

# The Scroll

## Sunday Services

Matins.....9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy .....10:00 a.m.  
Church School .....11:00 a.m.

## Saturday Services

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

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# -From Metropolitan Saba-

## THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS PART ONE

The parable of the weeds (tares) in the Holy Bible is full of lessons and meanings. Christ told this parable to his disciples, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn'" (Matt. 13:24-30)



When the Lord explained the parable to His disciples, He said:

The sower is Christ, the field is the world, the good seed is the children of the kingdom, the weeds are the children of the devil, the enemy who sowed the weeds is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels (Matt. 13:36-39).

If we expand a little on Christ's interpretation of the parable, we conclude that the world has good and bad people, and that God does not allow a final punishment for the bad at present, lest the good perish with them: "Not lest in gathering up the tares you root up the wheat" (Matt. 13:28). However, He disciplines them, in many and various ways, with the aim of awakening them and returning them to the right path, and consequently, to their salvation.

This reminds us of the divine punishment of the city of Sodom (Gen. 18). When Abraham learned of it, he said to the Lord: "Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Perhaps there are fifty righteous in the city. Will you destroy the whole city and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it?" And the Lord said: "If I find fifty righteous in Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham began to reduce the number until he reached ten. Finally, he was forced to remain silent, because there were not ten righteous people in the city.

A number of the Church Fathers and commentators say that God allowed the weeds to grow in order to give them a chance to become wheat. God allows the wicked to exist and does not destroy them because, in the abundance of His love, He gives them time to reform and repent. This also reminds us of the words of the Lord through the prophet Ezekiel: "Is my pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God? No, but in his repentance from his wickedness he will live" (Ezek. 18:23). It also reminds us of the words of the Gospel: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Matt. 9:12).



This teaches us, firstly, that evil and wicked people exist in the world. Believers should not be distressed by their presence in this life! They should rather have compassion for them because they need salvation. But accepting their presence does not mean following them and going along with them in their corruption and evil. On the contrary, believers must always be vigilant to keep themselves from falling into corruption and evil. Their duty is, first of all, to refrain from doing evil and to constantly repent, as the Lord asks in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before My eyes; cease from doing evil" (Is. 1:16).

Secondly, it teaches us that the believer is called to contribute to the realization of God's goal, namely, the salvation of mankind. This contribution can only be achieved through setting and modeling a good example, since speaking, preaching, teaching, and building institutions, etc. are means, not goals. And all of these do not affect others unless they come from pure and honest people who walk in the commandments, piety and fear of the Lord.

Therefore, the Orthodox Church places special emphasis on repentance and the inner dimension of the Christian life. A person can generally fulfill all the commandments outwardly without penetrating his inner self. This is what the Pharisees were like at the time of Christ. It is clear from the Holy Gospel that the Lord was not as harsh with anyone as He was with these hypocritical believers, I mean the Pharisees, whom he described as "whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all kinds of filth. And so, you appear righteous to men, but inside you are all hypocrisy and evil" (Matt. 23:27-28).

The Apostle Paul says to the Church of Corinth: "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with the immoral, not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the ungodly, or thieves, or idolaters; otherwise, you would need to go out of the world" (1 Cor. 5:9).

This means that believers live in this world; not in isolation from it, but in it. However, they are distinguished by not going along with it and what is incompatible with the values and essence of their faith. They deal with people with love and sobriety, based on the values of their gospel. They do not judge those who are different from them, nor do they destroy them, either physically or spiritually. They strive to be faithful to the teachings of their Christ, their faith, and their witness to their Lord. They accomplish all this with a blameless life. If there is a deficiency due to human weakness, they quickly correct it.

They are aware that they are witnesses of their faith in the middle of society, so they do not participate in what contradicts their faith. They abstain from sins, evils and crimes, even if their entire society follows them.

