes that suffered damages asking for help through our hurricane funds, we continue to monitor until after the passing of the second Hurricane "Milton" to know the full damage that our parishes have sustained, their parishioners, and their surroundings.

In response to appeals from several of our clergy and their parishes that requested a directive from the Archdiocese as to where they may direct their help, I call upon all our parishes to take a special collection for those who have suffered losses from these two unprecedented storms.

Once you have had a chance to collect all donations, please forward one check from your parish to the Archdiocese (memo: "Hurricane Relief")— no later than the end of this month. All donations will go directly to those in need.

Please demonstrate your love in a practical way by lifting prayers and supplications to our good and saving God on behalf of all that suffered distresses, pains, and losses because of the hurricanes, that they might "find hope under His wings" (Ps. 90:4).

Give any amount of love offering in the name of Jesus Christ for the sake of the victims of these two hurricanes. Offer whatever you are able. No amount is too small. May God's blessings come upon you and reward your generosity preserving you and your families from all harms.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saba".

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

-From Metropolitan Saba-

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 527/2024

October 15, 2024

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Dear Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of our Parish Councils, and all the faithful parishioners of our God-protected Antiochian Archdiocese,

May the divine grace and peace of Christ Jesus our Lord come upon you and our entire world!

Our main office at the archdiocese has been receiving a considerable number of inquiries from clergy, parish council members, as well as other various organizations who have the desire to help the Antiochian Archdioceses in Lebanon.

The inquiries are related to the news and Social Media posts about events taking place in several archdioceses in the Antiochian Motherland.

In response to the aforementioned inquiry, all interested donors that want to help this humanitarian need may mail their donations to the Archdiocese noting on the memo section of their checks “Relief Fund - LB”. All donations will go directly to those in need.

During these challenging times as well as all times, love is practiced and demonstrated by prayers and supplications on behalf of all that are in pain, distress and loss of comfort.

Please pray for peace in the entire world and upon all of God’s creation so that the Lord Jesus Christ may wipe every tear of all the afflicted.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Saba' with a stylized flourish above the letter 'S'.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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-From Father Aaron-

On The Advent Fast

Beloved in Christ,

On numerous occasions I have been asked the question: “Why do we fast before Christmas?” This question is usually followed by a statement: “I understand why we fast for Lent, but I cannot understand why we fast before Christmas.” The answer to this question helps us understand the essence of fasting.

Many of us have come to view fasting as a form of punishment. Others see fasting as a sorrowful act. If either of these mindsets dominates a person’s understanding of fasting, then I can understand why fasting during the penitential season of Great Lent makes sense to them and the fasting before Christmas is confusing.

However, from the Church’s perspective, fasting is neither punitive nor a sorrowful experience. In fact, only one who overemphasizes the importance of tasty foods (most of us in America!) would view our fasting discipline as punitive or sorrowful. But simply stating that fasting is neither punitive nor sorrowful fully answers the original question, “Why do we fast before Christmas?”

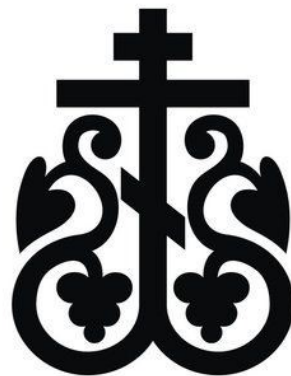
The reason we fast as Orthodox Christians is for spiritual training and preparation. These two aspects of fasting go hand-in-hand. Think about any professional athlete. Athletes prepare themselves for a big event by essentially tearing themselves down. When an athlete lifts weights he tears down his muscle fiber. The athlete does not tear down the muscle fiber to hurt himself, however; he tears it down so when the muscle heals it will be stronger and larger than it was before. When this cycle of tearing down and recovery happens many times, the athlete is able to compete at a higher level. Lifting weights, though it is difficult on the body, ultimately makes the body stronger and prepares an athlete for competition.

This analogy fits well with Orthodox Christian fasting. Just as an athlete trains for a big event by lifting weights, we train for big feasts like Christmas by fasting. Since we are inclined to eat more than our fill, we begin preparing ourselves for Christmas by eating fewer foods and less often. If we follow the fast strictly, it will surely begin to wear down our body. Like the athlete, however, we do not wear down our body to punish it, but to bring it into a proper position in our lives. As Christians, we train our body to eat only out of necessity, and not as a luxury—otherwise we make an idol of food.

