



Volume 27, Number 2  
**FEBRUARY 2018**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## Crown Them With Glory And Honor

Weddings are among the most joyous occasions of any parish. Family members come from near and far to witness the miracle of God uniting a man and a woman, and the creation of a new household, of which they are king and queen. In the joyous reception celebration that follows, new acquaintances are often made – sometimes leading to even more weddings.

Most Orthodox Christians and visitors alike would agree that the “crowning” is one of the highlights of an Orthodox wedding. Crowns are placed on the couple as prayers are recited, after which they take their first steps together while the choir sings the Dance of Isaiah. Following their honeymoon, there is a rite for the removal of crowns.

Here at St. George Cathedral, most of the weddings performed during our lifetimes have made use of the same set of jeweled crowns – a set first used at the wedding of Dr. George and Brenda Farha on July 23, 1960.

“The year before,” recalls Brenda Farha, “my folks and I were in Tulsa when Metropolitan ANTONY Bashir visited their parish. At the end of the liturgy, he made a point of bringing out two wedding crowns that had been custom-made.



Wedding of Dr. George and Brenda Farha -

“The Metropolitan stared straight at my dad and said, ‘If any of you know of any weddings coming up, it would probably be a good idea to have a set of crowns made.’ So, of course, my dad got the message and that’s exactly what he did.”



The crowns that B.F. Farha ordered for his daughter’s wedding were set with brightly colored stones – not real gemstones, but good facsimiles – that still sparkle today. The groom’s crown was made from gold-toned metal while the bride’s was silver.

It was Fr. John Matthieson, St. George’s priest from 1950 to 1963, who placed those sparkling new crowns on young George and Brenda (who was still a teenager) during their wedding service. Afterwards, the Farha family donated the crowns to the parish, where they have been used for hundreds of weddings ever since.

“That’s what’s really precious to me,” says Brenda, wistfully. “I feel a strong connection with each bride and groom who have worn those crowns. So many families, so many couples with that common thread. And now I’ve had the blessing of sharing that experience not only with my children, but my grandchildren.”

There are some practical aspects to this set of crowns that only became obvious with the passage of time. The fact that they were designed with adjustable bands was especially important when “big” hair was all the fashion in the 1980s. They are also sturdy, and still look good

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## Bulletin Board



### St George PARISH COUNCIL

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Craig ABLAH    | New Member |
| Jeff AYESH     | New Member |
| David FARHA    | New Member |
| Jonathan OLLER | New Member |

### St George Cathedral ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Reina EL NABBOUT | New Member |
| Tom JACOB        | New Member |

### The TREEHOUSE

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Kim FARHA          | St. George       |
| Henry LAWSKI       | Community Member |
| Lee Ann VANDERVORT | St. George       |

## ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL Antiochian Women's *Kibbeh Sahra*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
FOLLOWING Divine Liturgy



Adults \$15, Children \$7

Join us for food,  
fellowship  
and fun!



Proceeds benefit

St. George Cathedral Programs for Women



## MEMORY ETERNAL

Therese Abla, 1/18

## Presanctified Pot Luck Suppers

Please remember to bring a dish to share on these Wednesdays

February 21

February 28

March 7 @ St Mary Church - Do Not Bring  
March 14

Thursday, March 22

March 28 - HERE with St. Mary

## The 17th Annual Men's Lenten Retreat-2018

Mark your calendars now  
for this year's  
Men's Lenten Retreat,  
**to be held March 2-4.**  
welcoming this  
year's presenter,  
**Fr. Justin Havens**  
Priest at  
Ss Peter and Paul Church  
in Salt Lake City, UT  
Topic:

**"Repentance: The Virtue That Has No End"**

to register please contact the Cathedral office or email  
gina@stgeorgecathedral.net



## FEBRUARY FASTING

February 1st is fast free. The traditional  
fasting (from meat, poultry, fish, eggs and  
dairy products) is observed in the 2nd week.  
Meat Fast begins on the 19th and the Great  
Fast begins on Pure Monday, the 26th.