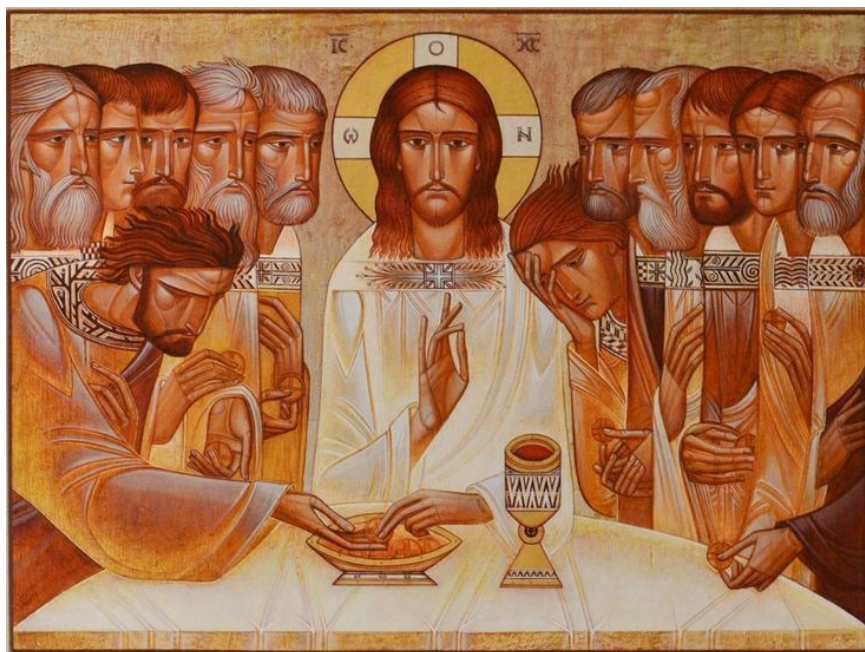
They remain faithful. To the extent that their conduct is blameless, they tell, without intruding on the lives of others, of the joy and sweetness of their faith.

The Chinese Communist Revolution forbade the nuns who served in hospitals from speaking to the sick. It happened that a senior official in one of these hospitals was admitted in critical condition. After seeing the nuns' tenderness and dedication to serving the sick, he said to their superior, in astonishment: "How loving is your God, that you are so loving!" This later encouraged the officials to ask Mother Teresa of Calcutta to open branches of her congregation, the "Missionaries of Charity," in China, which was a country closed to evangelization. (This did not happen because she insisted that her nuns remain in Indian attire, while the Chinese asked them to wear Chinese attire.)

A pastor who served in China in the first decade of this century told me that Christianity was spreading rapidly there. The government, which had previously persecuted churches, was now encouraging its people to go to church because it noticed that churchgoers were not committing suicide. China suffers from a high rate of suicide among its people.

Christ commanded his disciples, and through them all His followers in the world: "Be My witnesses in Jerusalem and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This was His last commandment before He ascended to heaven. Therefore, pure conduct and absolute faithfulness in keeping His teachings were at their peak among the Christians of the first centuries.

Those Christians did not say: We live in a hostile environment that hates Christ and us, so let us isolate ourselves and live alone, and let us go where Christ is loved! Rather, they cut off the world's filth and its evils. In a world that was endlessly licentious, they preserved their chastity. And the slaves among the immoral served their corrupt masters with all devotion and loyalty. Thus, Christians leavened the pagan Roman Empire with the leaven of the gospel, and returned it with their blood, sweat, and pure spiritual commitment – to Christ.



## -Orthodox News-

### Now on sale: “A Life Testimony” by Metropolitan Saba

February 4th, 2025



Photo: [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

After much anticipation, "A Life Testimony" by His Eminence Metropolitan Saba has just hit the shelves at the Antiochian Village Bookstore.

His Eminence wrote this deeply personal and inspiring account after nearly losing his life to COVID-19. Now available in English and Arabic, the book reflects his spiritual journey, pastoral abilities, and insights into Orthodox Christianity.

Sayidna Saba shares his experiences of faith and leadership to encourage and inspire readers in their own journeys. He also shares his vision for spiritual renewal and growth, and reveals his deep love for our Lord Jesus Christ, His Church and its people.

Each chapter of "A Life Testimony" explores pivotal moments in His Eminence's theological formation and pastoral journey. The book includes personal anecdotes, reflections on scripture, and insights into the practical aspects of ministry.