I encourage each and every one of you during this upcoming Advent season (November 15 – December 25), and during other fasting periods, to train your body through fasting according to the tradition of the Orthodox Church. I am more than happy to explain to you in further detail how you might implement these guidelines into your own life. When you view fasting as training and preparation, you will find it to be neither punitive nor sorrowful, but a joyful experience preparing you to receive into your heart the King who was born in Bethlehem for our salvation.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Aaron



-Orthodox News-

A SPIRITUAL HUB AMIDST DISASTER

Hurricane Helene and the Orthodox St. Nicholas parish in North Carolina



Aftermath from Hurricane Helene flooding in Asheville, North Carolina. Photo: foxweather.com

As a tropical cyclone traversed the Gulf of Mexico, reaching Category 4 intensity, a few parishioners braved the storm to attend Vigil, praying with a greater sense of urgency as the storm was raging outside the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (ROCOR) in Asheville-Fletcher, North Carolina. With the loss of power and internet that evening, those in attendance appreciated even more the solemnity of the service, the Nave being illuminated only by candles and lampadas. The next day the city of Asheville, sitting at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, would be turned into a “catch basin” for rain gushing down 4,000 feet of elevation.

While the Orthodox Church commemorated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Friday, September 27/14, Hurricane Helene devastated the region of western North Carolina surrounding St. Nicholas and left many communities in ruins from catastrophic flooding, damaging winds, washed out roads, decimated bridges, downed trees, and the loss of power, water, and communications signal. Over 200 deaths across six states have been attributed to the storm. As of October 10, there were 91 verified storm-related fatalities in North Carolina from Helene, according to NCDHHS. The hurricane’s destruction forced the cancellation of the Liturgy for the Great Feast on Friday.

Fr. Steven Webb, who has been serving as our parish rector since 2013, commented, “Hurricane Helene has left widespread devastation in our Western North Carolina region. The impact on our parishioners and the greater community is profound, with numerous tragedies affecting our area. Some families have found shelter at the parish, while many others visit during the day to collect or donate supplies. St. Nicholas has become a hub for organizing relief efforts, with volunteers gathering here to clear roads and deliver essential items to those in need.”

By God’s mercy, St. Nicholas returned to the full schedule of services the day after the storm, despite being without electricity until the following Monday. This was not the first time St. Nicholas has continued services during states of emergency. When other churches closed during the Covid pandemic, our parish remained open. By offering the Holy Mysteries during the pandemic, many people joined the parish from other jurisdictions, and others from diverse backgrounds converted to the Orthodox Faith.

Several of those families were recently trapped in their homes and neighborhoods. Some of the faithful, being unable to attend services, have held Typica reader’s services in their homes, most of which were without electricity. In one such home, amidst fallen trees all around and on the roof, a recently baptized couple held their first newborn baby, born early Sunday morning (September 29/16), after being in labor during the storm.



Aftermath from Hurricane Helene flooding in Asheville, North Carolina. Photo: foxweather.com

Afterwards, Fr. Steven was able to make it to them to bless the baby and the house. Another family, still without electricity and running water, miraculously found a natural spring on their property, in a 100-year-old hand-built stone enclosure. They have been able to provide clean drinking water for neighbors all throughout the recovery.

Founded in 1995, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is located less than ten miles south of downtown Asheville, which was recently submerged from flooding in many areas. Surrounded by hotels and close to the Asheville Regional Airport, the church has functioned as a commuter parish in an ideal location for services and events, such as the Diaconate Boot Camp held in 2018.



St Nicholas Orthodox Church

Having outgrown our original building, we began constructing a new temple during the pandemic. In September 2020, His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion blessed the newly laid foundation. Four years later, the building is dried in but still under construction. During the hurricane, our church property suffered minor damage, but neighboring properties experienced severe destruction.



Photo of supplies gathered by the parish

The new building is now being used to stock emergency supplies. With its close proximity to the airport, our church became a hub for gathering and distributing supplies. Many parishioners, volunteers, and groups from the surrounding area came to St. Nicholas to donate bottled water, non-perishable food, medical supplies, paper products, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, pet food, propane, and gasoline for generators. Orthodox brethren came from long distances and other nearby parishes to offer tremendous help—St. Timothy's in Hickory, Reigning Mother of God in Charlotte, St. Tikhon's in Tennessee, and Christ the Savior in West Virginia.

