



Volume 32, Number 9  
**September 2022**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## *Ladies of the Parish* — by Ashley Mullinix



I have been coming to St. George for nearly seven years and during that time I have been blessed with wonderful friendships. Yet I have long had a desire to somehow connect with more women at the parish, women outside my small group of friends. I felt that I didn't even know a third or more of all the people with whom I worship every week. I would often think, "There are so many ladies here. How can I reach outside my own social circle and get to know more of them?"

I tried several times to encourage others to attend the parish women's group that I was a part of but I realized that we are all in different walks and phases of life. Not everyone could attend the same group or Bible study. With these thoughts on my mind I approached Joan Farha during the spring and I told her about an idea I had. What if we had a dinner where the women of St. George could get together for an evening? It would be an

opportunity for all of us to get to know one another better and hopefully to build new friendships and relationships. In building those connections it would enable all of us to be more aware of what is going on in each other's lives, in all their daily struggles and joys, which would enable us to all be there for one another. My idea wasn't to create another parish "ladies group." We didn't need another one of those. I just wanted to find a way to bring the St. George women together maybe 3-4 times a year to help build a more connected parish community, to transcend the divisions and cliques – be they social / economic or cradle / convert or whatever – that can keep us apart. I wanted to encourage a strong community of women who could support and uphold each other. To strengthen ties and bonds that maybe Covid and time had worn down and to enable the building of new ties and bonds.

continued pg. 3

**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>



### MEMORY ETERNAL

Peter Tevis, 8/9

Aida Nasir Haddad, 8/22  
(mother of Janane Zayat)

Robert Nawai "Bob" Blackstad, 8/25  
(father of Nancy Jabara)

George Coons, 8/30

### CHURCH SCHOOL:

Registration for Church School begins Sunday, September 4 during Coffee Hour. Online signups will be available at [tinyurl.com/StGeorgeChurchSchool2022](http://tinyurl.com/StGeorgeChurchSchool2022)

The first day of Church School is on Sunday, September 18. We look forward to having our youth back in the classrooms this fall. This year's Church School theme is from the Book of Genesis 1:26 — "Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'"



### TEEN SOYO, YABOY, OCF

**Teen SOYO Bible Study** has resumed weekly on Wednesday evenings following Vespers. All those entering grades 7-12 are encouraged to join us.

**OCF** will begin on Thursday, September 1 at 7:30p at Ziggy's Pizza (in Clifton Square). OCF is open to all those age 18-25.

**YABOY** will begin on Friday, September 9th with an outing to a Wichita Wind Surge baseball game. YABOY will hold two meetings per month during the school year and is open to all those in grades 4-6th. Please contact Ben Mosley to RSVP for your ticket to the baseball game.



### SEPTEMBER FASTING



During this period, the normal fasting traditions are observed: abstain from meat, poultry and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays.

### MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

#### Baptisms

Lila Adele Juliana Braswell, 7/15  
daughter of J. Porter and Juliana

Teagan Lucinda Mitts, Malaki Arthur Coons  
and Dahlia Elizabeth Coons, 7/30

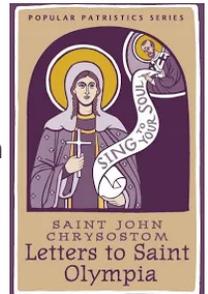
MANY YEARS!



### Women's Faith & Growth

Join us Thursday  
September 22, 7:15p  
in the Youth Center

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



### Moms' Bible Study

A bible study group for all interested women

Beginning Thursday, September 15, 1:30pm  
and continuing every other week.

Currently on the Gospel of Luke chapter 20.

We will meet at the home of Reina Nabbout  
2848 N Cypress Ct

Please speak to Fr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

### In the Beginning A series on the book of Genesis

Fall 2022 Adult Educational Program

#### September 21:

Reading Genesis  
— Dr. Mark Mosley

#### September 28:

The Genesis of Creation  
— Fr. Calinic

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





PLEASE JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY, IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. FOR

# HERITAGE Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18

## *Ladies of the Parish*— continued

Of course God brought me to exactly the right person. He had laid the very same desires on Joan’s heart! Joan said we could make this happen. She set me up with contacts, told me whom to call, and generously offered her home to host the dinner. We picked July 7 as our date and set to work. I reached out to Reina Nabbout, Nancy Claassen, and Beth Buerge to get the various women’s groups informed. Another conversation with Amy Fernandez put the word out to everyone linked with the New Breed group. Our plan was firmly in motion. Then with the date almost upon us we were hit with a hiccup – only a week out and Covid took our planned location off the table. Often when you are about God’s work the enemy will throw out roadblocks to try and stop and discourage you. So Joan and I took this as a sign that we were moving in the right direction! We did some last minute juggling and Danielle Farha graciously opened her home to host the dinner.

The night of the dinner over 40 ladies showed up. The women talked over good food and good drinks and the building of new connections and relationships started. The night was a huge success and we are now looking forward to and planning future events to further build this great and wonderful community of women. Thank you to Joan, to Danielle and to all the ladies who came and made this dinner a wonderful success. God’s blessing on us all.

