



Volume 35, Number 6  
**JUNE 2026**

# The Cathedral Messenger

*A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral*



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Evyn Neal



Cooper Ryan



Sophie Sipp



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Peter Todorov

OUR 2026 HIGHSCHOOL GRADUATES

Dean, V. Rev. Paul O'Callaghan • St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral

7515 East Thirteenth Street • Wichita, KS 67206-1223 • (316) 636-4676 • <http://www.stgeorgecathedral.net>

# Bulletin Board



## MEMORY ETERNAL

Warren John Farha, 5/20

Getachew Gebreyesus, 5/24  
(father of Betty Tadesse)

## Mabrook! Blessings!

### baptisms

Dakota Sammie Rowe, 5/2  
(son of Cooper and Anna)

Mae Katherine McGrath, 5/2  
(daughter of Jack and Kaylea)

Liam Raphael & Lawson George Corlis, 5/16  
(sons of Andrew & Kylie)

Miran George Gebremichael, 5/23  
(sons of Andrew & Kylie)

### birth

Lillian Elizabeth Fielding, 5/14  
(son of August and Kirsten)

### chrismations

Andrew & Kylie Rachel Corlis, 5/16

many years!

## MODESTY & DIGNITY In Church

As summer approaches, please remember that dress in church should always be dignified and modest.

For women, shorts, sleeveless or low cut dresses and tops, short skirts, tight fitting outfits, and boldly colored clothes are not appropriate. For men, no shorts or message t-shirts; a jacket is customary and long sleeves preferred.

Let us present ourselves with dignity before the Lord in His holy temple!



## June FASTING



There is no fasting during the week following Holy Pentecost, May 31st thru June 7th.

The Apostles' Fast takes place June 8th-28th, with abstinence from meat and dairy products, but allowance for fish Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.



## 2026 SAM & JACQUE KOURI & RUTH COHLMIA

### SCHOLARSHIP

### WINNERS



**KOURI SCHOLARSHIPS**  
ANDREW MORROW  
AND BRIANNA MULLINIX



**COMBINED COHLMIA & KOURI SCHOLARSHIP**  
BRIANNA MULLINIX



**COHLMIA SCHOLARSHIPS**  
SOPHIA BARANIVSKY  
AND THOMAS EARLES

# Orthodoxy & Christian Zionism:

Who Are  
the Heretics?

Part III

By Fr. Paul O'Callaghan



In previous installments, we have seen that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ explicitly rejected the notion that being physically Jewish renders one a “child of Abraham.” His Forerunner, John the Baptist, took the same stance, as did His “chosen vessel” the Apostle Paul. St. Paul in fact elaborated a systematic theology concerning this question, determining that Christ is the “seed” of the Abrahamic Covenant, and that the promises given to Abraham belong to Him and those who are “in Christ.”

Yet this teaching was not invented by John, Jesus, or Paul. It is deeply rooted in the Old Testament. During the various periods of Old Testament history, outward Israel fell under the bondage of idolatry and immorality time after time. Outward Israel persecuted and killed the prophets God sent them (see Matt. 27:37). Is this the Israel to whom the covenant and promises are given? Of course not. The promises apply to those whom Scripture calls the “faithful remnant”.

At all times, even in periods of the most widespread apostasy, there were those who remained faithful to the true God and his revealed truth. St. Paul uses the example of Elijah’s days, when it seemed that all Israel had forsaken the true God to worship the Baals. Yet the Lord replied to Elijah, “I have kept for myself seven thousand men that have not bowed their knee to Baal.” (1 Kings 19:18, Rom. 11:4). The Apostle concludes “So too, at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace” (Rom. 9:5). This remnant is made up of Jewish believers who have proven faithful to God by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord. It is they, together with the Gentiles who have been “grafted in” (Rom. 11:17), who make up the New Israel, the people of God. “For we are the true circumcision, who worship

God in spirit and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).

From this survey of Biblical teaching, it should be abundantly evident that the true children of Abraham are Christian believers and the true Israel is the Church. The promises given to Abraham and his offspring thus belong to Christ and his Church.

Yet Christian Zionists hold that the Abrahamic promise of blessing and cursing applies to people of Jewish descent: “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you” (Gen. 12:2). They furthermore argue that the Jewish people and the state of Israel are functionally identical. Thus they assert that opposing Israeli policy, no matter how discriminatory, brutal, or murderous, is to invite God’s curse. Supporting Israeli policy, they hold, triggers the flow of God’s blessings.