With the overabundance of essential supplies surpassing the immediate needs of parishioners, Fr. Steven directed our church's focus toward supporting people in the remote and cut-off areas in need. The church also distributed to other organizations including the International Orthodox Christian Charity. Parishioners at St. Nicholas have been mobilizing our own teams for supply runners and clean-up crews. Groups of parishioners have also cleared blocked driveways and roads with chainsaws.

Fr. Steven traveled on a delivery run to bless the supplies and rescue vehicles. Meeting with rescue teams, he learned that the major concern wasn't a lack of immediate supplies but the long-term challenge of rebuilding lives and communities after such great destruction. He observed, "Everything will have to be rebuilt from the infrastructure to the economy. Everyone who comes into contact with this tragic reality is deeply moved for the people and the community."



Fr. Steven blessing emergency supplies and vehicles

Indeed, western North Carolina also faces economic devastation after Helene. Many of us are faced with severe property damages, lost jobs, or do not know what to expect for the future. Charitable contributions will help our congregation and families facing economic uncertainty.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is also asking for hurricane relief donations toward the completion of the new temple. For an estimated cost of \$225,000, our church can complete the next and final phase of building, including plumbing, electricity, construction of the cupola, and interior work such as framing, drywall, and paint.

On the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the Church commemorates the finding of the true cross by Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great). Hurricane Helene has helped our community to find and take up our own cross, following after our Lord Jesus Christ. Fr. Steven noted, "The cross was present and with us in a way we didn't expect."

Your support in these challenging times is greatly appreciated as St. Nicholas Orthodox Church works to rebuild and recover from Helene's impact. Our community will continue to help one another and our new friends in the affected areas, recognizing the road to recovery will be long and challenging. To support our relief efforts, you can make a donation through our parish website.

-Subdeacon Seraphim Nesch 10/15/2024

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN RAISING MONEY FOR ORTHODOX INFANT ORPHANAGE



Photo: projectmexico.org

The Antiochian Women organization of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America has announced the continuation of its support for Project Mexico and the St. Innocent Infant Orphanage as its 2024-2025 Act of Mercy.

This unique North American ministry, known as "Casa Cuna," officially opened in June and currently cares for about a dozen infants, reports the Antiochian Archdiocese.

At the orphanage, the babies are raised in an Orthodox environment, mirroring the care provided to boys at St. Innocent Orphanage. The facility offers education, essential needs, enrichment activities, and nurtures the infants with God's love.

To support the ongoing needs of the infants and their caregivers, donors can contribute funds through a direct donation link, or donate useful items via the Orphanage's Amazon Wish List.

For check donations, please note "Antiochian Women Fundraiser" in the memo line and mail to:

Project Mexico

P.O. Box 8210

Pasadena, CA, 91109-8210

PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH ADDRESSES CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIC SUMMIT AMIDST ONGOING WAR



Photo: ippo.ru

His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East spoke at the opening of the Christian-Islamic Spiritual Summit in Lebanon on October 16, 2024, addressing the crisis facing the country and region.

His speech emphasizes the national unity of Muslims and Christians in Lebanon, condemns Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon, and criticizes international inaction.

His Beatitude calls for an immediate end to hostilities, highlights the plight of displaced families, and stresses the need for internal political stability in Lebanon.

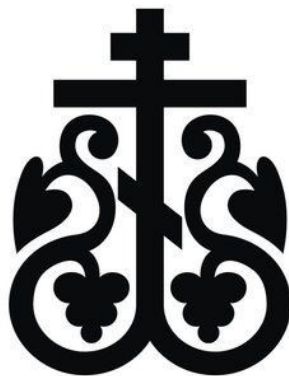
The Patriarch appeals for peace, questions global double standards in conflict response, and reaffirms the Lebanese people's commitment to peace and resilience amidst adversity:

“We are here because the homeland is wounded, in pain, and bleeding. Our hearts are bleeding, for around us are victims, martyrs, killing, violence, displacement, and all afflictions that beset us. We are here by the mercy of the Lord in hope and expectation that our meeting and gathering will be a means of consolation for our people. We are here in hope and expectation that this meeting will be an impetus to find solutions for our people, our country, and Lebanon together with our brothers, the political and civil officials, and every authority. May it be a glimmer of hope for our wounded and suffering people.

