



Volume 26, Number 1
JANUARY 2017

The Cathedral Messenger

A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

With the mercy of God John X The Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

**To my brethren the pastors of the holy Antiochian Church.
To my sons wherever they are in this Apostolic See.**

“When it was time for thy presence on earth the first enrollment of the world took place.

Then it was that thou didst decide to enroll the names of men who believe in thy nativity”

Every winter, the Baby of the cave visits us to wipe away with His simplicity, our distress and difficulties, to touch with His humility our souls, and to illumine our world with His divine peace.

The Lord used the cave to walk into the caves of our souls, to clean them and to crystallize them with His divine love.

On Christmas we are always called to remember that the Lord of the cave has come to join us and to be with us, to build up his home in our souls, and plant His seeds in the heart and in the whole human person.

He has come to overwhelm our souls with the brilliance of His love and with the outflow of his compassion and tenderness.

He came that we may become His church branded with His name in our hearts and minds and in all our being, in our deeds and mercy towards everybody, so as to cling to Him through faith we inherited and received from our ancestors not from anyone else. He came to lay His seal on our hearts so as to cling and adhere to Him and



defend our homeland and get deeply rooted in it; to be rooted in our cities, villages, and mountains, in the first land, the land of the church of Antioch that has spread the word “Christians” to the whole world.

On Christmas we are called as were our ancestors, to be written down for the sake of Christ. This is what the psalmist says and what the church chants on Christmas. The day Christ was born, a census was made and this was by the order of Caesar. From this census the psalmist starts inviting the soul to be written down, branded, sealed and registered in the book of Life with Christ. We are called as he says elsewhere, in order to be written down, and in order to remember that this has been done that we are “written down on the name of Christ’s Divinity”.

We as Antiochian Christians don’t count our belonging to Christ as an old fashioned pride, nor do we count it as well, as a superior belonging, or as a literal privilege that has been mentioned throughout the pages of the Holy Gospel. It is in fact further than mere denominational or sectarian belonging that is sectarian and isolated at the same time. We are always called to remember that we have taken the Holy Gospel from the mouths of the Apostles, and that we did not hear it from anyone else.

We are called to know that the hardest circumstances would not take out from our hearts and our ancestors’ a confession other than what we received and preserved.

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

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We are written down for the sake of Christ. And we received our baptism 2000 years ago, and so we do not need anyone to convert us to Christianity. For 2000 years, we have been ringing the bells of our love for the neighbor, and have been expressing our open hearts to him, whosoever he might be from all the social spectra and religions. but at the same time, we are called to know that we belong here to this land to the land, we were planted and in which we stick to our faith.

We are in great need of meditating over Christmas. The Divine Baby has come to share with us the hardships of his creatures. He came poor invading the whole world in the tidings of his love. He was displaced like most of our beloved brothers.

On the day of His advent, angels expected good tidings and peace; they chanted as well, and said: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and joy among people". Many people read these words and think that the peace of the whole creation is restricted to enjoying security, prosperity and easiness in life.

At the time of temptation, many people would ask and wonder, where is your peace Jesus in the events of our world? The answer will come right away from the Gospel itself. The peace of the whole creation, and the peace of the human spirit are called to blossom and grow in the human souls that accept the words of God; otherwise how shall we understand and be aware of the fact that the birth of Christ has planted peace in the souls and in the earth, whereas Rachel wept and mourned over thousands of children in Bethlehem who were murdered when Jesus was born and became as blossoms to the Christian martyria all over the world?

The peace of Christ is first of all a consolation that cures our hardships; it is not a magical substance that takes away the yoke of suffering and hardships from us.

Our prayer on this blessed day is for peace in Syria, for settlement in Lebanon and for prosperity in the East.

Our prayer on this blessed day is for Palestine, for Iraq, and for every other spot whose people have undergone pain and suffering. For more than 5 years the Christian Antiochian Church has been crucified by means of pain, and suffering that have come out of barbarism, terror, violence and a suffocating stifling economic siege.