It is patently absurd from a New Testament perspective to apply the principle of God’s special blessing and cursing to unbelieving Jews in general and to the state of Israel in particular. Was God blessing Jews and their supporters when they were fiercely persecuting the Church in the early Christian centuries? Listen again to the great Apostle “ . . . for you (the Thessalonian Christians) suffered the same from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all men by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved, so always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God’s wrath has come upon them to the uttermost” (1 Thess. 2:14-16). Does it sound like these Jews were under God’s special blessing while they “displeased God?” Much rather the opposite.

Part IV continues next month

# SAVE THE DATE

## Summer Camp 2026

Session 1:  
June 21-27

Session 2:  
June 28-July 4

Session 3:  
July 5-11

Registration  
dates coming  
soon.



CAMP  
St. Raphael  
☺ ☹ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷



St George Orthodox Christian Cathedral  
*The Typika Service*

Due to summer travel and for other reasons, some of the faithful may not be able to attend the Divine Liturgy on certain Sundays. The Typika service is to be prayed on such occasions. The Epistle and Gospel readings for the day can be found at:

<https://www.antiochian.org/liturgicday>

Copies are available at the Cathedral office.

The St. Joseph of Arimathea Ministry of St. George Orthodox Cathedral Presents:

*Save the Date*

## A CHRISTIAN ENDING

Preparing for the Final Journey

**Sep 19, 2026** A Free Seminar on the Orthodox Approach to the End of Life

# Church School Assembly



Welcome Home

## Welcome Home - Zack Collin's Journey

I did not grow up with God. There was no prayer before dinner, no Sunday routine. I grew up in southern Illinois, and faith, when it showed up at all, was something other people did. If you had asked me back then what I believed, I would have just shrugged. I was about as close to atheist as a person can be without ever bothering to call himself one. So, the way I ended up an Orthodox Christian still surprises even me. It was years of small recognitions that I didn't understand until much later.



I had never even heard of the Orthodox Church before moving to Kansas close to 4 years ago. The only options I knew were the ones every small American town has. The Protestant churches I ran into felt thin to me. Watered down. I don't say that to be unkind, because plenty of good people fill those pews, but I couldn't shake the sense that something essential had been sanded off. It seemed what I was being offered was a comfortable, modern version of something that was supposed to be ancient and weighty. It felt manufactured.

Catholicism was around me and at least it claimed deep roots. But the more I read, the more the office of the pope bothered me. The history of the papacy read to me less like a story of faith and more like a story of power and politics dressed up. I know others see it differently, but for me it was something that I know would always linger.

Looking back, I have always been drawn to Orthodox aesthetics without realizing that's what they were. The pull was there well before any understanding was. My first real introduction came from an unlikely place. I was into Eastern European and Russian metal, and as I followed the music and the artwork, I kept running into Orthodox imagery. Those faces did not look like religious decoration to me. They looked like

something real. They made me feel something I didn't have words for. That feeling is what sent me digging. This was not one denomination among many. This was the original. I came to recognize the Orthodox Church as the true Church, and unbroken.

Since I was now in Wichita, obviously that's where I searched for the nearest parish, and I found St. George. I came in to speak with Father Paul, not really knowing whether a man with my background would be welcome at all. He put me at

ease right away and welcomed my whole family to attend the Divine Liturgy. No pressure. St. George is the first church I have ever been able to call my own, and my family is genuinely happy to call it home.

I can't tell this story without telling Jade's part in it, because in some ways hers is the braver one. My wife grew up Baptist, and for as long as I've known her, she has wanted God to have a place in our life. When I finally showed interest, and that turned out to be Orthodox of all things, she didn't hesitate. She put an enormous amount of faith in me and followed me in. Coming from a Southern Baptist background, that move was almost certainly harder for her than it was for me. I was arriving from nowhere, so I had nothing to unlearn. She was setting down a tradition she had grown up inside, and that took a kind of trust and courage I'm still grateful for.

The most pleasant surprise has been our daughter, Logan. She's 9, and she has settled into St. George quite well. Through church school she has taken to all of it so easily that she now knows more than I do. I'll try to tell her a story, and she will already have the answer or knowledge of it. The faith reaching her so naturally, growing in her from the very start in a way it never could in me, feels like proof that we ended up where we were meant to be.