First of all, we thank His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi for his kind invitation to meet in this honorable residence in Bkerke for an Islamic-Christian spiritual summit to consult on the affairs of our country and the painful issues that trouble Lebanon and our people Lebanese at this difficult time. Our meeting is first a message to the world so that it may see that we have been and shall remain the children of this country with all its sects, Muslims, and Christians and that we are one spiritual family in a national unity that is not marred by any defect. It is also at the same time an internal message to our people for everyone to see that we are united and that nothing separates us. As Muslims and Christians in Lebanon, so dear to our hearts, we hold our hands together in the time of danger. We are facing a brutal aggression carried out by Israel, starting from Gaza and now reaching Lebanon, while the whole world watches in silence, speechless as a stone. We cry aloud, demanding that the international community hurry up and stop this war, today not tomorrow. What is the meaning of this criminal behavior? We see before us innocent people, women, children, homes, martyrs, destruction, and displacement. However, unfortunately, the world watches indifferently, and I dare say, in support of this barbaric war. We appeal to the world to stop supplying weapons to kill, strike, destroy, and ruin. There are so many repercussions. We start with the issue of the displaced, those families living in stability with their families and relatives. What is their fault? Why all this displacement, migration, and homelessness? And why all these calamities? Here, we must thank the governmental organizations, the army, the civil defense, and all the officials who have been supporting those displaced people. Thanks also to those who host them. Thanks also to all the local and foreign Arab bodies and other associations that support those families displaced by ongoing war and calamities. Here, we must highlight the importance of putting order into our internal house. First, we need to elect a president for the republic and build a government in a state of citizenship with complete constitutional bodies. We bear a great responsibility in this regard. We call on all the concerned authorities to unite and join hands to expedite the election of a president for the republic first to reorganize all constitutional bodies.

Our meeting today is a cry for the outside world, the international community. The Lebanese are a peaceful people and we do not want wars; we demand an immediate cessation of the war and an end to this massacre that is reaping thousands and thousands of martyrs, wounded, sick, and dead, and leaves homes destroyed. This meeting is also a call for our children in Lebanon to stand firm no matter the difficulties. We will remain steadfast and shall not look back, but rather keep our eyes looking ahead.

We pray the Most High and Glorious Lord, the Merciful God, have mercy on the souls of the martyrs, heal the wounds, comfort the hearts, and strengthen everyone in these difficult and painful circumstances. We ask why the response is double in this world. Why the double revenge? Why are some atrocities only permitted there but forbidden there and vice versa? We appeal to the conscience of people all over the world to be children of peace and to strive for peaceful solutions in this troubled and unstable world that suffers from many wars and pains. I thank you for listening and I pray and ask God that this spiritual summit will be a meeting that comforts the hearts of our children, raises our voice to the whole world, and bears witness to truth and peace, confirming that God has created us and wanted us to be children of peace and joy. Thank you.”



Cook's Corner

EASY ROSEMARY GARLIC WHITE BEAN SOUP



Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic
- 3 15oz. cans cannellini beans
- 2 cups vegetable (or chicken) broth
- 1/2 tsp dried rosemary
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1 pinch crushed red pepper
- freshly cracked black pepper to taste



1. Before you begin, pour one of the cans of cannellini beans (with its liquid) into a blender and purée until smooth. Drain the other two cans of beans.
2. Mince the garlic and add it to a soup pot with the olive oil. Sauté the garlic over medium for about one minute, or just until the garlic is very fragrant.
3. Add the puréed cannellini beans, the other two cans of drained beans, broth, rosemary, thyme, crushed red pepper, and some freshly cracked pepper. Stir to combine.
4. Place a lid on the pot, turn the heat up to medium-high, and bring the soup to a boil. Once boiling, turn the heat down to medium low, remove the lid, and allow it to simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Smash the beans slightly to thicken the soup even more. Taste the soup and add salt if needed (I did not add any, this will depend on the salt content of your broth). Serve hot, with crusty bread for dipping!

