

# The Scroll

## Sunday Services

Matins.....9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy .....10:00 a.m.

## Saturday Services

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

## Church Contacts

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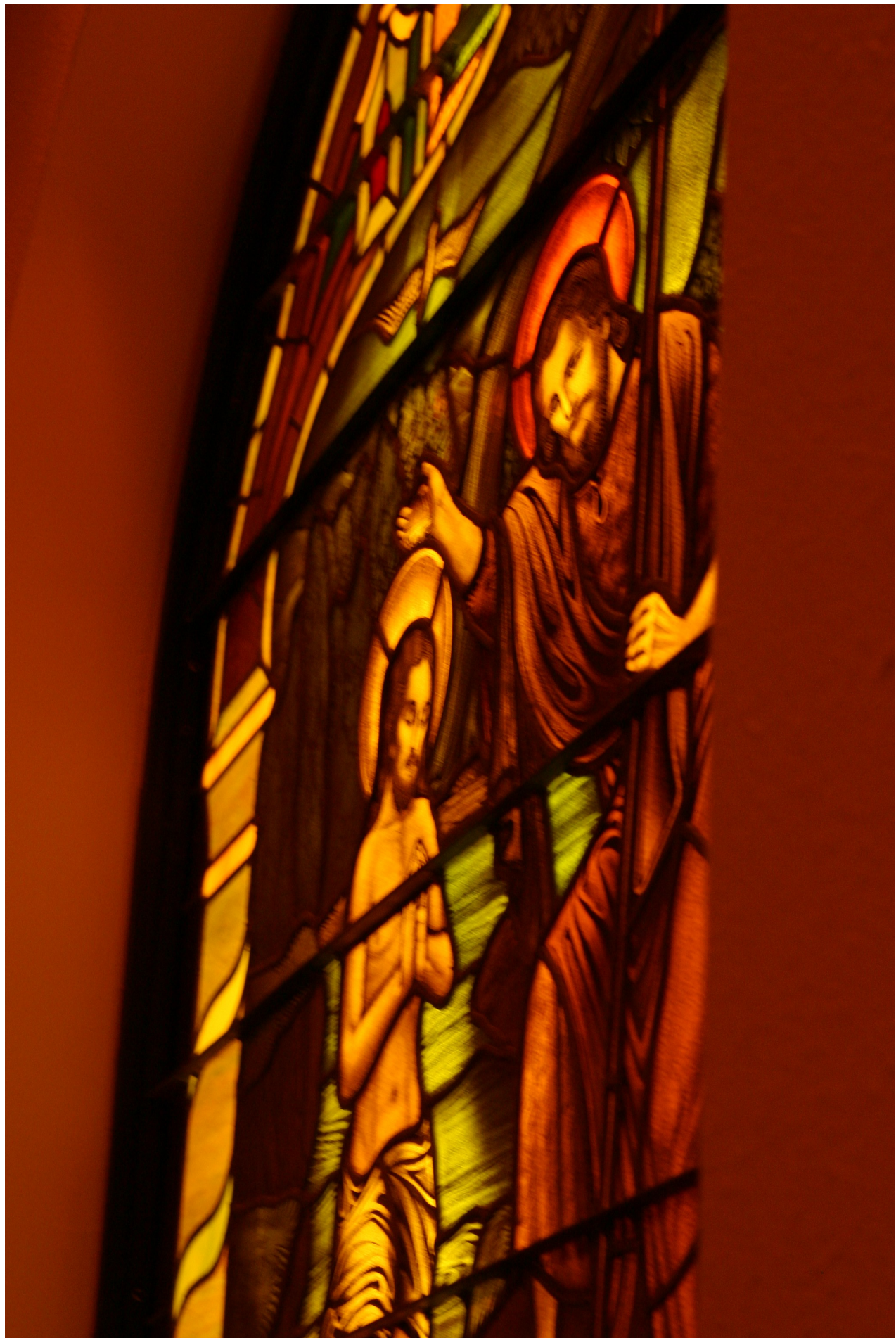


St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church

344 S. Martinson, Wichita, KS 67213

Very Rev. Fr. Aaron Warwick

Website: [www.stmarywichita.org](http://www.stmarywichita.org)



“Stained glass window depicting the Theophany.” Photo: B.C. Parrott



## **Procession of the Icon of the Theotokos from Gethsemane to the Shrine of the Dormition**

Aug 25, 2025 | Patriarchate of Jerusalem



Source: Patriarchate of Jerusalem

From 14 August 2025, the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos began at the Patriarchate, a feast which truly constitutes a second Pascha in the midst of the summer period.

At the Holy Metochion of Gethsemane, located opposite the complex of the Church of the Resurrection, the Supplication services to the Most Holy Theotokos were conducted daily, in accordance with the aforementioned spiritual preparation.