Discounts are available for bulk orders. Order your copies today from the Antiochian Village Bookstore.

## **-Orthodox News-**

### **Baptisms in Africa brings dozens into the Church**

February 13, 2025



Photo: Facebook

More than two dozen people were baptized into the holy Orthodox Church in two mass Baptism services in Africa over the weekend.

On Saturday, February 8, Archbishop Makarios of Nairobi of the Patriarchate of Alexandria visited a community of the Maasai people to baptize 19 children, he reports on Facebook.

The Archbishop writes about the grace of Baptism:

Through Baptism we are born into a new life, we acquire the possibility of spiritual growth, our image according to God is cleansed and we are able to attain to the divine likeness. Through the grace of Baptism we are able to pray and call God Father and other people our brothers and sisters. We are able to face the workings of the devil, we are able to receive Holy Communion and of course, depending on our spiritual state, we can fulfil the aim of our creation.

Such mass Baptisms are a common occurrence in Africa. OrthoChristian reported on the Baptism of a dozen children in Kenya in October.

The next day, Fr. Joachim Bakali of the Church of the Holy Apostle Luke in Chiradzulu District, Malawi, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and baptized 11 locals, including both children and adults, reports the Russian Orthodox Church's African Exarchate.

The newly baptized prepared for the Sacrament for six months under the guidance of Fr. Joachim and his wife Matushka Anastasia.

About 1,000 people were baptized in Malawi over the course of a week last April.



## **-Orthodox News-**

# **Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia Relief Efforts for LA Wildfires**

January 10, 2025



The devastation from the Palisades Fire is seen from the air in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.  
(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

LOS ANGELES – The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Los Angeles, 1324 S. Normandie Avenue in Los Angeles, is open for relief efforts, as the community noted via email from Dean of the Cathedral Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou.

“The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Los Angeles has opened their campus to those affected by the devastating fires,” the statement said. “The Cathedral is prepared to serve as a relief center for those affected. To support our families in need, we are opening the Cathedral, The Huffington Center, and the Wilson-Hanks Family Cultural Center (Gym).”

The community is providing the following services: Food, connecting with community members, Wi-Fi, and a place to regroup.

More information is available is available by phone: 323-737-2424 and online: <http://www.saintsophia.org>

Email: [office@saintsophia.org](mailto:office@saintsophia.org)

Fr. Kyriacou: [frgaryk@saintsophia.org](mailto:frgaryk@saintsophia.org).



# Cook's Corner



## Vegan Calzones

### Ingredients

- 16 ounces store-bought pizza dough (or use homemade)
- 2 small handfuls of spinach
- 1 pouch Nasoya's Plantspired Classic Bolognese Meal Solutions
- 3/4 cup dairy-free shredded cheese
- 1/2 cup marinara sauce, for dipping



1. Prep: Preheat the oven to 475F and set a baking tray aside.
2. Assembly: divide the dough in half and use your hands or a rolling pin to make two small circles. Fill one half of each circle with spinach, Bolognese Meal Solutions, and cheese. Fold the dough in half over the toppings, then seal the ends and (optionally) brush with oil
3. Bake: Bake in the middle rack of the oven for 13 to 15 minutes, until the crust is golden. Slice and serve with marinara sauce



## BRAIN TEASING RIDDLES



1. I'm a mystery, but I've given you the clues to solve me. You see me now, and my answer is myself. What am I?
2. I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?
3. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answers: 1. "A riddle" 2. " a bank" 3. "Short"

# Lives of the Saints

## SAINT NIKEPHOROS THE LEPER

*Commemorated on January 4th*

The Holy Venerable Nikephoros the Leper lived in Greece in the 20th century. Named Nicholas Tzanatakis in the world, he was born in 1890 in a mountainous village in Khania, in Sikari in Western Crete. His parents were simple and pious villagers, who died when he was still a young child, leaving him as an orphan. His grandfather undertook to raise him. At the age of thirteen, he went to Khania to work there in a barbershop.

