



Volume 27, Number 9  
**October 2018**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## Welcome to St. George: Three "Generations" of Converts

St. George Cathedral owes its existence (by the grace of God) to Orthodox immigrants from Lebanon who made Wichita their new home. Theirs is a culture that we continue to celebrate in many ways.

Today, the vast majority of parishioners are no longer foreign-born—and at least half are not Lebanese/Syrian by heritage. Since 1948 many of our clergy have been drawn from the ranks of converts. Several parish ministries, such as the Treehouse and Christ the Savior Academy, owe their existence to the efforts of converts.

Each convert has a story to tell about the "road to Antioch" and what St. George means to him or her. Here are the stories of just three who happen to be connected in a very special way.

### A Scholar's Scholar

Anthony Gythiel was born in West Flanders in 1930, the fourth of seven children. Their mother died during a Nazi bombing raid when he was nine. Tony was educated by Jesuits and became a Roman Catholic priest. He served as a missionary in Zaire, a former Belgian colony, until revolution there forced him to flee for his life.

After settling in Detroit he left the priesthood and pursued a PhD in medieval history. He married Dana Jorns, a Lu-



1947 — Anthony Gythiel

theran inner-city schoolteacher, and started a new life as a college instructor. Blessed with an incredible intellect and mastery of 13 languages, Dr. Gythiel would become one of the most respected professors at Wichita State University, winning WSU's highest faculty award.



One of Dr. Gythiel's students, Warren Farha, introduced him to Orthodoxy in the late 1970s. Tony converted in 1981, and thereafter on Sundays could usually be found in a back pew not far from the icon of St. Raphael, a fellow immigrant to America. Dana sang in the choir.

After becoming Orthodox, Tony devoted much of his spare time to translating important Church texts. To date, 16 of his books have been published. Six years before his death, Tony was honored at a unique ceremony held at St. George, as St. Vladimir's Seminary granted him an honorary doctorate.

### On the Air

In 1986, Dr. Gythiel sponsored another St. George convert, Rod Learned, who had married Valerie Laham four years earlier. "This is a good day," wrote Gythiel on the day of Rod's chrismation, "a blessed day."

With his enormous red afro and made-for-radio voice (Rod worked at both KFDI and KKRD - FM 107), Learned couldn't help but stand out a bit. "No one ever assumed I was Lebanese," he joked, "but everyone, beginning with my loving in-laws, went overboard to make sure I felt welcome."

As years went by, Rod moved from the pews to the choir, gave tours during the Big Dinner, and was elected to the

continued page 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

Vivian Razook, 8/31

Gene Calhoun Sr. 9/18  
(father of Martha Tausche)

## "Mostly Moms" Bible Study



A group for  
moms and other  
interested women

### Studying the Gospel of Mark

Continues Wednesday, October 10th, 1:30pm  
and continuing every other week.  
Led by Fr. Paul.

At the home of Reina Nabbout  
2848 N. Cypress Ct.



## Women's Faith & Growth

Join us Thursday  
October 25, 7:15p

in the Youth Center

for an evening of fellowship & faith.

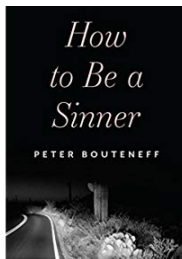
Studying book by Peter Bouteneff:

### "How to be a Sinner"

Leader, Vasiliki Sherry

*How  
to Be a  
Sinner*

PETER BOUTENEFF



## OCTOBER

FASTING



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

## MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

MANY YEARS!

### BAPTISM

Lucca Elizabeth Cohlma, 9/7  
Maximos Michel Terhaar, 9/9  
Evelyn Marie Morrow, 9/22

### BIRTH

Andrew Philippe Nabbout was born 9/9  
(son of Phippe and Nataly Nabbout)

### MARRIAGE

Tim Farha and Danielle Younes, 9/8  
Otar Kiguradze and Katja Mikhailchenko, 9/15

St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral  
& Christian Churches Together  
presents

Very Reverend  
Father Joseph  
Huneycutt

## Speaking on "Life Illumined"

a presentation from the  
Orthodox Christian perspective  
as a part of the Christian Churches  
Together 2018 Convocation

Wednesday,  
October 3, 2018

Daily Vespers at 7:00 PM  
Presentation to follow  
in the Cathedral



St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral  
7515 E 13th St • Wichita, KS • 316.636.4676



## Save the Date

November 16-17

## Women's Retreat

with Fr. Josiah Trenham

(Sandy Sipp for details)





## AN EXAMINATION OF POPULAR EVANGELICAL TEACHINGS ON BIBLICAL PROPHECY

**OCTOBER 10:**  
THE RAPTURE AND REALITY  
— JAY MULLINIX

**OCTOBER 17:**  
THE MILLENNIUM: WILL JESUS  
REIGN ON EARTH FOR  
1000 YEARS? — FR. PAUL

ALL PRESENTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
FOLLOWING VESPERS AT 7:15P

## CONTINUING CATECHESIS ORTHODOXY AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?

**OCTOBER 24:**  
HOW ROMAN CATHOLICISM  
MADE ME ORTHODOX



— FR. PAUL



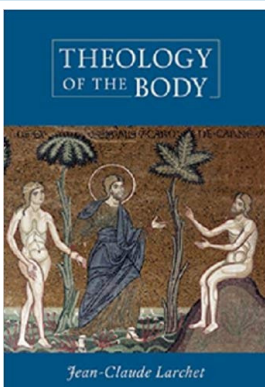
## Alzheimer's Prevention Research Study through Via Christi Research:

Must be between 60-75 years of age and NOT diagnosed with any memory impairment.

