



Volume 28, Number 10
October 2019

The Cathedral Messenger

A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

HERITAGE *sunday* DINNER



This past September, as we have for many years, we once again celebrated our annual Heritage Sunday here at St George Cathedral. But, unlike past years, this year was marked by an especially festive celebration. While past years have been marked with a nice luncheon during coffee hour, this year's Heritage Sunday celebration was met with cocktails and dinner. Why the change from the typical celebrations, you might ask? Well, this year's celebration marked the end of the centennial celebrations and, especially, the completion of the Cathedral remodel project.

The remodel saw a number of improvements to our Cathedral facilities. The crowning jewel, so to speak, of the project was the remodel of the Cathedral fellowship hall. The hall received a new design and many technological upgrades, not to mention new paint and beautiful new carpet. I think we all can agree that everything looks wonderful! And, so to wrap up the centennial year and celebrate the beautiful remodel, it was only appropriate to celebrate in a way befitting the great accomplishments that the Cathedral has accomplished these past 100 years.

During the cocktail hour, one could see parishioners with radiant smiles moving about the hall, having jovial conversations with one another. The appetizers and dinner, provided by Two Olives/Olive Tree Catering, was delicious as always. Following dinner, Master of Ceremonies Rod Learned made us laugh with various stories recounting some parishioners from the history of St George. He also introduced the four speakers of the evening: Jeff Ayesh (parish council chairman), David Farha (head of the remodel committee), Steve Cohlmia (head of the endowment committee), and Fr Paul, who was not in attendance due to illness. Thus Rod read Fr Paul's remarks on his behalf.

From all the speakers' remarks, we were able to learn two important things: 1. The Cathedral, due to the endowment fund, is in a strong financial situation that should be able to support our facilities for years to come, 2. The remodel project was no light matter. They were a lot of challenges and those challenges saw St George parishioners rise to the occasion to help out in whatever way they could. This project was only able to happen because we came together as a community and worked together! Special thanks

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

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FUNDRAISER
 Gourmet Popcorn \$5
 Apple Cider \$2
 Hot Cocoa \$2
 Popcorn & Drink Combo \$6



Teen SOYO Fundraiser
 HELP FUND THE 2020 TEEN SOYO SKI TRIP

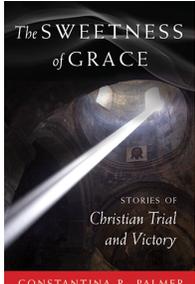
Teen SOYO will be holding a fundraiser during this year's Fall Festival to raise money for the upcoming Ski Trip in February. We will be selling popcorn bags along with 2 beverages for \$6. Please join us Sunday, October 27th, from 5:00-7:00 for the Fall Festival and help support Teen SOYO. Thank you!



Women's Faith & Growth

**Join us Thursday
 October 3, 7:15p
 in the Youth Center**

for an evening of fellowship & faith
 Studying book by Constantina R. Palmer:
"The Sweetness of Grace"
 Leader, Megan Gilbert



OCTOBER FASTING



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

MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

BIRTH
 Roman Farha, 9/30
 son of Timothy and Danielle

BAPTISM
 Alfred Theodore Farha, 8/31
 son of Benjamin and Lexi

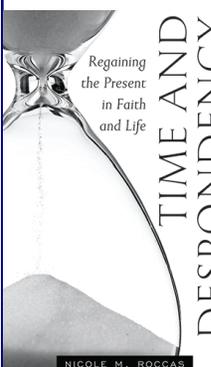
John Andrew Gleason, 9/1
 son of John and Jamie

Gregory Elias Phillips, 9/7
 son of Fr Jeremiah & Kh Katherine

MANY YEARS!

Midwest Orthodox Women's Retreat

November 1st & 2nd, 2019



with
Nicole M. Roccas
 author of
Time and Despondency

Book available at Eighth Day Books

Order of Events:

Friday, November 1st
 6:00p Dinner
 7:30-8:45p 1st session
 8:45-9:00p Evening prayers

Saturday, November 2nd
 Continental Breakfast
 8:00-8:30a Morning prayers
 8:30-10:30a 2nd session
 10:30-10:45a Break
 10:45-12:30p 3rd session
 12:30-1:30p Lunch
 1:30-3:30p 4th session
 3:30-4:00p Great Vespers

Lodging: Ramada Hotel & Convention Center
 Downtown Topeka 420 SE 6th Ave, Topeka, KS
 1-800-432-2424 - Room price: \$79,
 1 King or 2 Queen. Ask for Women's Retreat to receive this rate. After Oct 18th, rooms cannot be guaranteed.