For more than 3 years the world has been watching the Golgotha of this East, by that I mean bishops to be abducted, priests to be killed, and many other people to be displaced. But this pain and agony shall be broken off by the dawn of the resurrection, and by the big stone of the empty tomb no matter how long the Golgotha may last.

Many people have spoken about human rights and about many other things. But it seems that the human counterfeit markets are applied to some people and covered to others with respect to interests and criteria.

The two bishops of Aleppo his eminence John Ibrahim and his eminence Paul Yazigi and others among the children of this wounded East, witness how interests are being used and how much man costs.

Unfortunately however, in the international slave market, the cause of the two bishops of Aleppo was and has been a sign of disgrace and shame on the forehead of those who have used "human rights" to destroy societies and countries.

On this Christmas, our hearts are moving to the manger of love, to the Divine Baby of Bethlehem, asking Him to look down upon the earth, from above, on the earth on which He was born. Our prayer is to ask Him to lay down his hand on your hearts brethren and children, at home and abroad (in the Diaspora). We ask Him to anoint your wounds with good gifts and with perfect talents. We ask Him to grant peace to this world and to bestow his truth and mercy over the whole world so as to start chanting with the angels: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth and joy among people".

Damascus, 18 December 2016



بطريركية أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**



Beloved in Christ,

As shepherds gather to glorify the newborn King in Bethlehem, angels proclaim the good news and offer glory to the Maker of all. The earthly and the heavenly realms celebrate the feast of beholding God upon the earth and humankind amidst the heavens. We greet you on the eve of this great and wondrous mystery as you greet one another with the joyful greeting.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Christ's Nativity offers us renewal and hope; a time of reflection on all that is good, pure, right and innocent. Let us worship the One through whose birth we are sanctified as it brings peace and forgiveness, joy and reconciliation to your homes and families and throughout the world. Our hearts rejoice as we join the choir of angels in heaven singing:

*"Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to Thee!"*

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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MEMORY ETERNAL

Martha Bebout, 12/28

Linda Farha Wallace, 12/12

“There are those who give with joy,
and that joy is their reward.”
→ Khalil Gibran

Join us - January 15th for
Godparent's Dinner



immediately following
Divine Liturgy

\$6.00 Adult
\$3.00 Children

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

2016

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD

JANUARY 29, 2017

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

JANUARY FASTING

January 1 and 6 are fast free and January 5 is a fast day. Otherwise, the traditional fasting (from meat, poultry, fish, eggs and dairy products) is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

BAPTISM
Iris Irene Binkley 12/24

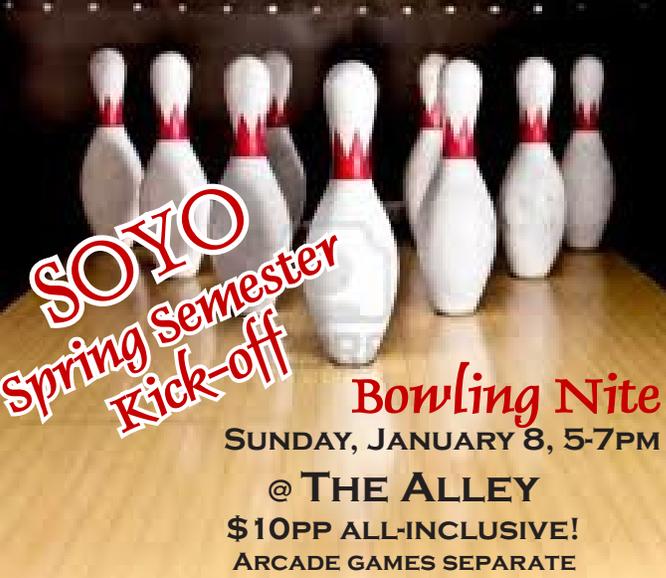
CHRISMATIONS
James Patrick, Ashley Elizabeth, Jenna Brigid, Brianna Joanna, and Gavin Kevin Mullinix and Michael Binkley, 12/24

MANY YEARS!