## Essays on Social Issues



By Fr. Paul

### 1. **Contemplating America**

#### – Our Threatened Democracy

We hear much lately about “threats to our democracy.” What is the greatest threat to our democracy?

### 2. **The Monster Behind the Massacres**

What lies behind the staggering increase in mass shootings in our society?

### 3. **Of Roe & Rage**

Activists have promised a “summer of rage” after Roe v. Wade was overturned. Why the rage at letting the people decide regarding abortion access?

All essays can be found at <https://www.eighthdayinstitute.org/essays>

# Infant Baptism: The Indispensable Requirement

An abridged version of *On Baptizing Infants* by Fr. Lawrence Farley, <https://orthochristian.com/147542.html>

We begin by observing the indissoluble link between baptism and faith. The link is as old as Mark 16:15-16, which reads, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved”.



followed by another three-fold series of questions asking if he has now united himself to Christ.

Next we note that believing in Christ included a change of behavior on the part of the candidates. In Jerusalem in the late fourth century,

Note that believing is coupled with baptism as one of its conditions. This is why in every baptismal ritual a profession of faith is required from the candidate. That is, the candidate is asked a series of questions in a kind of liturgical grilling, and must respond in a certain way before the baptism can proceed.

Thus we read the following in the Apostolic Tradition, a document expressing the liturgical practice of Rome in the early third century. The one baptizing “shall say, ‘Do you believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was born from the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary, and was crucified under Pontius Pilate and died, and rose again on the third day, alive from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come to judge the living and the dead?’ And when he has said, ‘I believe’, he shall be baptized again” (the second of three immersions).

The Church first questioned the candidate to ascertain whether the candidate had faith—and not just any faith, but the faith of the Church.

We see this also in our present Byzantine baptismal ritual. The baptismal candidate is asked (three times, no less!) if he renounces Satan and all his works. Then after renouncing Satan three times, he is again asked three times if he has renounced Satan.

This is followed by a similar series of repeated questions asking if the candidate unites himself to Christ and if he believes in Him. This confession of Christ includes the candidate’s recitation of the Nicene Creed,

for example, the candidates were required to provide evidence of a changed life before the baptism could proceed.

The bishop sat down in church surrounded by his presbyters. “Then one by one, the ones who are seeking baptism are brought up, men coming with their fathers, and women with their mothers. As they come in one by one, the bishop asks their neighbours questions about them: ‘Is this person leading a good life? Is he a drunkard or a boaster?’”

“He asks about all the serious human vices. If his inquiries show him that someone has not committed any of these misdeeds, he himself puts down his name; but if someone is guilty he is told to go away, and the bishop tells him that he is to amend his ways before he may come to the font” (from the diary of Egeria, chapter 45).

Here we see what was expressed in the baptismal questions—namely that belief in Christ necessarily entails rejection of Satan, and that rejection of Satan is expressed in a life of righteousness, in conformity with the teaching of Christ and His Church.

The Church therefore requires not simply intellectual assent to certain dogmas, but commitment to a moral life as defined by its teaching. If this moral component is lacking, the baptism may not proceed; the candidate must “go away” and “amend his ways before he may come to the font”.

continued pg. 5

Next we note that these conditions are not waived in the case of infants. Instead, it is presupposed that the ones raising the infants will do so in such a way that the infant will himself come to hold to the faith and live the life that such faith requires. That is why the Church accepts the words of the sponsors as an acceptable substitute for the infant making the replies to the questions himself.

To quote from the Apostolic Tradition once again: “All those who can speak for themselves shall do so. As for those who cannot speak for themselves, their parents or someone from their family shall speak for them”. Why are the parents or someone from the family stipulated as the substitute speaker?—because those are the people who will raise the child to have the required faith and righteousness.

Finally, we may connect the dots. If sincere and fervent acceptance of the Church’s faith and morality are necessary for baptism, and if those bringing infants to baptism are thereby promising to raise the child in that faith and morality, then only those with that faith and morality are allowed to bring such children to baptism.

## Farewell Friends!



*Oto, Katja and Sasha Kiguradze*  
are relocating to Maryland

If a parent does not share the Church’s faith or if he or she rejects the Church’s morality, then that parent is not in a position to bring the child to baptism. It is as simple as that. No one is “entitled” to baptism; the candidate must meet certain conditions.

Sacraments are not magic, which is why faith is always required from those coming to the font. State churches (such as those in England and Greece) usually baptize every baby brought to the font on the assumption that the parents have true faith. The falsity of the assumption is proven by the number of people actually attending Church every Sunday.

More importantly, this false assumption is dangerous, for it encourages people to imagine that they are Christian, when in fact they are not. It is not enough for them to give an intellectual nod to Church dogmas; they need to repent and give their lives entirely to Christ. Otherwise they have the name of Christian, but not the reality of salvation.

By baptizing indiscriminately, the Church unwittingly distorts and dilutes the Gospel by not insisting that the true conditions necessary for baptism be met.