## Eighth Annual Eighth Day Symposium **STRANGERS & SOCIETY:** **Cultivating Friendship in a Fractured Age**

by Erin Doom

(photos courtesy of Emily Henry)

I've received more positive feedback about the 8th annual Eighth Day Symposium than ever before. Many of the comments are similar to this one: "Congratulations! I've been to all seven of the previous Symposia and this year was the best yet. I don't know how you all keep outdoing yourselves." Somehow, by the grace of God, I think these attendees are right: each Symposium has been better. And it is fitting that this EIGHTH Symposium was the best of them all.

In addition to the local Wichita presence, sixteen different states were represented by the 176 participants: AR, CO, IL, IN, KS, MD, MI, MO, NE, NM, OK, OH, SC, TX, VA, WI.

The weekend began Thursday afternoon, Jan 25, with a private conversation at The Ladder, headquarters for Eighth Day Institute (next door to Eighth Day Books), between Ken Myers and a group of Eighth Day supporters. From this first encounter, Ken impressed us immensely with his story of developing Mars Hill Audio (a top-notch audio journal) and his wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of theology and culture. He's been interviewing well-known authors and famous Christian personalities for 25 years now, and the wisdom gained from that experience was evident in all of his interactions and presentations. Af-



ter dinner, the evening concluded with a welcome reception at Eighth Day Books, which included an introduction to the speakers and a toast to Warren Farha for building a beautiful house full of books which has borne fruit in a community of friends who care about renewing culture.



At the Symposium on Friday and Saturday, Ken reflected on "Liberalism and the Trivialization of Friendship" and "Social Media and the Commodification of Friendship." Joseph Pearce, editor of St Austin Review, who was brought back by popular demand after presenting at the Inklings Octoberfest, spoke on "The Role of Friendship in the Creation of Narnia and Middle-Earth." And to top it off, Panayiotis (Pano) Kanelos, President (and Orthodox Christian!) of the St. John's College, a prestigious Great Books college, concluded our weekend with a masterful presentation on "Friendship and Theosis." Breakout sessions were presented by our own Fr. Paul O'Callaghan and Joshua Sturgill, along with Fr. Francis Bethel from Clear Creek Monastery, and Robert Elder from Valparaiso University.

In between the two days of reflection on "cultivating friendship in a fractured age," Friday evening we hosted a festal banquet to commemorate St. Basil the Great and to reflect on cultural renewal. We learned about the powerful role friendship and family played in developing a saint like St. Basil, about St. Basil's defense of studying the pagan classics, and about St. Basil's theology as he defended the divinity of the Holy Spirit and played a key role in developing the Nicene Creed we recite at Liturgy each week. Pano Kanelos, Ken Myers, and Joseph Pearce, each offered short reflections on how friendship, learning, and theology play a role in renewing culture. Additionally, the Delano Quartet delighted us with their performance. But best of all was Chris Farha's reflection on the Theotokos as the supreme model of friendship with God and the Cathedral Choirs stunning – as always – offering of hymns to the Theotokos. And of course there was the delicious dinner, also offered by Chris Farha.

The EIGHTH annual Eighth Day Symposium was by far the most successful to date. If you were unable to join us, you missed out on a supreme treat. But lectures will be made available to Eighth Day Members later this month. You can join our growing community of members online at <https://support.eighthdayevents.org/Monthly-Membership> or by calling me at 316.573.8413.

I hope and pray God's grace will bless our 2019 Symposium the way the previous eight have been blessed. And I hope you will be able to join us next January!

Youth

# CREATIVE ARTS DAY

Saturday, February 17  
10:30a - 12:30p



## CALLING ALL AGES and Grade Levels!



### WE NEED YOU!



## YOUR

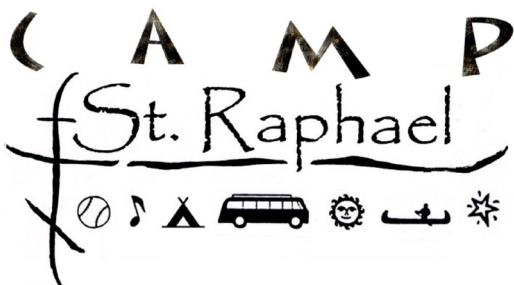
# Creative ideas

## THEME

"AND THEY CONTINUED  
STEADFASTLY IN THE apostles'  
DOCTRINE AND FELLOWSHIP, IN  
THE BREAKING OF BREAD, AND IN  
PRAYERS." ACTS 2:42



TEENS GATHERED AT THE ALLEY IN THE ESCAPE ROOM



## 2018 CAMPING SEASON DATES

SESSION 1: JUNE 24 - JUNE 30

SESSION 2: JULY 1 - JULY 7

SESSION 3: JULY 8 - JULY 14

Camp is available to all children,  
ages 9-17

Go to [WWW.CAMPSTRAPHAEL.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPSTRAPHAEL.ORG) for  
online registration available February 1st.

