



Volume 31, Number 12  
**December 2022**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## Metropolitan Antonios to Visit St. George Cathedral

We at St. George Cathedral will be blessed to have the Patriarchal Vicar, Metropolitan Antonios of Zahle, Lebanon visit us in the coming weeks. While the final schedule has not yet been worked out, His Eminence will be visiting our local parishes and will be meeting with all the local clergy.

For us to become acquainted with him prior to his arrival, please see the following summary of his biography (Source: Notes on Arab Orthodoxy).

Antoine el-Souri was born in Mina, Tripoli on June 20, 1970.

He studied at the National Orthodox School Mar Elias in Mina. In 1994, he graduated from the Faculty of Engineering of the Lebanese University, receiving a degree in electrical and electronic engineering. He studied theology by correspondence with the Institut Saint-Serge in Paris through the Diocese of Mount Lebanon. He graduated from this institute in 2006 with honors.

He worked at various jobs before entering the priesthood. On June 24, 2001, he was ordained subdeacon at the church of the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist in Douma by His Eminence Metropolitan Georges Khodr. He was active in the choir of Mina and was trained by the Protopsaltis of the See of Antioch, Dimitri Coutya. On March 20, 2005, he was ordained deacon at the Cathedral of Saint George in Mina by Metropolitan Elias Kurban of thrice-blessed memory. On July 24, 2005 he was ordained to the priesthood in the parish of Mina. He was priest for the youth in the



Diocese of Tripoli and Koura. A member of the Haraki Youth Movement from childhood, he was active in the group under the guidance of Costi Bendaly. He held various positions in the Orthodox Youth Movement, including:

**2001-2003:** Assistant General Secretary to Raymond Rizk.

**2001-2003:** Responsible for mentoring programs in the general secretariat.

**2002-2004:** Head of the Mina branch.

**2004-2008:** Head of the Tripoli center.

He was vice president of Syndesmos, the international league of Orthodox youth movements. He participated in several local and regional conferences.

On September 7, 2008 he was elevated to the rank of archimandrite during the service of vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos at the church of the metropolitan's residence.

On June 19, 2011 he became abbot of the Monastery of Our Lady of Bkaftine. Since that time, he has conducted significant renovations of its buildings. He prepared a small church dedicated to Saints Anthony the Great, Arsenius the Cappadocian, and Nectarius the Wonder-Worker. About two months ago, he restored the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in the monastery. He collaborated with the publishing house Ta'awwuniyat el-Nour to publish a documentary entitled "The Monastery of

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

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# Bulletin Board



## Teen SOYO Nativity Card

If you would like to have your name printed on the Nativity Card that is sent out each year, please visit the Teen SOYO table during coffee hour or call the Cathedral office Monday - Friday. Donations received will go towards scholarships for Winter Camp and the Ski Retreat.

The teens of St. George would like to extend a thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support of the Cathedral's youth ministries and wish

## MABROOK! BLESSINGS! baptism

Valentina Marie Baker, 11/12  
daughter of Dariel and Diandra Baker

Sebastian Rocky Trammell, 11/19  
(son of Seth Trammell and Tanisha McCreight)

## Nativity Services

### Friday

December, 23  
9:30a Royal Hours

### Saturday

December, 24  
Eve of the Nativity  
4:00p Great Vespers

### Sunday

December, 25  
Christ is Born!  
8:00a Orthros  
9:30a Divine Liturgy



## 2022 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAYS

Please remember to complete your pledge card for 2023 & either return it to the Cathedral office or bring it to Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, November 27th**



## Theophany Home Blessings

If you would like Fr. Paul or Fr. Calinic to come bless your home during the Theophany season, please email Gina at [gina@stgeorgecathedral.net](mailto:gina@stgeorgecathedral.net) or call the Cathedral Office 636-4676 **by Monday, December 26th**

**DECEMBER FASTING**

The Nativity Fast is observed through December 24th. From Nativity through January 4 there is no fasting.

## Bits & Pieces



Vaughan, was sewn by one of the Sewing Sisters and represents a biblical theme.