Registration fee: \$90/pp - includes conference, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch & snacks

Your Missions Dollars at Work ...

The Missions Support Team at St. George had a bittersweet day on a Sunday in July! We got to have a short visit with Floyd Frantz, our OCMC missionary, but it was the same weekend we were saying farewell to the Sipp family. That evening a few of us were able to gather for dinner to greet Floyd and to share a last meal with the Sipp.

Even as we rejoiced in all the missions excitement Sandy and her family have generated at St. George through the Kenya Project, we all rejoiced at hearing Floyd's short but powerful presentation outlining the exciting vision of the work he has been doing with Archbishop David (over many years of visits to Alaska), and the Board of Directors of St. Herman of Alaska Seminary, in reorienting the seminary in a way that has the tremendous potential for revitalizing churches throughout their communities and even throughout North America!

Floyd shared the vision he has had for ten years for Alaska—much of the same vision

he saw come to fruition during 17 years of mission work in Romania and Moldova. (Places in dire need, but with no concept of how to address those needs.) While in those countries, he began Orthodox Twelve-Step programs for alcohol and substance abuse treatment, first at hospitals and sanitariums, then with a day center and independent treatment centers, and finally at monasteries.



He treated and taught the clergy to be interventionists using this program, and set up such independent programs that he has been able to be away from his highly functioning staff to travel to Africa and start programs there, as well as to Alaska, to counsel the Bishop and church leaders in Alaska on possibilities there.



This work is just beginning as you read this! The seminary will now train their students to be proficient Readers in their churches who can perform many of the functions formerly left to priests, and to conduct church tours and catechism classes to encourage the growth—spiritually and in numbers—of their local churches. The “REC” program “Readers-Excellence-Challenge” as it is called, will now be a main thrust of the seminarians’ training. Along with this program the newly-titled recovery program for Alaska and beyond—“Freedom Challenge,” that has its roots in Orthodox Spirituality— will begin by training the seminarians as interventionists for their

communities and families. The Orthodoxy of this program can be described as akin to what we experience in the Church from the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican through to Pentecost. What a chance for this program to change lives forever!

For their continued spiritual growth and training, the plan is for the seminarians at St. Hermans to attend their last two years of study at St. Tikhon Seminary in Pennsylvania, away from the pull of the worries or concerns of surviving everyday life in Alaska.

Even as Floyd was away from his work and wife Ancuta and family in Romania, last summer, traveling throughout the United States to update all of us, Ancuta's sweet mother passed away. He and Ancuta will be together again for Christmas, but in the meantime, please pray for her strength and health to carry on with her ministry and family responsibilities in Romania while Floyd is away.



And please thank God for the new ministry in Alaska and that this pilot program may someday be able to travel throughout North America for the healing and growth of all Orthodox Churches in our land—and especially for the small, struggling Churches and their communities. If you would like more information about these programs, the Mission Support Team has a brochure available on the table in the breezeway. If you would like to write Floyd and offer him your personal prayer support, write him at <floydfrantz@gmail.com>

May we say "Glory to God for His hand on the St. Dimitrie Program as it has become established in Romania and Moldova, and, now, for His guidance for the REC and Freedom Challenge programs in Alaska and on to North America!"

The Middle East Through Christian Eyes Film Event



Featuring two short documentaries
By Syrian American Director Sargon Saadi

*The Last Plight and
Silence After the Storm*

Panel Discussion to Follow

Thursday, October 24, 2019

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

WSU - Old Town, 238 N Mead, Wichita, KS 67202

Many Thanks



To my beloved parishioners, many thanks for the beautiful epigonation presented for the occasion of my 40th anniversary in the holy priesthood. May our good God continue to bless and prosper our wonderful parish community! – Fr. Paul



Arabic Classes

For children and/or adults.
If you're interested, please
contact Fr. Paul

Your Children Won't Be Christian

By Fr. Paul O'Callaghan



That's a likely outcome, according to recent studies. Whether Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, or Evangelical, all Christian groups are hemorrhaging young people. It was once believed that once they marry and have children, "they'll come back". Now, the indications are that this is less and less the case. In fact, fewer are marrying at all.