## YABOY!



YES (Youth Equipped to Serve) is the youth program of FOCUS North America.

YES is coming to your community!

WHEN? Friday- Sunday, March 16-18, 2018

WHAT? A wonderful opportunity to serve and love our most needy neighbors in Dallas, TX.

WHO? 13 years old – College Students

WHERE? We will meet on Friday at 5pm and stay Friday and Saturday nights at Sts. Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church: 1225 E Rosemeade Pkwy, Carrollton, TX 75007. The service learning weekend will come to a close following Liturgy on Sunday.

COST? A registration gift of \$175 a person will cover all trip expenses, make it possible for the YES Program to prepare and execute the trip, and enable our service team to meet the needs of those we serve. Please visit our website for info on fund-raising ideas and financial assistance.

HOW DO I REGISTER? [www.yesnorthamerica.org](http://www.yesnorthamerica.org)

ANY QUESTIONS? Please contact Katrina Bitar, YES Program Director:

[kbitar@focusna.org](mailto:kbitar@focusna.org)

or Jacob Corbin, Trip Leader: [jake247@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jake247@sbcglobal.net)

WAMP

# WAMP 2018

Winter camp, better known as WAMP, is one of the most fun DOWAMA SOYO events of the year. It takes some of the best parts and ideas of summer camp and crams it into three days. Some of the events that take place are a talent show, a dance, and many beautiful church services. The idea behind WAMP is to teach teens more about their faith and allow them to understand certain concepts. This year, the concept was the stages of sins, taught by Father Philip Rogers from Memphis. Although, church talks are not always the most entertaining, the speakers manage to make it interactive and fun.

The topic of Fr. Philip's discussion was the stages of sins, ranging from how the sin begins in your head to the actual sin happening. It was a very enlightening discussion and it never failed to entertain the campers. The speakers at WAMP usually incorporate anecdotes of their own personal lives and funny jokes into the discussion to keep the campers awake. Father Philip did an excellent job of teaching the campers but also keeping them interested through these methods and more.

Additionally, WAMP has many fun activities to do during the day. These include basketball, angleball, nuke'em, sand volleyball, board games, and many more fun activities. Although these are all fun games and activities and they would make WAMP great by themselves, my favorite part of WAMP is the community and people around you. It is so easy to make friends at camp because everyone is so kind and open towards each other. There are new people going to WAMP every year and I think every single person that goes, including first timers, loves the experience and



by Joey Maksoud

makes so many great friends.

After attending summer camp in 2017 and then going to WAMP the following year, Harper Amend said, "Thanks to the Wichita peeps for always yelling at me to go, y'all were right, haha". Harper, who first attended at age 16, made so many great friends at camp and WAMP in just a few days. This serves as an example of how kind and loving our community is. 7th graders can attend WAMP and your last year as a camper is when you graduate high school, however at that point you can apply to be a counselor. I remember coming to WAMP for the first time in 7th grade (I am a junior in high school now) and I did not know anyone, but not for long. After the first night I had made friends that were the same age as me, and some that were older than me, and would eventually serve as great role models. Moreover, these friends that I made that night are now great friends that I stay in touch with outside of WAMP and see at almost every DOWAMA SOYO event. I meet new people every year and my list of friends expands with years because of the welcoming community. It is also nice because almost everyone there is Orthodox Christian, so you share the same beliefs and you can have deep and meaningful discussions without having to argue. Winter Camp is always a nice break from reality.

I strongly recommend each teen go to WAMP next year. It is one of the best experiences of my life and I am so glad that I get to be a part

of it. I have made so many great friends and memories that will last me a lifetime. WAMP is a great break from the troubles and stress of middle school, high school, and college. It also strengthens each camper's bond with God in a unique way that is hard to find anywhere else. WAMP is one of the best DOWAMA SOYO events of the year and it is definitely worth trying out.