At about sixteen years of age, he showed the first signs of leprosy. The lepers were isolated on the island of Spinalonga, off the northwest coast of Crete because leprosy was a contagious disease and it was treated with fear and dismay. He left on a boat to Egypt to avoid being confined there. He remained in Alexandria, working in a barbershop again. However, the signs of the disease became more and more apparent, especially on his hands and face. That is why, through the intervention of a cleric, he went to Chios, where there was a Lazar house for lepers at that time, and the priest was Father Anthimos Vagianos, later Saint Anthimos.

Before the coming of Father Anthimos, this place in Chios had a bad reputation. – Dereliction, filth, fighting and profanity were the normal order of things. Father Anthimos had procured all the necessary supplies, organized the needed repairs and planted orchards with fruit tree, flowers and medicinal herbs. The residents lived as a community of monastics. Father Anthimos dined at the same table with the lepers.

As we read in an account of his life,

“He also cultivated for the sick a spiritual garden, which blossomed with the flowers of love and other virtues. His priesthood was a blessing; he aided his flock like a physician; he looked after his people like a caring nurse cleansing the purulent and evil-smelling lesions. He made rounds of the sick people; he went into every room; he bent over their pillows and comforted the sick with prayer and kind words. The lepers acknowledged his love by calling him “Elder”. They asked him to teach them how to pray, confessed their sins and partook of the holy sacraments. Many eventually took monastic tonsure”.

Nicholas arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. He settled in the leper hospital where there was a chapel of Saint Lazarus in which the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoe was kept. In this space, the course of virtues was opened for Nicholas. Within two years Saint Anthimos considered him ready for the angelic Schema and tonsured him with the name Nikephoros. The disease progressed and evolved in the absence of suitable drugs, causing many large lesions (a drug was found in 1947).





Father Nikephoros lived with unquestioning, genuine obedience to his Spiritual Father, and with austere fasting, working in the gardens. He also recorded the miracles of Saint Anthimos, which he had witnessed with his own eyes (many of these were related to the deliverance of those possessed by demons). Father Nikephoros prayed for hours on end, he fasted vehemently, did not quarrel with anyone, nor injure anyone's heart, and he was the master chanter of the temple. Because of his illness, however, he slowly lost his sight.

Saint Panteleimon Fostinis, Metropolitan of Chios said of Saint Nikephoros who sang at the worship services that he attended: "Monk Nikephoros sang like an angel".

Nun Veronica of the Panagia Ypakoe monastery recalled: During one of their visits to the monastery, Venerable Nikephoros was standing in the vestibule of the church in company with Saint Anthimos, and he was asked to sing the hymn "It is meet". The nuns were listening and were saying to each other: "What an angelic voice!". But when Saint Nikephoros looked up, they were petrified at the sight of the lesions that had disfigured his face.

The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, together with Father Nikephoros, were sent to Saint Barbara's home for lepers in Athens, in Aigaleo.

There, Father Eumenios also lived at the home for lepers. He also suffered from Hansen's disease, but with the medication he received, he was completely cured. However, he decided to remain in the home for lepers for the rest of his life near his fellow sufferers, caring for them with much love.

Father Anthimos asked Father Eumenios to give due regard to the treasured man sent to us by the Panagia, and benefit from his company. There, saint Nikephoros spent the rest of his days. Father Eumenios took care of him with great love and accepted him as his spiritual father.

Miracles from the saint's intercession began to occur towards the end of his life. Many more miraculous healings and occurrences were witnessed after his blessed departure. God blessed Saint Nikephoros with the gifts of prophesy and consolation for his endless patience and love for his neighbour. Crowds of people gathered at his cell to obtain his prayers. By the end of his life, his members and his eyes were completely altered and distorted by the disease, yet despite his infirmity, Nikephoros always greeted visitors with a smile and praised the name of God.

Father Nikephoros reposed at the forefeast of Theophany on January 4, 1964, at the age of 74. His relics were fragrant. Father Eumenios and other believers reported many cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Eventually, many more miracles were reported. Saint Nikephoros was canonised in 2012 and glorified in 2013 at the Panagia Ypakoe church in Kissamos at Crete, where part of his sacred relics was opened for veneration.

# WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

*"If history records good things about good people, the thoughtful hearer is encouraged to imitate what is good; or if it records the evil of wicked people, the godly listener or reader is encouraged to avoid all that is sinful and bad, and to do what he knows to be good and pleasing to God."*

*"This life of men appears for a little while; but of what comes afterwards, of what came before, we are utterly ignorant."*

*"Whenever we enter the church and draw near to the heavenly mysteries, we ought to approach with all humility and fear, both because of the presence of the angelic powers and out of the reverence due to the sacred oblation; for as the Angels are said to have stood by the Lord's body when it lay in the tomb, so we must believe that they are present in the celebration of the Mysteries of His most sacred Body at the time of consecration."*

*"You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe, and they tremble." (James 2:19)*

*They alone know how to believe in God who love God, who are Christians not only in name but also in action and [way of] life, because without love faith is empty. With love, it is the faith of a Christian —without love, the faith of a demon." ~ Venerable Bede*



## **Mediterranean Festival 2025**

Mark your calendars! Our annual festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For over nine decades, our local community has looked forward to and enjoyed coming to St. Mary to partake of our delicious food, learn about our faith and experience the love of our parish family. If you are new to our parish, please know that this isn't just a fundraiser for us. It is a wonderful time of fellowship, getting to know one another better and work for the glory of God as a family.

We need everyone's help to pull off such a big event. There are plenty of cooking days ahead and we look forward to spending time together. We hope that everyone will try to make at least one or two of those cooking days so that the work won't fall on just a few. Cooking days are listed in the bulletin, as well as in Father's weekly email, with a link to the Sign-Up Genius.

Sponsorships are a big part of our financial success! If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring our event, sponsorship forms and information are available from Jason Ewertt.

As always, ten percent of our net proceeds will be donated to a local non-profit. This year's recipient is the Meaningful Life Foundation. This organization works with individuals who have intellectual or developmental disabilities, through life enriching programs with an emphasis on health and fitness, volunteerism and community socialization.

If you ever have questions about the festival, please don't hesitate to ask! Thank you for sharing the gift of your time and talent to help make the 2025 festival a success. To God be the glory!

The Mediterranean Festival Team

# FROM THE MINISTRY TEAMS

## THE SCROLL



### Next Issue

Will Cover -- March/April

Deadline to Submit -- April 19th

On Website -- April 25th

Available in Foyer -- April 27th



**FAMILY PROMISE 2025 HOST DATES:** The following dates are our scheduled host weeks for Family Promise in 2025. As usual, we will circulate a sign up closer to each date, but we wanted to let everyone know about these dates in advance. *Here are the host weeks for 2025: January 26 - February 2; March 30 - April 6; June 29 - July 6; and October 5 - 12.*

*From Family Promise of Greater Wichita: Year to Date, Family Promise of Greater Wichita has provided support through the following:*

*185 families served through Prevention and Diversion Service*

*28 families served through Shelter Services*

*48 families served through Stabilization Service*

*Thanks to all who support this important ministry.*

## 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 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.

### Phase 3: Mentoring/Aftercare

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

**Contact Vicki Jones 650-0658 or Father Aaron for 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](mailto:dee.ann.stults@gmail.com)



## **MEAL TRAIN**

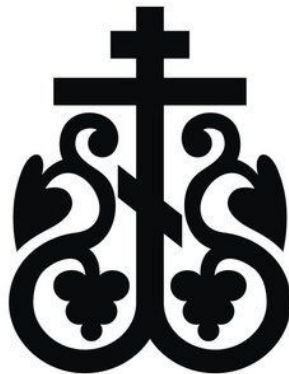
The St Mary Meal Train ministry was formed in 2016 to serve the families in our parish immediately following the birth of a child. After the birth of a child, what to eat for dinner is not usually at the forefront of new parents' minds. Instead, new parents are focused on the new life they have created 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](mailto: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.