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

“WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO DON'T BELIEVE ?”

Wednesday evenings, January 11, 18, and 25 following Daily Vespers at 7:15.
Check the weekly bulletin for topics and speakers



SOYO
Spring semester
Kick-off

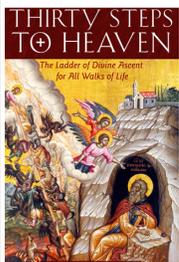
Bowling Nite
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 5-7PM
@ THE ALLEY
\$10PP ALL-INCLUSIVE!
ARCADE GAMES SEPARATE

Women's Faith & Growth

Join us in the Teen Room as we study

“Thirty Steps To Heaven”

Thursday, January 21 at 7:15p



The Seventh Annual Eighth Day Symposium

“WHERE ARE THE WATCHMEN: Theology in the Public Square



Speakers include

Keynote speaker: Frederica Mathewes-Green.
Bishop James Massa, Allan Carlson,
Martin Cothran and others will also be presenting.

Save the date now!

WHEN January 13 -14, 2017

WHERE St George Orthodox Christian Cathedral

REGISTER www.eighthdayinstitute.org

Earlier this year, Alan Jacobs wrote a piece in the September issue of Harper's Magazine titled "The Watchmen: What Became of the Christian Intellectuals?" Jacobs notes that only half a century ago serious Christian intellectuals held a prominent place on the national stage of America. That day has passed.

The absence of "watchmen" raises several questions. Where have they gone? Why are there so few of them today? Even more fundamentally, what is theology? And is there a role for theology in the public square? If so, what is it?

These are the sorts of questions we will be exploring at our seventh annual Eighth Day Symposium. We hope you can join us on January 12-14, 2017.

We're thrilled to have Frederica Mathewes-Green join us as our keynote speaker. As many of you know, Frederica is a great defender and promoter of Orthodoxy, especially through her many publications, including her latest catechetical book, *Welcome to the Orthodox Church*. On Friday morning she will examine the role of theology in public discourse, asking if Christian intellectuals are still valuable in our time and exploring what hinders them from being heard. And on Saturday morning, she will explore the notion of cultural renewal, asking if it is a reasonable goal or if it is even possible.

Our plenary speakers will continue to explore these questions on Friday and Saturday:

- Martin Cothran of Memoria Press, publisher of the curriculum used by Christ the Savior Academy, will speak on classical education as an antidote to our secular age.

- Brian Zahnd, Pastor of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, MO, and author of six books (e.g. *Beauty Will Save the World*), will ponder the nature of public theology in a post-Christian culture: is its role to clarify doctrine or to bear witness? Or both?

- Bishop James Massa, Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Associate Professor of Dogmatic Theology at Saint Joseph's Seminary, will reflect on his experience as a Catholic bishop and seminary director in the Big Apple.

Breakout sessions will be offered both days with presentations by Martin Cothran, Erin Doom, Chris Kettler, Stephanie Mann, Fr. Gregory Mathewes-Green, and Abigail Wooley.

A complete list of presentations – keynote, plenary, breakouts – is available at www.eighthdayinstitute.org.

In addition to the Friday and Saturday sessions, all are invited to a festal dinner banquet on Friday evening at 6:30 pm. We will celebrate the life of St. Gregory of Nyssa and our keynote and plenary lecturers will each offer a brief reflection on cultural renewal. Live music and cash bar provided. Attire is dressy casual.

Registration is \$35/day for the symposium or \$60 for both days (includes lunch and refreshments); \$35 for the banquet; or \$85 for an all-access pass.

Register at Coffee Hour on Jan 1 and 8 and receive a 15% St. George discount!

Information about the schedule, sessions, lecturers, and registration for the event are available online at www.eighthdayinstitute.org, by phone at 316.573.8413, or in person at Eighth Day Books.