Lives of the Saints

IOANNIKIOS THE GREAT

Commemorated on November 4th



Saint Joannicius the Great was born in Bithynia in the year 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. From childhood he had to tend the family cattle, their sole wealth. Love for God and prayer completely dominated the soul of the child Joannicius. Often, having shielded the herd with the Sign of the Cross, he went to a secluded place and spent the whole day praying, and neither thieves nor wild beasts came near his herd.

By order of the emperor Leo IV (775-780), a multitude of officials went through the cities and towns to draft young men for military service. Young Joannicius was also drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. Saint Joannicius served in the imperial army for six years. More than once he was rewarded by his commanders and the emperor. But military service weighed heavily on him; his soul thirsted for spiritual deeds and solitude.

Saint Joannicius, having renounced the world, longed to go at once into the wilderness. However, on the advice of an Elder experienced in monastic life, he spent a further two years at the monastery. Here the saint became accustomed to monastic obedience, to monastic rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned thirty Psalms of David by heart.

After this, commanded by God to go to a certain mountain, the monk withdrew into the wilderness. For three years he remained in deep solitude in the wilderness, and only once a month a shepherd brought him some bread and water. The ascetic spent day and night in prayer and psalmody. After each verse of singing the Psalms Saint Joannicius made a prayer, which the Orthodox Church keeps to this day in a somewhat altered form, "The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection."

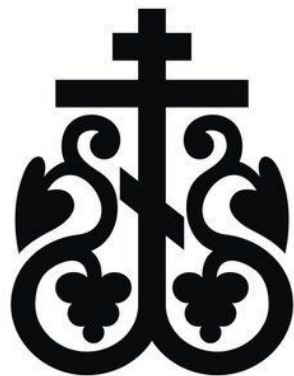
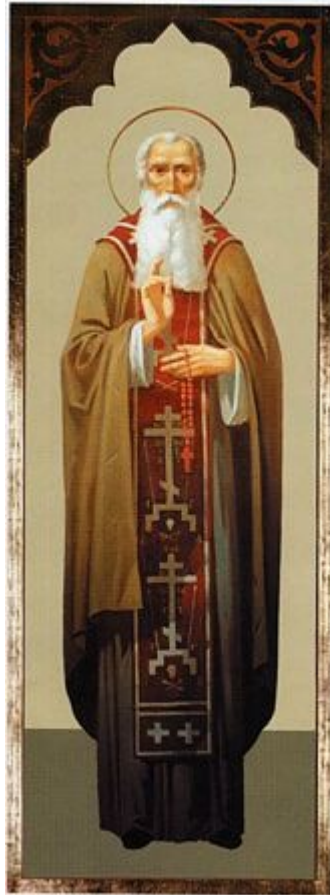
By chance, he encountered some of his former companions from military service. The saint fled the wilderness and withdrew to Mount Kountourea to hide himself from everyone. Only after twelve years of ascetic life did the hermit accept monastic tonsure. The saint spent three years in seclusion after being tonsured. Then he went to a place called Chelidon to see the great ascetic Saint George (February 21). The ascetics spent three years together. During this time Saint Joannicius learned the entire Psalter by heart. As he grew older, Saint Joannicius settled in the Antidiev monastery and dwelt there in seclusion until his death.

Saint Joannicius spent seventy years in ascetic deeds and attained to a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, as his disciple Pachomius has related. The Elder also levitated above the ground when he prayed. Once, he crossed a river flooded to overflowing. The saint could make himself invisible for people and make others also hidden from sight.

Once, Saint Joannicius led Greek captives out of prison under the very eyes of the guards. Poison and fire, with which the envious wanted to destroy the saint, did him no harm, and predatory beasts did not touch him. He freed the island of Thasos from a multitude of snakes. Saint Joannicius also saved a young nun who was preparing to leave the monastery to marry; he took upon himself the agonized maiden's suffering of passion, and by fasting and prayer, he overcame the seductive assault of the devil.

Foreseeing his death, Saint Joannicius fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.

"My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my shelter is the Holy Spirit. O Holy Trinity, Glory to You." - Prayer of St. Joannicius.



WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

The thief understood that the Kingdom of Jesus of Nazareth, despised and given over to a shameful death, was not of this world. And it was precisely this Kingdom that the thief now sought: the gates of earthly life were closing after him; opening before him was eternity. He had settled his accounts with life on earth, and now he thought of life eternal. And here, at the threshold of eternity, he began to understand the vanity of earthly glory and earthly kingdoms. He recognized that greatness consists in righteousness, and in the righteous, blamelessly tortured Jesus he saw the King of Righteousness. The thief did not ask Him for glory in an earthly kingdom but for the salvation of his soul.

The faith of the thief, born of his esteem for Christ's moral greatness, proved stronger than the faith of the Apostles, who although captivated by the loftiness of Christ's teaching, based their faith to a still greater extent on the signs and wonders He wrought.

Now there was no miraculous deliverance of Christ from His enemies — and the Apostles' faith was shaken.

But the patience He exhibited, His absolute forgiveness, and the faith that His Heavenly Father heard Him so clearly, indicated Jesus' righteousness, His moral superiority, that one seeking spiritual and moral rebirth could not be shaken.

And this is precisely what the thief, aware of the depth of his fall, craved. He did not ask to sit at the right or the left hand of Christ in His Kingdom, but, conscious of his unworthiness, he asked in humility simply that he be remembered in His Kingdom, that he be given even the lowest place.

-St. John Maximovitch of Shanghai and San Francisco



FROM THE MINISTRY TEAMS



THE SCROLL

Next Issue

Will Cover -- November/December

Deadline to Submit -- December 22nd

On Website -- December 29th

Available in Foyer -- December 31st



Our Mission

Family Promise of Greater Wichita unites hearts and hands to provide compassionate hospitality and empower homeless families with children to achieve sustainable independence.

Our Uniqueness

Our customized case management allows us to walk beside families in life, partnering with them to achieve their goals. This allows high-quality, high-impact care.

There are three phases to our Sustainable Independence Program (SIP):

Phase 1: Support Services

Families are assisted with urgent/crisis needs for homelessness prevention, as we have resources.

Phase 2: Hospitality/Lodging OUR HOST WEEKS

Our Rotation Program, to work towards sustainability. Other programs revolve around this. St. Mary recently completed a week of hosting families. Two families, Two adults and eight children were provided nightly shelter and food for three meals a day. Approximately twenty volunteers came together to provide food, meals, transportation, laundry, or slept over at the church. Our remaining host weeks in 2024 are September 1, October 27, and December 8.

Phase 3: Mentoring/Aftercare

For families who have participated in/graduated from our Rotation Program.

Please contact Vicki Jones, 650-0658, if you have questions or would like more information.

Did you know? 92% of graduate families are stably housed! (Family Promise of Greater Wichita)



GREETER MINISTRY TEAM

The primary purpose of the Greeter Ministry Team is to make all of our visitors to St. Mary feel welcome in our parish home. To welcome the stranger is not just a nice or courteous thing to do, but is in fact one of the things mentioned by our Lord by which we will be judged: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." To welcome the stranger is a great blessing to them and to us; the Greeter Ministry Team strives to fulfill this scriptural command together with our parish family. One responsibility of greeters is to greet visitors before Liturgy. This includes giving them a bulletin and visitor packet, asking them to sign the visitor book, and invite them to coffee hour. After Liturgy, greeters will seek out the visitors and introduce to at least one other person in church, introduce them to Fr. Aaron and offer to give a tour of the facility, and show them the rack of educational pamphlets in the foyer. During the following week, the greeter will complete a New Visitor Note Card that will be mailed to the visitor. There are currently six active members of the Greeters Team. There is a need for more members of the team. If you wish more information on this Ministry Team, contact Dee Ann Bragg at dee.ann.stults@gmail.com

MEAL TRAIN



The St Mary Meal Train ministry was formed in 2016 to serve the families in our parish immediately following the birth of a child. After the birth of a child, what to eat for dinner is not usually at the forefront of new parents' minds. Instead, new parents are focused on the new life they have created and finding their new normal between dirty diapers, seemingly near-constant cries, and many feedings. Our goal is to provide the evening meal every day for a week. The meals have been a mixture of home cooked, frozen, and store-bought meals as well as restaurant gift cards. We also provide a supply of paper products such as plates, napkins, cutlery, and cups to reduce the workload of the family. Being part of this ministry does not mean that you have to be involved every time a request is sent out. Each of us has our own commitments and are sometimes unable to help. Any help at all is much appreciated by the families we are serving. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Jessica Lessman (Miriam121406@live.com) to get on the mailing list.



