



Volume 32, Number 1
JANUARY 2023

The Cathedral Messenger

A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

38th Annual Food For Friends Christmas Food Baskets

A special thanks to all who participated in this year's Food Basket project



On December 17th, we celebrated our 38th year for this project where volunteers of all ages packed and delivered over 13,000 pounds of food to 100 families in need in the Wichita area. Along with the groceries, parishioners purchased gifts bought especially for the children of the families. This year, due to the great number of volunteers who came to help, the groceries were packed in the 400 boxes and the deliveries were out within an hour- A record time!!

Special thanks to Denise Johnston and Joy Farha with Ray Sales, who organized the groceries, and to all the men, women and children who helped tape the boxes, set up the food, assign the deliveries, and organize the gifts. We also want to thank Pratt Industries for donating the 400 boxes we packed. Many lives are touched by this project and we thank everyone for helping to make a difference.

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>



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

NATIVITY 2022



Brother Hierarchs and the Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Trustees, and Pious Faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings to you in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is born as a child from the all-immaculate, ever-virgin Mary and layed in the manger at Bethlehem.

Today we praise the Lord with the angels and the multitude of the heavenly host who appeared to the shepherds singing the hymn of salvation for humanity and all creation and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:9–11, 13–14).

Today is the day of our rebirth in the Divine Child who comes to renew our beings and our nature, and to restore the image of God and His likeness in man.

Today we discover the True God Who, in His unfathomable humility and meekness, reveals Himself to us as God-Love, descending to our poverty and wretchedness through His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today the new humanity is born, and new life is given to us so that we become in Christ Jesus the sons of God and His heirs.

Today we are called to be reborn in the Divine Child by assimilating ourselves to His ultimate humility—He Who “emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7). For the Lord has showed us the road to the eternal glory of God: Humility.

Dear and beloved in Christ,

May the Nativity of our Lord and His descent to us lift each of our hearts from earthly whims and inflame them with the fire of His divine love, burning away the thorns of our lusts so that nothing else can dwell in them but Him.

May the birth of the newborn Divine Child be a chance for each of us to ask for rebirth in Him through the love of humility.

Beloved in Christ, “Do not pride yourselves on your visionary, fleeting distinctions, for true distinction can only be found in virtue. Glory of this world! Learn here, before the manger, your vanity. Thus, let us all humble ourselves; let us all fall down in the dust before the boundless humility and exhaustion of the Sovereign of all, of God, Who has come to heal our infirmities, to save us from pride, vanity, corruption, and every sinful impurity” (St. John of Kronstadt).

Yours in Christ,

✝ Metropolitan ANTONIOS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Antonios" with a stylized cross symbol to the left and a decorative flourish below the name.

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America



Parish Meetings

**Special Parish Meeting –
Sunday January 8**

during the Pancake Breakfast.

Agenda: Discussion of the candidates for the office of Metropolitan

**Annual Parish Meeting –
Sunday, February 8**
following Divine Liturgy

STEWARDSHIP

2022 PLEDGE STATUS

So far, 147 pledge cards for 2023 have been turned in for a total amount of \$557,275. The total pledges for 2022 received at this time last year were 135 in the amount of \$529,815. Please complete your 2023 pledges. If you need a pledge card, contact the office or pick up one at the bengarri. Thank you.

2023 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

If you would like the convenience of not writing checks, you may have your pledge payments automatically withdrawn from your account on the 15th of each month. Contact Doren Rhoades in the office for more details.

CHURCH SCHOOL - SPRING SEMESTER

- Sunday, January 8** - Church School Assembly
- Sunday, January 15** – Church School Classes Resume
- Saturday, February 11** – Creative Arts Festival
- Friday, April 7** – Church School Confessions
- Saturday, April 8** – Lazarus Saturday
- Sunday, April 30** – Last Week of Classes
- Sunday, May 14** – End of Year Assembly



Women's Faith & Growth

**Join us Thursday
January 19, 7:15p
in the Youth Center**

for an evening of fellowship & faith
Rebekah Sturgill
is leading the discussion
Studying "Letters to Saint Olympia"
— John Chrysostom



In the Beginning A series on the book of Genesis

Continuing Adult Educational Program

January 11:
A King of Righteousness
(Melchizedek)

January 18:
Sons of Promise
(Ishmael & Issac)

January 25:
Jacob Becomes Israel



Classes will be held following Vespers at approximately 7:15p in person & live streamed.