FEB 2018

Please join us for a  
**Chanted Divine  
Liturgy**

**Sunday, February 4, 10:00am**

For many years before the advent of modern choirs, the Liturgy at St. George Church was chanted in the traditional Byzantine modes employed in the Church of Antioch. This Liturgy will reacquaint us with the musical heritage of our parish and our Patriarchate as used in the Divine Liturgy.



**A NOTE FROM FATHER PAUL**

In Case of Nighttime Emergency  
After 11:00pm

Call my home number  
– 634-3959

My cell phone volume is turned off at night as text notifications prevent sleep



**SYRIAN**

**RELIGION**

**OF**

Wichita, Kansas

Syrian Religion in Wichita, in most instances, consists of those who belong either to the Eastern Greek Orthodox Faith or, on the other hand, to those who belong to the Roman Catholic Faith.

There are, today, two churches in the City of Wichita, both of which are associated with the Eastern Greek Orthodox Faith:

St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, of which Rev. George Kohlmia, is Pastor.

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, of which Rev. George Trad, is Pastor.

While there are no definite statistics as to the numbers of either group, records, meager as they are, show that there are about 400 Greek Orthodox Followers, and about 50 Roman Catholic Followers in this City.

Syrian Religion, as has been mentioned before, is strictly Christian in nature, and is one about which a great deal need not be written.

Suffice it to say that, the Greek Orthodox Church has often, and fully too, been called the "MOTHER CHURCH OF THE WORLD"



**Crown Them ... continued**



after almost 58 years of service to the parish.

"A lot has changed over the years," says Brenda. "In 1960, I could do a week's worth of grocery shopping for less than \$20.

"But I'll tell you one thing that hasn't changed: the rule at weddings then was the same as it is today – no clapping!"



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BY Traci SPENCER

**we'd love to have you join us!**

*"for I was hungry and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me"* — Matthew 25: 35-36

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

**COMMUNITY AWARENESS FAIR** On Sunday, January 21st, Our 3rd annual Community Awareness Fair was a success! It was wonderful seeing so many St. George members visiting with the various agencies and learning about how each one impacts our community on a daily basis. We will post our monthly volunteer projects on our bulletin board and in the bulletin so there will be many opportunities to serve.



In 2018, St. George will be serving the following agencies:

- Center for Hope
- Children First
- Royal Family Kids
- Looking Glass
- Center for Combating Human Trafficking
- The Treehouse
- Kansas Food Bank
- Lord's Diner
- Guadalupe Clinic
- VA Hospital- HUD population
- Cash for Classrooms
- Project Access
- Senior Services
- Family Promise (Homeless families)

**Next Meeting Tuesday, February 13th**

**12:00 noon in the conference room.**

We would love to have you join us! We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon



The winner of the Bradley Fair gift card was Cooper Dunlavy! Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who participated. The agencies were impressed with our parish's heart for community outreach.

### KANSAS FOOD BANK

On Monday, January 22nd, twenty-one St. George volunteers filled 896 bags of food for backpacks that will be given to school aged children in need to take home so they will have food over the weekend. It was so amazing to have a tremendous turnout of volunteers for our first Done in a Day project of the year.



### COOKUPASTORM

On Saturday, January 13th, six St. George volunteers made casseroles and cookies to serve to homeless families through Family Promise and to homeless men at the Warm Souls Center (not an agency but an outreach through Inter-Faith Ministries).

### What's Coming Up ???

#### THE LORD'S DINER

On Sunday, February 18th, St George volunteers will be serving the homeless in our community at the Broadway location. Please let Pat Milburn at 265-1380 if you can help! We serve the 3rd Sunday of every month.

#### CARE & SHARE/HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAMS

We had a great interest at the Community Awareness Fair in our Care and Share and Hospital visitation Teams. Cindy Abdallah will have an informational meeting in February regarding who will be on a team this year and what the ministries involve. This is an extremely important ministry!! We don't want anyone to ever feel forgotten. Please call her if you have additional questions or an interest in being on a team at 648-9576.

# The Cathedral *Messenger*

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## Eighth Day Symposium - pics

(photos courtesy of Emily Henry)