# Celebrations



## BIRTHDAYS

### March

1 Maher Gerges  
2 Joey Salome  
5 Ephraim Oller  
7 Aidan Hewitt  
9 Cliff Bragg  
13 Cathy Fairbanks  
13 Lydia Oller  
22 Melissa Freeman  
26 Dennis Fairbanks  
26 Cathy Morris  
26 Micah Oller  
27 Tracy Namee  
28 Megan Gilstrap  
29 Paula Zarich  
31 Mary Gerges

### April

1 Ronan Bragg  
9 John Abdayem  
12 William Hernandez  
13 Valerie Debolt  
15 Kelly Hewitt  
15 Amy Minks  
20 Ken Dannenberg  
20 Fr. Aaron Warwick  
22 Finnian Bragg  
24 Anthony Jacobs

## ANNIVERSARIES



### MARCH

Dennis & Cathy Fairbanks 03/17

### APRIL

Ken & Claire Dannenberg 04/21

## BITS AND PIECES

### *35<sup>th</sup>. Annual Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Hope*

On December 1, 2024, the **DUI Victims Center of Kansas** held its Annual Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Hope in the St. Mary Church Hall. This is an annual event that provides an opportunity for the agency's victim client base to gather in remembrance of a lost loved one by the crime of impaired or drunk driving. It was a very moving program and well attended by more than 150 people. Volunteers from St. Mary were very helpful with all the various duties to make a very successful evening. They helped set up the hall, greeted the guests, served the food buffet, and lit candles when needed.



The **DUI Victims Center of Kansas** was founded in 1987 by volunteers from the St. Mary and St. George Orthodox churches and it is this same volunteer spirit that keeps the agency going and helping the innocent victims of drunk and impaired drivers. We plan to celebrate a 40-year anniversary in 2027 – 40 years of volunteering from the Orthodox communities in Wichita – particularly St. Mary volunteers. The agency continues to expand and increase programs for victims through volunteer opportunities.

The Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Hope is the final event of every year. This is in coordination with National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month. The agency always appreciates the use of the church hall and the many wonderful volunteers who always step forward to continue the efforts that made this agency possible nearly 40 years ago.





### Volunteer in 2025

**KPTS** – join the volunteers to help answer telephones for the televised KPTS fundraisers. Wear DUI Victim Center of Kansas apparel to let people know about the agency and help take pledges for public television.

**Board of Directors** – make a difference by participating as a member of our expanding Board of Directors.

**Law Enforcement Check Lanes** – be available to assist/support law enforcement on the side lines of the DUI check lanes when needed.

**Call 316-768-2096 for more detailed information.**

# 2025 PARISH COUNCIL

**Paula Zarich**      **Chairman**

**Tracy Namee**      **Vice-Chairman**

**Darren Minks**      **Treasurer**

**Ken Dannenberg**      **Secretary**

**Dee Ann Bragg**

**Tana Salome**

**Laura Stanley**

**TC Wallace**

**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 – 2025**

**Issue: January/February, 2025**

**Deadline: February 15**  
On Website – February 21  
In Foyer – February 23

**Issue: March/April, 2025**

**Deadline: April 19**  
On Website – April 25  
In Foyer – April 27

**Issue: May/June, 2025**

**Deadline: June 21**  
On Website – June 27  
In Foyer – June 29

**Issue: July/August, 2025**

**Deadline: August 23**  
On Website – August 29  
In Foyer – August 31

**Issue: September/October, 2025**

**Deadline: October 18**  
On Website – October 24  
In Foyer – October 26

**Issue: November/December, 2025**

**Deadline: December 20**  
On Website – December 26  
In Foyer – December 28

**Send news to:** [parrobre7014@yahoo.com](mailto:parrobre7014@yahoo.com)

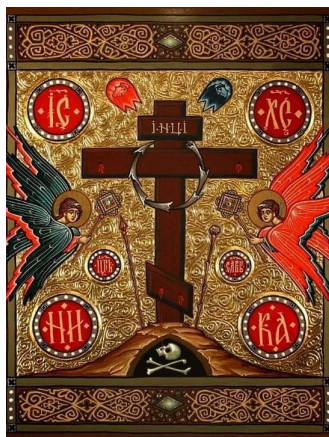
***About The Scroll***

**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](mailto: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

February 23rd—Meatfare Sunday

March 2nd— Cheesefare Sunday

March 3rd— Great Lent Begins

March 28th-29th— Lenten Retreat

March 30th—April 5th—Family Promise host week

April 20th— Pascha