JANUARY FASTING

There is no fasting Wednesday, the 4th and 6th. There is fasting Thursday the 5th in observance of the Theophany of Christ. The normal fasting traditions are observed after that: abstain from meat, poultry and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Fr Barnabas of Fiji Reposes



(Note: The Missions Support Team at St. George Cathedral has supported Fr. Barnabas' ministry for many years. May his memory be eternal!)

We were deeply shocked and saddened on Tuesday, June 22nd, to receive a call from Presvytera Maria telling us that Father Barnabas had passed away. Just ten days before, we had been with him in Labasa, serving Liturgies and making plans for the future. He who had been in good health during our visit, rejoicing to be with his Archbishop, found himself unexpectedly and suddenly unable to breathe on that morning. The same day, within a few hours of being taken to hospital, he took his last breath and reposed.

But everything is the Providence of God, the Good and Heavenly Father. It was the Lord who called him, who found him ready, fulfilling the duty into which he had been ordained exactly eleven years and eleven days previously. He practiced in simplicity and obedience the advice that he had re-

ceived from his Geronta: "Love everyone, pray for everyone, plant the seeds and they will bear the fruits." And the fruit indeed did grow.

The humble house church of St. Nicholas and St Athanasius, by the Grace of God, and selfless service of Father Barnabas, became a vibrant parish, great in numbers and exemplary in activities, filled with people from non-Christian backgrounds who rushed into that spiritual oasis in the middle of a spiritual desert to find Christ.

We arrived in Labasa a few days after we had first heard the news. The Metropolitan came to pay his last respects and to serve the funeral. People had already started to visit the house and Presvytera Maria. On the eve of the funeral, and throughout the night vigil, on the morning of the funeral, and for the funeral itself, hundreds of people visited, prayed, and expressed their deep sorrow and condolences; people of all religions – Hindus, Muslims, Orthodox and other Christians – all whose lives had been deeply affected, even



changed, through their encounter and friendship with this true and good servant of Christ.

The sight of those crowds was equally sad and joyful. Their individual feelings too reflected joy and sorrow. They will miss this Good Shepherd but their own lives have been changed forever for the better. For years, the local people, including med-

him for the last time. The number of people was great, but with patience, everyone approached and kissed the hand which, after seven days, was still soft and pliable.

There were many there present whom that hand had blessed and healed – probably even that Muslim girl who had touched his robe in the



ics, knew that if you were sick, even with an illness with which the doctor couldn't help, or if you had been affected by some witchcraft, you should go and look for the priest in the black robe and ask him to pray for you, which he would always do for anyone, at any time, and without payment. And the miracles were many. The stories were amazing and never-ending.

Thus the grief when we brought the body in the open coffin from the morgue was intense. Many of the people present, who were unable to fit within the church or even its grounds, had never attended an Orthodox service before. In the all-night vigil, the sight of his face during the reading of the Gospels was encouraging and comforting to all. Standing close by one another in the packed temple, around the coffin where the body of their shepherd lay, vested in priestly robes, radiating peace, everyone had the feeling that time stood still, as it does in those rare, critical moments in life.

At the end of the funeral, the Archbishop called everyone to approach the coffin and to kiss the Gospel and the hand of their priest and to thus receive the final blessing from him and to greet

market and was healed from the flow of blood some years previously. Other people also, prisoners, orphans and the homeless whom that hand had cherished and given support selflessly and often secretly.