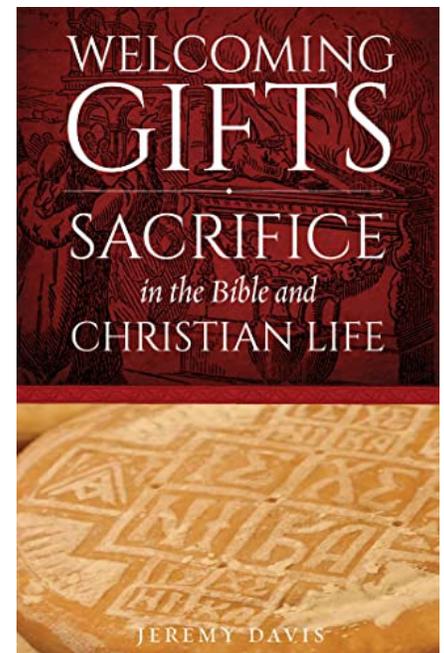
## Men’s Theology Group

We will meet  
at the  
Cathedral in the  
Youth Center

Thursday,

September 29th

at 7:15p





Submitted by Jenny Wall,  
Community Support Team Leader

## Completed Projects

### Christmas in July

Was held on Saturday July 23 at 10:00. 25 families connected with The Treehouse received 4 bags of groceries and books for their children. Cindy Abdullah and Debbi Elkouri did a wonderful job coordinating this event. We thank all the parish members who volunteered their time to pack grocery bags, donate children's books, and deliver the groceries!

### FOCUS Back Pack Project

Community Support donated funds so that the youth group of St. George could pack backpacks with school supplies. These were delivered to local low income schools. Thanks to Ben Mosely for coordinating this with the teens.

### Senior Services of Wichita

Senior Services of Wichita was the recipient of a \$1,000 check to purchase tools for repairs and renovations. St. George Food Pantry - Shelves were restocked in July. Thank you Jane Evans!



Next Meeting  
Tuesday, September 13

We would love to have you join us!  
Please contact Jenny Wall at 990-4096  
for more information

## St George Cathedral Church School

2022-2023 theme:

**THEN GOD SAID, 'LET US MAKE MAN  
IN OUR IMAGE, ACCORDING TO  
OUR LIKENESS...'**

— GENESIS 1:26



### PreK / K

Christine Koehn  
Alicia McLain  
Leah Morrow  
Naomi Polk

### 1st/2nd

Kyra Corbin  
Joanna Moussa

### 3rd/4th

Libbe Coons  
Vickie Coons

### 5th/6th

Macrina Bayless  
Mikey Klotz  
Candace Leming

### 7th/8th

Sean Hatfield  
Ben Mosley

### 9th-12th

Rachel Garton  
Jay Mullinix

Registration

**SUNDAY,  
September 4th  
September 11th**

Classes Begin

**SUNDAY,  
September 18th**



*Come and Join Us!*

St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral

# The 87th Annual 2022 Lebanese Dinner & Food Sale

Saturday, October 8th, 4-8 pm ♦ Sunday, October 9th, 12-7 pm

**Adults - \$20**

**Children - \$15**  
(age 10 & under)

- Completely Revovated Dining Room
- New Cathedral Icons
- Baklawa Sundaes
- Dine-In or Drive Thru
- Cathedral Tours throughout the day
- Country Kitchen Ethnic Specialties & Homemade Goods
- Advanced Food Orders Available - online  
(quantities are limited)

**Tickets & Information 316-636-4676**

7515 East 13th St • [www.stgeorgecathedral.net](http://www.stgeorgecathedral.net)

St. George Cathedral **87th** Annual Lebanese Dinner

**PRE-ORDER FORM**

Orders must be placed no later than  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**

**PRE-ORDER placement options:**

- **Online:** <https://www.stgeorgedinner.com/>
- **Phone** Lauren (405) 808-0652 or Cindy (316) 516-1949
- **In-Person:** Sunday, September 11 - 12:30 - 3:00p  
Thursday, September 15 - 5:30 - 7:00p  
Sunday, September 18 - 12:30 - 3:00p

St. George Cathedral • 7515 E. 13th Street • Wichita, KS 67206  
Phone: 636-4676

**Pick up orders at the Cathedral on:**

**Saturday, October 1st**  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Sunday, October 2nd**  
12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**(Orders NOT PICKED UP will be cancelled and money REFUNDED)**

---

ITEM	PRICE	ITEM	PRICE
<b>Kibba Pan</b> (12 pieces)	\$20.00	<b>Meat Pies</b> (pkg. of 8)	\$15.00
<b>Cabbage Rolls</b> (20 pieces)	\$20.00	<b>Splnach Pies</b> (pkg. of 8)	\$15.00
<b>Baklawa Pan</b> (20 pieces)	\$20.00	<b>Salad Dressing</b> 12oz	\$ 8.00

*The Cathedral  
Messenger*

---

**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**

7515 East 13th Street North

Wichita, KS 67206-1223

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

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Wichita, KS

PERMIT NO. 734