Sewing Sisters who worked on the quilt include Nancy Claassen, Martha Sturgill, Sandy Murray, Judy Stanley, Rebekah Hubbard, Marcia Bever and Jenny Wall.

Click box to see all of the meanings of the patterns



## Congratulations!



**Nick Oldziey**, our three-time Summer Videographer and current intern, has accepted the newly created full-time position of Communications Director.

Nick has been and will be continuing the efforts begun by former intern and Summer Staff member Zayd Dayeh, who proved through his hard work last year that a full time communications role was the next full-time need to be filled at The Village. Among the many responsibilities of the communications role, Nick will be overseeing all social media for The Village, The

Gathering Place Newsletter, video projects, and much, much more.

And on a personal note from me, Nick, the guy who writes these newsletters, I want everyone reading this to know how excited I am to be a part of this community in this communications role. You can't have communications without a community, and your continued presence, whether through prayers, keeping up to date with The Gathering Place, or coming in person to our camping events is what makes me love this position.

Thank you for making me believe it every time I call this community "our AV fam," and please say a prayer for me as I begin this full-time adventure.

## Metropolitan Antonios - continued ...

"Our Lady of Bkaftine: Holiness and Ancient Roots" about the history of the monastery from its foundation to today and its pastoral and cultural role in the region of Koura.

On June 16, 2012, he received the angelic great schema, taking as his patron the Prophet Jonah, during the Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Ephrem Kyriakos.

He is the author of several articles in Majallat el-Nour, including "Youth and Life", "Between Proselytism and Evangelism", "Meditations on Monasticism", "World Orthodox Youth Day", "The Issues of Homosexuals in the Priesthood". He is the author of theological articles and studies in al-Karma, the bulletin of the Diocese of Tripoli

and Koura.

He has taught various subjects, including Old Testament and the Epistles of the Apostle Paul at the department of theological preparation at the Pastoral Center for Orthodox Patristic Heritage in the Diocese of Tripoli.

On October 7, 2015, he was elected by the Holy Synod of Antioch as successor to Metropolitan Spyridon Khoury as metropolitan of the Diocese of Zahleh, Baalbek and Their Dependencies. On October 24, 2022, Patriarch John X appointed him Patriarchal Vicar for the North American Archdiocese, a position he will hold until the election of a new Metropolitan of North America.

## Bits and Pieces

### Farewell Friends



Nicole Newman and family  
relocating to Alabama

### Church School December Newsletter



The  
You

During this season of gratitude, all of us at Christ the Savior Academy wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the St. George Cathedral community and to everyone who has offered time, talent, and treasure so generously to our school this past year. Thank you.

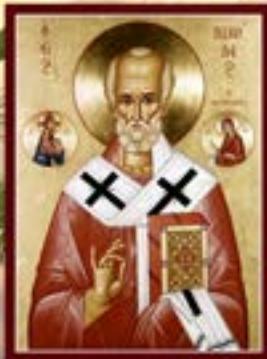


### CHRIST THE SAVIOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The students of Christ the Savior Academy will be presenting their Christmas concert on **Friday, December 9th** in the Fellowship Hall. A gift-basket silent auction benefiting the school starts at 6:00 P.M. and the concert will begin at 6:30 P.M. All are welcome.



## St. Nicholas Day Celebration



Monday,  
December 5th

Join us for an  
evening of fun  
and celebration!

- |       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 5:30p | Great Vespers           |
| 6:15p | Lenten Pasta Dinner     |
| 6:45p | Crafts and Activities   |
| 7:15p | Visit from St. Nicholas |

## Parishwide Caroling with Church School

You're invited to join our  
Cathedral Church School in  
singing traditional carols and  
Orthodox Hymns.

Sunday, December 18th, 2022  
After Liturgy

In the Cathedral Fellowship Hall

*Youth Activities*

# Exploration Place!



## THE WISDOM OF THE ANGELIC HYMN

By Fr Calinic



"Glory be to God in the Highest, on earth peace, goodwill towards men" was the simple and beautiful doxology sung by the angels before the shepherds. It is repeated several times a day in the Church. It followed the "tidings of great joy" given by the angel, that there was "born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10).