**“Theology must witness before our world. . . . Theology must resound with the Good News, the kerygma.
The theologian must speak to living people, to the living heart.”**

~Fr. Georges Florovsky

Nativity Play

What a wonderful Nativity Play our children put on this year! Many, many thanks to Jenny Farha, Ginger Ellis, Christina Ashton and our teen helpers for making this play so great for our children and parish family!



EPIC SOYO Christmas Party



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BY TRACI SPENCER

wē'd lovē to havē 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

Food for Friends Christmas Food Baskets
Many THANKS to all who participated in this year's Food Basket project!! Even with an extremely cold snowy day, we were able to package 400 boxes of food and send parishioners out for deliveries in record time (1 hour, 20 minutes).

St. George provided 100 families with four large boxes of food to enjoy during the holidays. Along with the groceries, parishioners purchased gifts bought especially for the children of the families. Special thanks to Denise Johnston, and Joy Farha with Ray Sales, who organized the 10,000 lbs of groceries we delivered, and to Jim Banks, Lindy Bayouth, Howard Jett, John Bever, David Jabara, Steve Buxton, Mary Ann Laham, and Olivia Saliba for setting up the groceries and taping 400 boxes

**Next Meeting Tuesday January 10th
12:00 noon in the Youth Conference Room.
We would love to have you join us!!**



and how we can help. In addition, there will be a drawing for everyone who completes their "visit" card for a great prize.

2017 "Done in a Day" Projects

The Community Support Committee has chosen fourteen agencies for St. George to partner with by providing volunteers and/or a monetary donation, and would like to thank the parish for their input. We are excited to announce the following agencies for our 2017 Done in a Day Projects.

- International Refugee Committee (IRC)
- Victory in the Valley
- Kansas Food Bank
- McAdams Academy
- Treehouse
- Guadalupe Clinic
- Iasis Christian Center
- Cash for Classrooms
- OZ- Opportunity Zone
- Family Promise
- Harbor House
- Kansas Masonic Home
- Lord's Diner
- Help for Homeless Veterans



WHAT'S COMING UP ???

Community Awareness Fair
Sunday, January 22nd- During Coffee Hour - Please join St. George Community Support team on Sunday, January 22nd, for a very special coffee hour immediately following Liturgy. This will be our 2nd annual Community Awareness Fair, showcasing the community service agencies that we will be supporting in 2017. Each agency will have a table set up in the hall and will have information available explaining their services

Kansas Food Bank
Monday, January 23rd- Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E. Douglas
Please join us from 1:00-4:00 pm (any of that time that you can) to fill backpacks of food for needy children in our community. Contact Jane Evans at 636-2519 if you are able to help.

The Cathedral Messenger

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www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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In the case of freezing rain, icing, or heavy snow, Daily Vespers, weekday Liturgies, meetings, and activities may be cancelled. **If possible**, an e-mail notification will be sent out by the Cathedral Office. In cases of uncertainty, please contact the Cathedral Office or Fr. Paul or Fr. Joshua's cell phone number.



Time to Update

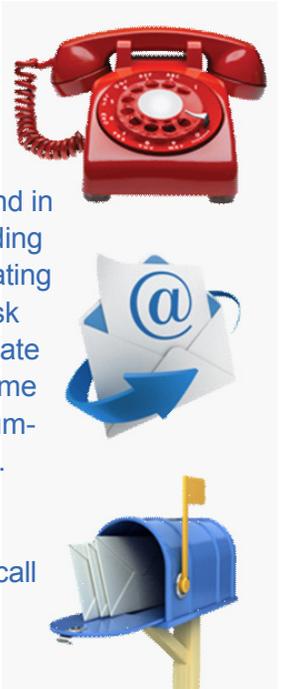
St. George Parish:

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.

Please email:

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

Thank you.



**THANK YOU
TO OUR MAILING CREW**

**WE COULD NOT DO
.. WITHOUT YOU.**

CONNIE CLARK	CANDACE LEWING
JANE EVANS	OLIVIA SALIBA
MITCH & LINDA SHANBOUR	