When Father Barnabas and Presvytera Maria became Christian, it was very difficult for them. Many of their friends and family rejected them for some years. But one particular cousin couldn't accept them. On the day of the funeral, though, even with pain in her leg, and hobbling, she was there. Presvytera observed her holding his hand, taking time to pray. The next day, the same cousin came to the house again. She was smiling this time and obviously walking normally. She said to Presvytera "My cousin died, but even in death, he healed me. Look – I am well!"

Our dear Father Barnabas, truly you became an imitator of the Apostles, as they were of Christ. The parishioners will forever cherish you, and all Vanua Levu, Fiji and our Holy Metropolis will forever rejoice in you, and our Holy Orthodoxy will forever be proud of you. Amen.



Submitted by Jenny Wall,
Community Support Team Leader

Completed Projects

Cook Up a Storm!

Meal served at Homeless Shelter. Several St. George volunteers organized and served a meal with the casseroles made at the last Cook Up A Storm at the Humankind Ministries Overflow Shelter on November 29. Nearly 100 meals were served.



What's Coming Up?

January Volunteer Opportunity

January 23 (Monday), 1:30 – 3:30 pm - St. George parish volunteers are invited to pack food at the Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E. Douglas Ave, Wichita, Kansas. This is a well organized experience and helpful to so many in our state. Please call or text Jane Evans at 316-644-1072 for more information or to indicate you are available to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunity- The Lord's Diner

Each Month Lord's Diner – Serve dinner every 3rd Sunday evening with other St. George parish volunteers. Contact Pat Milburn for more information at pmilburn@josephhollander.com or 316-680-0209.

2023 Community Support Fair

Sunday, January 29 - The St. George parish will be introduced to our 2023 community agencies at the Community Support Fair on Sunday, January 29 during coffee hour. Plan on coming to meet the agency representatives and see where you might be interested in volunteering.

We are also looking to strengthen our caring ministry to our parish. You will have an opportunity to indicate what skills and availability you have to assist parish members who are experiencing a variety of challenges.

May God grant us strength to serve Him in our parish and greater Wichita community.

Thank You!

As a Team, we wish to thank all those who participated in the Community Support volunteer opportunities during 2022. We consider it an honor to serve the St. George Parish and are grateful to continue serving our parish and the greater Wichita community in 2023.

Join the Team!

We would love to have more St. George parishioners join our Community Support Team! We are currently meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the church fellowship hall. Email Jenny Wall at walljenny4@gmail.com if interested.

Dillons Community Rewards Program

One way you can support the work of the St. George Community Support Team is to participate in the Dillons Community Reward Program. Here are the 3 easy steps: 1) Set up a Dillons account online at this link <https://www.dillons.com/i/community/community-rewards>. 2) Designate St. George Orthodox Cathedral to receive your Community Rewards donation. 3) When you shop at Dillons, a percentage of the sale will be forwarded to the St. George Community Support account at no extra charge to you.

**Next meeting will be held January 10th
in the Cathedral Library**

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7515 East 13th Street North

Wichita, KS 67206-1223

www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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eleventh annual **EIGHTH DAY SYMPOSIUM**
ANNO DOMINI 2023, JANUARY 11-14 WICHITA, KS

BE NOT AFRAID!

*When I sink down in gloom or fear,
Hope brighted or delayed,
Thy solistes, Lord, my heart shall cheer,
"Tis I: be not afraid!"*
—St. John Henry Newman

FEATURING

JAKE MEADOR

FR. JOHN STRICKLAND

JAMES MATTHEW WILSON

The importance of Eighth Day Institute isn't just that it gives visitors a taste of heaven on earth. No, the activities, concerts, and publications give our culture a glimpse of what life together can be like.

—Matt Baerens



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Time to Update

To: St. George Parish

In order to best keep in synch and in communication with **YOU** regarding notices, updates or anything relating to parish announcements, we ask that you please keep **US** up to date of any changes - as in a new home address, home/mobile phone numbers, or any email address edits.

Email: gina@stgeorgecathedral.net or call the Cathedral office - 636-4676.

Thank you.



As seasons change and years come and go, may your blessings always continue to grow!