The circumstances and words of the angelic doxology have much to teach us. The Lord chose these shepherds for a reason. There is some historical indication that these shepherds were employed by the Temple and were raising lambs for the daily sacrifice. It was not an easy job – being awake all night in the damp cold – but it provided a godly service. Shepherds were poor folk, perhaps illiterate, often derided. Yet God saw the purity of their hearts in their simple, un-sung service. Such is a prerequisite of divine revelation. Thus, when the angel appeared to them and the "glory of the Lord shown round about them," they were receptive to this heavenly grace, and able to hear the angel's words to them. Their response was immediate obedience.

The angelic hymn was a celebration that the Christ child had appeared in the world, the greatest gift from God. He would be the Savior for "all peoples," a life that would preserve and save all human life. The hymn was thus a celebration of life.

Life is a precious treasure of infinite worth. However, it can only be properly understood and accepted when we believe that it is indeed a gift from God. Only then can it be appropriately celebrated, its shortcomings corrected, and its ultimate purpose known. In other words, when life is seen a precious gift from God, it can be saved. This

is the message of Christmas: "God so loved the world" – which had gone so terribly astray – "that He gave His only-begotten Son" so that all that believe in Him might have eternal life (John 3:16).

The angelic hymn further expressed a wish for peace and goodwill among all men. This followed, and therefore presupposed, giving glory to God in the highest. Only giving glory to God – at once an act of praise, thanksgiving, love and devotion – can bring serenity within a person, and harmony between persons. Worship is what ultimately grounds proper relationships and mutual respect among people. Without giving glory to God there can be peace and goodwill among men. Only such praise of God, and the joy arising from it in our inner core, can lift us out of the tyranny of self-absorption and egotism, which prevent both peace and good-will.

In this way, the simple angelic hymn delivers us from the overarching condition of our contemporary world: the paradoxical fact that we have so much, and yet are so unhappy. Truly, the less we focus on God and the more we focus on ourselves, the less happy we are, and the less our lives seem to have meaning or value. If we glorify ourselves, we can only denigrate ourselves. To assert our own importance is the temptation of the modern era, which can only lead to growing bored and fatigued with life.

The shepherds and the angels give us another path. By glorifying God in the highest every single day, we obtain peace and spread authentic good will. Indeed, we need to imitate the vigilance of the shepherds and take heed to the angelic doxology, adding our own voices to it, now more than ever.

## Community Corner

St. George Cathedral



Submitted by Jenny Wall,  
Community Support Team Leader

## Completed Projects

### Humankind Ministries

7 St. George parishioners gathered on Saturday, November 12 to bake cookies and prepare casseroles which will be served at the Humankind Ministries Overflow Shelter



The DUI Red Ribbon Project was cancelled due to lack of supplies. However, we did have one member who was available on a different date to help with this project.



Next Meeting:  
**Tuesday, December 13**  
in the Library. Join us!

### VOLUNTEER Opportunity 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](mailto:pmilburn@josephhollander.com) or 316-680-0209.

### 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 library. Email Jenny Wall at [walljenny4@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## What's Coming Up?

### Food for Friends - Christmas Food Baskets

This is our 38th year of giving Christmas food baskets to the needy. We will once again be adopting 100 Wichita families who are in need. Please donate to this project. Money collected is used to buy over 10,500 pounds of food given to the families. Donations, made payable to "St. George" can be sent to the Cathedral office. Volunteers will pack and deliver groceries beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 17th in the gym. We need everyone's help!! Plan to bring the entire family to participate in this fun and worthwhile event.

### Gifts for Children

Along with groceries given to the 100 families, we will also be delivering gifts for the children. If you would like to adopt a family by purchasing 1 gift per child in that family, you may sign up during coffee hour. Gifts will need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 11th.

For more information, contact Debbi Elkouri (316) 204-6688.



**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**  
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