# St George Sewing Sisters Ministry

## Celebrate Five Years of Sewing

Submitted by Jenny Wall



First Sewing Sisters Baby Quilt



Fleece Blanket



2026 Baby Blanket

Five years ago, on June 10, 2021, the St. George Sewing Sisters met for the first time in the basement youth room of St. George with a vision to build friendships with other parish women and to serve our Church parish through sewing. Beginning with 6 original members who still sew together faithfully every Tuesday from 10 am – 1 pm in Fellowship Hall, others have joined over the years with up to 11 women sewing on a given week. Our patron saint is St. Tabitha (Dorcas), an early Christian mentioned in Acts 9, who modeled serving others through charitable sewing. Our original sewing focus was to create baby quilts for children born into our parish. Tying fleece blankets for sick parish members and shut ins followed within the first year of meeting. Since our beginning, the Sewing Sisters have made 86 baby quilts and 60 fleece blankets.

The Sewing Sisters reach has extended to the greater parish by making items to beautify the Cathedral, to sell at the Big Dinner, for the parish Care and Share minis-

try, baby bibs for communion, and quilts to raffle for CSA. Community projects include handmade totes for The Treehouse to place layettes in, aprons for The Lord's Diner, and quilts donated to local ministry partners such as Ember Hope, Family Promise and IRC. Commissions are also accepted as time permits, and funds from those projects are donated to the Sewing Sisters budget.

2026 saw the offering of a Beginning Sewing Class at the same time Sewing Sisters meets to help this ministry live on far into the future. The Sewing Sisters find great joy in serving Christ and our St. George Parish and Wichita community in these variety of ways and deeply appreciate the support of our priests, ministry leaders, custodian, and those who have donated fabric and funds to our ministry. You are invited to join the Sewing Sisters! We welcome you to learn to sew or join us in our sewing ministry! Contact Jenny Wall at [walljenny4@gmail.com](mailto:walljenny4@gmail.com) for more information.



Our Sewing Sisters



**Team Leader: Carrie Camden**

Community Support Team Leader

[camden9492@gmail.com](mailto:camden9492@gmail.com)

Content Submitted by Mikell Awaad

**Next Meeting - June 9 - 12:00 noon**

**at the Parish House**

We would love to have you join us!

## Thank You ~ to all of our St George Volunteers!



St George Volunteers helping with Emberhope's Second Saturday Workday



St George Volunteers serving at The Lord's Diner

## Young at Heart Bingo

**Tuesday—June 16, 11:30-1:00p.**

In the St George Fellowship Hall. Parishioners 55 years of age and older, join us for a delicious lunch and a chance to win fantastic prizes! If you or someone you know would like to attend but need help arranging transportation, please contact Mikell Awwad at [mikell\\_awwad@hotmail.com](mailto:mikell_awwad@hotmail.com)

## Up Coming Volunteer Opportunities

**EmberHope Second Saturday Workday**

**Saturday, June 13th, 9:00a - noon**

Help is needed for both indoor (organizing the supply room) and outdoor (yard maintenance) projects. Meet at the EmberHope campus in Newton. For questions, contact Meaghan Koci at 818-450-7660.

**Kansas Food Bank - June 15th, 1:30p - 3:30p**

Calling teens and adults! Help package food to distribute to needy kids and families. To sign up, contact Jane Evans at [sittie49@gmail.com](mailto:sittie49@gmail.com)

**The Lord's Diner - Sunday, June 21st, 5:00p-7:30p**

The Lord's Diner provides a hot meal to anyone who has a need. Summer is a great time for teens to earn community service hours at The Lord's Diner, which they can do with a parent present. To volunteer with our St George/St Mary Team contact Pat Milburn at [patmilburn74@gmail.com](mailto:patmilburn74@gmail.com).

**Family Promise - June 28th - July 4th**

St George Cathedral volunteers support St Mary Orthodox Church as they host participants of Family Promise. Family Promise empowers families with children to overcome homelessness and housing insecurity. Volunteers can help with meals, driving, setup/teardown, and evening or overnight hosting. Individuals, couples, and families are all welcome to volunteer. To join this effort, complete the application and 2-hour online training at <https://familypromisewichita.org/volunteer/> and contact Jenny Wall at [walljenny4@gmail.com](mailto:walljenny4@gmail.com).

# *The Cathedral Messenger*

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**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**

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[www.stgeorgecathedral.net](http://www.stgeorgecathedral.net)

*Return Service Requested*



## **Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America**

**Parish Life Conference:** DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center (June 10th - 13th)

**Host Parish:** St. John Chrysostom Church (Lakewood, CO)