THE LORD'S DINER

The Lord's Diner exists to combat hunger in the community. The Diner's singular mission is to serve a nutritious meal with dignity and respect to anyone who is hungry. The Lord's Diner serves an evening meal 365 days a year. Meals are served at two dining facilities (one in downtown Wichita and one in south Wichita) and three food trucks (one in northwest Wichita, one in southeast Wichita, one in northeast Wichita) to any guest who needs a nutritious meal, 60 percent of which are families. In January of 2024 TLD will returned to its original dine in model. St. Mary volunteers serve at The Lord's Diner on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are partnered with volunteers from St. George Cathedral. We gather at the downtown location, Central and Broadway, at 5:15 p.m. We are finished by 7:45 PM. Contact Vicki Jones, 650-0658 if you'd like to volunteer. NOTE: A food handler's card is no longer required.



ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HOLIDAY SALE

STMARYWICHITA.ORG

Buy Kibbee and Baklawa for the Holidays!

Make holiday meals and gift-giving easy this year with trays of our delicious kibbee and baklawa! Stock your freezer for yourself or give as gifts!

BAKLAWA

12-piece box for \$24 OR

Full tray with 30 to 35 pieces for \$50

Dessert of layered phyllo dough with a sweetened walnut filling and finished with our homemade syrup.



KIBBEE

Available in an 8" square tray for \$25

Baked, seasoned ground sirloin mixed with cracked wheat, onion, and spices. Comes fully cooked and frozen, with heating instructions.



ORDERING DEADLINE

You can purchase Kibbee and Baklawa through November 4, 2024. ORDER ONLINE AT stmarywichita.square.site

PICKUP DATE

You may pick up your order at St. Mary during any of these times:

Thursday, November 21, from 9 am – 12 pm

Thursday, November 21, from 4 pm – 7 pm

Thank you! We hope you enjoy these as much as we do!



Celebrations



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 4 Maren Kingery
- 4 Brett Parrott
- 5 Sophia Tiemeyer
- 8 Adrian Warwick
- 10 John Dannenberg
- 13 Tanya Husselman
- 19 Jeremy Wagner
- 20 Theodora Stevens
- 22 Micheline Abdayem
- 23 Susan Clark
- 29 Josiah Oller
- 29 Clark Royle

DECEMBER

- 9 Don Debolt
- 11 Robbie Namee
- 12 Frank Morris
- 14 Miriam Lessman
- 18 Alex Lessman
- 19 Shirley Zarich
- 21 Valerie Lehl
- 26 Samuel Lessman
- 29 Fr. John Baize
- 31 Vicki Jones



ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

Darren and Amy Minks 11/12

DECEMBER

Maher & Mary Gerges	12/04
Anthony & Keri Jacobs	12/17
Frank & Cathy Morris	12/27
Jonathan & Jennifer Hicks	12/28
Vicki & Mark Jones	12/28
Jerry & Helen Stitt	12/28

MANY YEARS!!!

Those baptized were: Cameron Walker and Lyla Harrison.

Those chrismated were: Deana Westenfeld, Dawn Beers, Alex Beers, and Omar Mares.



BITS AND PIECES

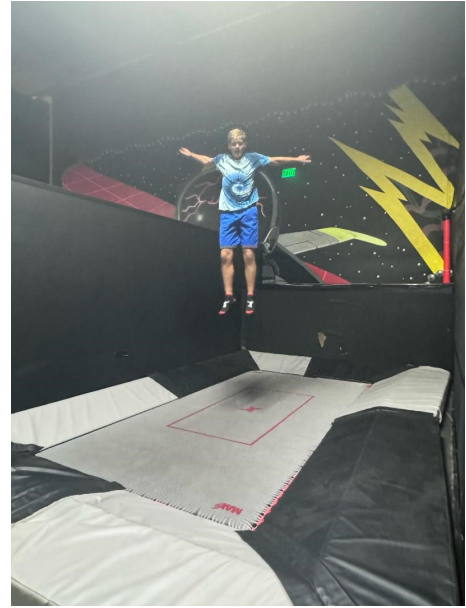
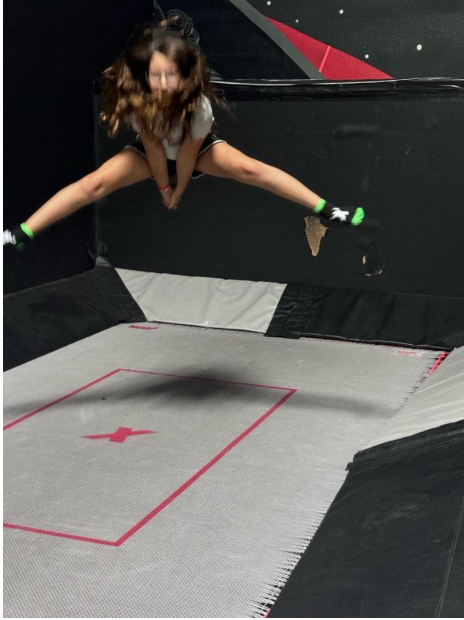
Church School kicked off Sept 15th for our parish.