Many Orthodox once believed that all that was necessary was to perform the services piously and pass on the language and culture of one's ethnic group. Yet younger generations became alienated hearing services in archaic forms of languages they didn't understand. Then it was thought that doing services in English would be enough. But younger people still felt the pull of American culture and often couldn't make sense of Orthodox rituals and traditions. They drifted away from the Church in droves.

The Roman Catholic Church became sensitive to these problems in the 1950's, and during the 60's they undertook a program to modernize "the Mass." In many cases, they trashed tradition as quickly as they could, translating the Mass from Latin into a banal form of modern English, tossing images into a garbage pile, introducing guitars and Protestant hymns, baptizing modern art and architecture, simplifying the service, having the priest face the people rather than East while praying, instituting Saturday and Sunday evening Masses. The result was a "fast food" approach that attempted to appeal to the masses but in fact alienated many with what felt to them like a cheapened and dull Liturgy. Catholics continued to drift away from their Church *en masse* either in spite of or because of "the reform."

Evangelicals took a similar but predictably much more radical approach. They decided the problem was that church felt too much like "church." The answer: make the service into an entertainment event featuring rock bands, light shows, fog machines, comfortable loge seating, coffee shops and snacks in the sanctuary etc. Of course, insert a sermon that promised how Jesus will make your life so much more fulfilling and exciting. But many young people decided that they could have exciting and fulfilling lives without Jesus. And when they wanted rock concerts and entertainment, they could find much better quality in the world than in church. Due to the concerted efforts to make the Church look just like the world, young people decided the world was enough. Who needs the Church?

Mainline Protestants often took the same approach but in a different direction. They largely decided to embrace the sexual revolution in all its fullness. So many denominations now perform gay marriages, have openly homosexual pastors, promote liberal political agendas, and re-invent God to suit what is trending in society. But if the Church takes its lead from the world, who needs the Church? Young people haven't been fooled by these moves. They understand. The world is enough.

We have to ask: why would your children want to remain Christian? The world offers everything one could desire – the promises of riches and luxury, challenging and gratifying career opportunities, freely available sex in any and every variety, fulfilling and satisfying experiences of all kinds, pathways to healthy and beautiful bodies, every conceivable form of entertainment, amazing cui-

sines and diner delights, an unlimited variety of beverages, exotic cultures and vacations, and all the inner pleasures that the ingestion of drugs can provide. In view of that, why would a young person heed the words of Christ, "If anyone would come after me, let him take up his cross, deny himself, and follow me"? Why would anyone want to do that? Do you see what we're up against? Yes, it's likely – your children won't be Christian. And so for the generations following them.

Why lead life in an attempt to please a God who is out there somewhere, when you can lead your life to please yourself? *You can have it your way.* In fact, you can create yourself. You can decorate yourself with body art that proclaims YOU. You can color your hair in hues unknown to nature. And now, you can even choose your gender or not to have one at all. If you create *you*, who needs God?

I mentioned in a homily recently that Christ is either *essential or inconsequential*. Either he means everything or nothing. Which are you teaching your children?

If you rise on Sunday morning and then discuss, "should we go to church today?", you've already decided – Christ is inconsequential. He really doesn't matter that much. If you decide to stay home and have bacon and eggs rather than take the trouble to head to the Lord's table, you've already decided. Christ is inconsequential. He doesn't matter that much. If you decide to relax and sleep in on Sunday morning, you've already decided. Christ is inconsequential. He really doesn't matter that much.

And please, don't kid yourself that you can have Christ without Church. You won't fool your kids. They will get the message loudly and clearly. If "Take, eat, this is my body ..." doesn't mean much to you, it won't mean anything to them. Your children won't be Christian. You will have taught them well.

What's the best way to learn a foreign language? You go live in a foreign country and hear it and speak it day in and day out. It's called *immersion*. It's the only way for a native non-speaker to become truly fluent.

The same is true for fluency in the Faith. The only way to fully embrace and retain it is by *immersion*. Regular services, readings, prayer, and education all play a role. *Immersion* is the reason that Christ the Savior Academy exists. Orthodoxy must be an every day affair. Once a week, let alone once a month or occasionally, won't cut it. Your children won't be Christian. What do your children learn when they attend a school where God can't be mentioned? God is irrelevant to real life. Christ is inconsequential. The business of this world is all that matters.