At midnight on Monday, a vigil was celebrated in the chapel of this Holy Metochion, presided over by the Hegumen of the Monastery of the Holy Cross, Archimandrite Christodoulos. The vigil concluded at 5:00 a.m., when the procession of the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos, which is kept there, began towards the Tomb of the Theotokos in Gethsemane.

The procession consisted of monks, nuns, and clergy, preceding the icon, which the Hegumen of Gethsemane, His Eminence Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis carried over his chest, accompanied by the Warden of Gethsemane, His Eminence Archbishop Dimitrios of Lydda. Following them were the local lay faithful and devout pilgrims of all ages, including those of other doctrines, who venerate the Theotokos.

The procession proceeded along Via Dolorosa, during which the hymns of the Dormition were chanted by the chief cantor Deacon Eustathios, and other clergy and monastics in Greek, Russian, Arabic, and Romanian.

## **-Orthodox News-**

During this procession, a prayer was offered before the Russian Monastery of Saint Alexander Nevsky, the Praetorium, the Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and Saint Stephen the First Martyr.

The public procession concluded at the Holy Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Gethsemane. There, after the prayer, the icon was placed in its position upon the Epitaph, south of the Tomb, followed by the service of Matins and the Divine Liturgy in honour and commemoration of the Most Holy Theotokos, seeking her assistance, support, and strengthening.



Source: Patriarchate of Jerusalem

# **Archaeologists discover 1,400-year-old Christian cross in Abu Dhabi**

Aug 26, 2025



Photo: lavra.ru

A team of archaeologists has recently discovered a 30-centimetre-long stucco cross in the United Arab Emirates, dating back at least 1,300 years.

The Christian symbol confirms that a group of houses unearthed decades ago was part of a monastery. The nine small courtyard dwellings were first discovered in 1992 on Sir Bani Yas Island, located 170 kilometres southwest of Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital.

“This is a very exciting time for us,” said Maria Gajewska, an archaeologist with the Department of Culture and Tourism — Abu Dhabi, in a video statement. “We never had concrete proof [the houses] were inhabited by Christians.”

The discovery of the plaster cross, she explained, demonstrates that “these dwellings were part of a Christian settlement.”

Senior monks probably lived in the houses, secluding themselves and praying, before reconvening at the monastery with their brethren, she said.

According to the Department of Culture and Tourism — Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas is just one of several former Christian sites in the region from that period.

Christianity spread across the Arabian Gulf between the 4th and 6th centuries, before the rise of Islam in the early 7th century. Muslims and Christians lived together on Sir Bani Yas until the monastery was abandoned in the 8th century.

Archaeologists plan to continue excavations. The church and monastery site on Sir Bani Yas Island remains open to the public.

# Cook's Corner



## Vegan No-Bake Granola Bars

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup honey sub maple syrup for vegan option
- 1/2 cup smooth natural peanut butter
- 2 cups oats
- 1/2 cup crushed gluten-free pretzels
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips



1. Place honey and peanut butter in a small sauce pan over medium heat until mixed well
2. Mix the rest of the ingredients in a large glass bowl
3. Stir in honey mixture and combine well
4. Line a loaf pan or deep dish pan with parchment paper and transfer mixture
5. Place another sheet of parchment paper on top and press down mixture until firmly packed.
6. Place mixture in a freezer for 1-2 hours until set and cut into bars



## BRAIN TEASING RIDDLES



1. What has a neck but no head?
2. What comes down but never goes up?
3. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

Answers: 1. a bottle, 2. rain, 3. footsteps.



# Lives of the Saints

## THE SEVEN SLEEPERS OF EPHEBUS

*Commemorated on October 22nd.*



The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

The youngest of them, Saint Iamblicus, dressed as a beggar and went into the city to buy bread. On one of his excursions into the city, he heard that the emperor had returned and was looking for them. Saint Maximilian urged his companions to come out of the cave and present themselves for trial.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.



## Lives of the Saints

De sette dormienti.

Cap. xxxi.



The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, "How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?" Others affirmed, "The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain." Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future

life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Preparing to accept torture, the youths once again asked Saint Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Going toward the city, the youth was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city.

When he paid for the bread, Iamblicus gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. He was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblicus to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some sort of mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.



# Lives of the Saints

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

There is a second commemoration of the seven youths on October 22. According to one tradition, which entered into the Russian Prologue (of Saints' Lives), the youths fell asleep for the second time on this day. The Greek Menaion of 1870 says that they first fell asleep on August 4, and woke up on October 22.

There is a prayer of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus in the Great Book of Needs (Trebnik) for those who are ill and cannot sleep. The Seven Sleepers are also mentioned in the service for the Church New Year, September 1.



## WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

*"If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers."*

*"Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen No, no; every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer."*

*"The Light of Christ illumines all." - Saint Gregory Palamas*





## FROM THE MINISTRY TEAMS

### THE SCROLL



#### Next Issue

Will Cover -- September/October

Deadline to Submit -- October 18th

On Website -- October 24th

Available in Foyer -- October 26th



**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.***

#### *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.*

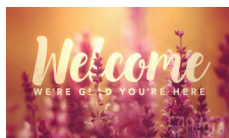
*Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was in prison and you came to Me"*

*St. Mary Parish participates by hosting families in the program four times a year in our church building. Families arrive at St. Mary on Sunday in time for the evening meal. Parishioners volunteer their time by driving families to and from the day house, setting up the rooms, and sleeping overnight at the church. Evening meals, food for breakfast, and snacks are all provided by St. Mary parishioners. The families eat their evening meal and spend the night at the church. Lunches are made and snacks packed before heading to their rooms for the night. They get up and leave the church early each morning and are transported to the day house. During the day they work, attend classes, shower, do laundry, and a multitude of other tasks before returning to the church in time for the evening meal. Both the families and parishioners are encouraged and blessed by the interactions throughout the week. Approximately forty parishioners participated in 2024. There is still a need for more to participate in this significant ministry by providing hospitality and shelter. The weeks of June 29th and October 5th we will once again host families. Contact Vicki Jones at 650-0658 or [vawj55@gmail.com](mailto:vawj55@gmail.com) for more information.*



"Food in the parish hall at coffee hour." Photo Credit: B.C. Parrott





## 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.



“Prosphora in the hand of a parishioner.” Photo Credit: B.C. Parrott



### 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 5:00 p.m. We are finished by 7:45 PM.

Contact Beth Elliott

316-655-6490

bethellio@gmail.com

if you'd like to volunteer. NOTE: A food handler's card is no longer required.



"Donation box in the nave." Photo Credit: B.C. Parrott



# Celebrations



## BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 9  | Elanor Wagner      |
| 11 | Tana Salome        |
| 15 | Marina Grubb       |
| 18 | Joan Ferris        |
| 22 | Tony Abdayem       |
| 25 | Bruce Ferris       |
| 26 | Claire Dannenberg  |
| 27 | David Shippy       |
| 28 | Photinos Kambiotis |

### OCTOBER

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 2  | Randa-Marie Kambiotis |
| 5  | Michael Shaheen       |
| 6  | Osama Nikoula         |
| 7  | Rex Casner            |
| 8  | Connor Shippy         |
| 10 | Michelle Shaheen      |
| 14 | Colin Eaton           |
| 16 | Joan Aboud            |
| 18 | Sophia Salome         |
| 19 | Jesse Nightingale     |
| 19 | Dottie Voth           |
| 22 | Helen Stitt           |
| 23 | Donna Namee           |
| 26 | Emmelia Warwick       |
| 27 | Connie Stevens        |
| 28 | Elham Laham           |



## ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER

- Brett & Alexis Parrott 09/23

### OCTOBER

- Cliff and Dee Ann Bragg 10/14



# BITS AND PIECES

## Dormition Divine Liturgy





# BITS AND PIECES

## Orthodoxy on Tap





# **BITS AND PIECES**

## **Altar Serving Team**



Servers not pictured: Blaise Webster Photo Credit: Steven Shippy





### **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)**



"Candles in the Narthex." Photo credit: B.C. Parrott

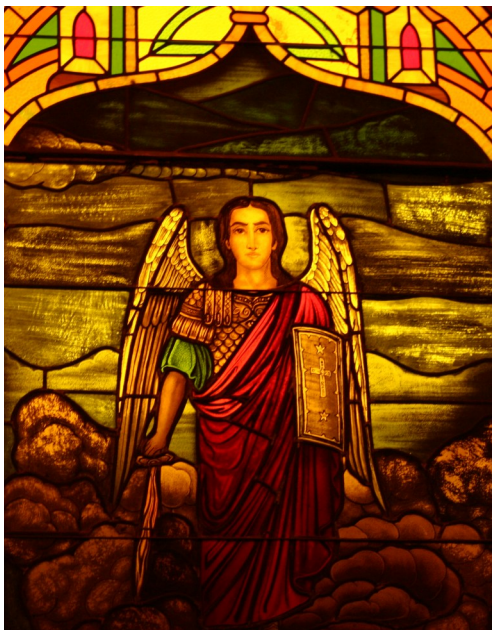
### ***About The Scroll***

**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 [parobre7014@yahoo.com](mailto:parobre7014@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**

**September 1st – Church New Year**

**September 8th– Birth of the Theotokos**

**September 14th– Elevation of The Cross**

**October 1st– Protection of The Theotokos**