Our younger children were led in activities at the church and made cards to spread the good news that Jesus loves us.



BITS AND PIECES



Our older Preteen and Teen groups kicked off the year in fellowship together at a trampoline park. It was a very successful day and we are looking forward to begin our lessons on Luke and Acts this year.



BITS AND PIECES

Parish picnic



BITS AND PIECES

Parish picnic



BITS AND PIECES

St. Mary Fall Festival 2024



BITS AND PIECES

St. Mary Fall Festival 2024



BITS AND PIECES

St. Mary Fall Festival 2024



PARISH COUNCIL

Paula Zarich **Chairman**

Tracy Namee **Vice-Chairman**

Darren Minks **Treasurer**

Helen Stitt **Secretary**

Dee Ann Bragg

Ken Dannenberg

Judith Shippy

Laura Stanley

Blaise Webster

PARISH MINISTRY TEAMS

Belles of St. Mary
Choir
Digital Library
Education
Family Promise
Greeters
Humanitarian
Interiors
Kitchen
Major Fund Raisers
Matthew 5:4
Membership / Stewardship
Meal Train
Missions/Spiritual Growth
Pre-Teens
Prison Ministry Team
Properties
Public Relations/Website
Purchasing
Teen SOYO
The Scroll
The Treehouse
Visitations

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIR

Robbie Namee
Jason Ewertt
Steven Shippy
Anna Ewertt
Vicki Jones
Dee Ann Bragg
Joan Ferris
Tracy Namee
Robbie Namee
Tracy Namee
Cathy Fairbanks
Fr. Aaron
Jessica Lessman
Tracy Namee
Anna Ewertt
Fr. Aaron
TC Wallace
Justine Nightingale
Robbie Namee
Laura Stanley
Brett Parrott
Darren Minks
Rick Husselman



The Scroll Production Schedule – 2024

Issue: January/February, 2024

Deadline: February 17

On Website – February 24

In Foyer – February 26

Issue: March/April, 2024

Deadline: April 22

On Website – April 28

In Foyer – April 30

Issue: May/June, 2024

Deadline: June 17

On Website – June 23

In Foyer – June 25

Issue: July/August, 2024

Deadline: August 17

On Website – August 23

In Foyer – August 25

Issue: September/October, 2024

Deadline: October 19

On Website – October 25

In Foyer – October 27

Issue: November/December, 2024

Deadline: December 22

On Website – December 29

In Foyer – December 31

Send news to: parrott.brett.117@gmail.com

About The Scroll

The Scroll is the news magazine of St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church, 344 S. Martinson, KS, 67213. It was first published in March of 1974 as a newsletter and has evolved to its present magazine-style format. **The Scroll** includes information about our Orthodox Christian faith as well as news of our parish community. Deadline dates for publication are listed in each issue of **The Scroll** and also in the weekly church bulletins. Inquiries and news items should be sent to parrobre7014@yahoo.com or to the above church address C/O **The Scroll**.

All news must be received by the announced deadline dates. Submitted material may be edited for content and space limitations. All submitted items should include the name of the person sending the material as well as identifying the original source of previously published pieces.

The Scroll Ministry Team

Brett Parrott



LOOKING AHEAD

November 15th
Nativity Fast Begins

November 28th
Thanksgiving

December 25th
Nativity of Christ