Now you can see and understand. Outside of immersion, your children won't be Christian. Even with immersion, it will be an uphill climb. These are the times we live in. It once was that society at large backed up Christian faith and morals. Today it is the opposite. Modern Western culture wars against it.

I've presented it as a statement because I believe that sadly, it will be true for many of us. Your children won't be Christian. But for some of us, perhaps it would be better put as a question: will your children be Christian? Maybe if you get serious and committed, there's still a chance. Perhaps you need to grapple with what your children already know: *Christ is either essential or he is inconsequential.*

Youth Teen SOYO

Yes Trip



Members of Teen SOYO had the opportunity to travel on a Y.E.S. Trip two weekends ago in Oklahoma City. Y.E.S. is a non-profit organization that is a part of FOCUS North America, a national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. While on the trip, we had the opportunity to serve the underprivileged communities of Oklahoma City in many different capacities. One particular highlight was getting to participate in



the Raven Project, a monthly event where parishioners of St. Elijah gather to serve a meal to homeless members of the community. Not only were we able to offer our service to those less fortunate, but through that service we gained a larger understanding of the world we live in while learning something about ourselves and our own faith in the process. If you'd like to learn more about Y.E.S. please visit yesnorthamerica.org.

— Ben Mosley

YABOY!



YABOY held our first event of the year at Aviate trampoline park. Our next event will be at Laser Quest on October 12th. Events are held once a month typically from 2:00-4:00 on Saturdays and are open to 4th-6th graders. Contact Ben Mosley for more information.

hello Fall! **Fall Festival** hello Fall!

Sunday, Oct 27TH
5PM TO 7PM

Harvest Day

at **St. George Cathedral**

FOOD  **Fall Fun**

costume party Bring Friends AND FAMILY

CANDY

Admission
Includes Food, Games & Prizes

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

Lord's Diner

On Sunday, September 8th, St. George volunteers served the homeless in our community at the Broadway location from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Thank you for your heart for feeding the homeless! Join us the third Sunday of every month to serve together. Please call Mikell Awwad at 250-3016 if you are able to serve.

Cash for Classrooms

On September 25th, St. George Community Support will provide \$500 to the following schools in need in USD 259: Enders Open Magnet Elementary, Enterprise Elementary, Anderson Elementary, and North High School. A group of us hand delivered the checks to each school and got to see firsthand the way that the Lord is using us to bless these schools. Glory to God!!



Next Meeting October 8th

12:00 noon in the Conference Room.

We would love to have you join us!!

We changed it to the 3rd Sunday due to the Big Dinner. We would love for you to join us! We usually meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon. Please consider sharing your gifts and talents with our community. Please contact Traci Spencer at 371-5599 if you would like to be involved.

On Tuesday, September 18th Community Support provided a catered meal, prizes, BINGO, and fellowship from 11:30-1:30. We were thrilled to have St. Mary's parishioners join us as well!

What's Coming Up ?

The Lord's Diner

On Sunday, October 20th, St. George volunteers will be serving the homeless in our community at the Broadway location from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Please let Mikell Awwad know if you can serve at 250-3016.

Young At Heart

On Tuesday, October 29th, Community Support will provide a catered meal, BINGO, fellowship, and prizes from 11:30-1:00 p.m. in the St. George Fellowship Hall to our beloved Seniors. This month it has been requested that Seniors bring items from their home that they no longer use that are in good shape for prizes. Call Traci Spencer at 371-5599 if you have further questions.

HERITAGE DINNER . . . CONTINUED

should also be given to Alexander Learned for coordinating such a wonderful evening.

As we had a special celebration for this momentous occasion, so to Fr Paul has been reminding us of where to go from here. Last year's centennial celebration was a time to think about the past and where we've come from. We were able to give thanks to God for providing for our community these past 100 years. However, as we have entered into our 101st year, the past is no longer our focus. Fr Paul has challenged the Cathedral to look forward to our next 100 years. We've made sure that our facilities are beautiful and up to date. We've worked to secure a strong financial portfolio. But, have not accomplished so much to hoard our treasures. It is now time to make a more concerted effort to build up our own spiritual lives, to minister to our community, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our city. God has blessed the Cathedral so that we can in turn bless others from our abundance. May we continue to have God's blessing, through the prayers of our heavenly patron, the Great-martyr George, as we embark on the next 100 years of St George Cathedral.

The Cathedral Messenger

St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral
7515 East 13th Street North
Wichita, KS 67206-1223
www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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