Testing for the APOE-4 gene, which can increase your chances of Alzheimer's, is included.

Voluntary participation.

For more information see Toni Sadler  
(316-641-8163) or phone 316-291-4673  
for more information.



## MEN'S THEOLOGY GROUP

### NEW BOOK

## THEOLOGY of the BODY by Jean-Claude Larchet

We will meet Thursday, October  
25th at 7:30p at  
Eighth Day Books

Join us!

## Converts — continued



1987— Dr. Anthony Gythiel & Rod Learned

Parish Council, Endowment Committee, and Christ the Savior Academy board.

"Becoming Orthodox was not a short or easy journey for me," Learned admits, "and Tony understood that, as did my godmother, Alice Laham. But I always knew

I wanted our children to be raised Orthodox." Today his son Alex is a subdeacon and daughter Erin youth director for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America.

## Let Us Attend

In 2008 Rod served as sponsor and godfather to Trent (Deacon David) and Jennifer Sebitts and their children. Dn. David was raised Lutheran and his wife, a former news anchor for KSN, as an evangelical.



Soon after the couple's marriage in 1998, Bishop Basil began a dialogue with a group of Lutheran ministers interested in Orthodoxy. Although he wasn't a pastor, Trent joined in the discussions and became convinced that Orthodoxy was where he and his family needed to be

At the urging of Bishop Basil, Trent enrolled in the St. Stephen's Course—an intensive, three-year program designed to prepare men for the diaconate. He was ordained on March 20, 2013, and has faithfully served the Cathedral as deacon ever since.

A distinguished scholar from Belgium, a deejay whose English ancestors came to America in 1630, and the grandson of a Danish farming family— these are just three of the Orthodox converts who call St. George Cathedral "home." Their lifelong commitment to holy Orthodoxy has enriched the tapestry of our congregation in ways no one could have imagined.

OCT 2018

## KENYA MISSION TRIP

PART 2 OF 2

By MATTHEW ASH

On Monday morning we drove to Makarios Children's Home, where two years before Sandy served and loved on the children there. They were excited to see her familiar face and to greet our new faces. We were welcomed with song and dance from the children as we gathered inside St. Nicodemus Orthodox Church there on the grounds of the school.



From there we split off into smaller groups with most of us going to classrooms with the teachers and students to teach them Bible lessons in the morning that correspond to Holy Week lessons in the afternoon. Jennifer Thomas and Chad Bumsted were part of the construction team helping to build the new classroom right next to the church, so they went off to begin their labor of love.

This continued for Monday and Tuesday because the Bishop wanted us to go to a different school in Meru on Wednesday. It was only two days spent with the children at Makarios in Nyeri and already relationships were forming. We were asked by many of the children and teachers if we would be coming back to spend time with them. We reassured them we would be back on Thursday to spend time together. The children, many of them orphans, and most in tattered, dirty clothing, would take us by the hands and walk with us. These children who have already had such difficult and unimaginable struggles, who have no material possessions and only the barest of necessities, were full of joy, questions, and love for us. One 6th grade boy said, "You have no problems in America" and we explained to him that while we do have a lot of material things, food, clothing, and possessions, we have problems too. I told him that part of the problem we have in America is that we have all of these "things" that we try

to fill our lives with because we struggle to find meaning, purpose, and joy – but all we do is fill our lives with "things" so we have a lot of anxiety and depression. I told him that in Kenya where there aren't that many "things", you have joy, faith, and hope and that you talk about God like He was here with you and that we in America often forget that fact. The day ended

with embraces, pictures, and "see you Thursday" shouts from many of us and many of them.

Over the course of the next few days we would spend time at Makarios Children's Home/School in Nyeri, St. Mark School in Meru, and St. John School (orphanage) in Gwa Kung'u. Wherever we went, we were greeted and welcomed like family. One thing became clear: Orthodoxy was alive and well in Kenya and the Kenyan people truly had the hospitality and love of Christ. During our daily reflection time after dinner each night, we would take turns sharing our thoughts on the day and the Bishop would listen intently. It had become quite apparent that our Lord knew what He was doing in each of our hearts when He stirred us to follow Him and His Great Commission and be sent to Kenya.

The final days in Kenya were spent on Sunday at a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. John Cathedral, which was a marathon Liturgy that concluded with hours of dancing, celebrating, singing, and the papadias (priest's wives) gifting of our missionaries with colorful shawls in African patterns. On Monday morning we all went to back to Makarios Children's Home where we gathered with the children, teachers, Fr. Gregory, and Bishop Neofitos inside of St. Nicodemus Orthodox Church. The children presented their beautiful song and dance performances for us, which were accompanied

continues next page



## a Farewell Letter

Twenty years ago, I sat in my car with Father Paul outside the Cathedral after lunch, listening to Father tell me, “Jon, at some point, you’re going to have to stop reading and start coming to services.” I had been doing exactly the thing against which St. Gregory Palamas fought in the 14th century—believing that I could come to know God simply by exercising my mind.

For me, the Church (and, frankly, God Himself) was just an intellectual proposition. With patience and time, you changed all that for me— (a) because you embraced me and my Roman Catholic family with everything you had, (b) because you taught me that the Church isn’t another doctrine to be believed but something to be lived and experienced and to transform one’s very being, and (c) because you helped me learn that the Church is messy and without any option to check out—it’s a family in which there are squabbles, differences, and sometimes, even, blatantly wrong things going on but also a family in which we forgive each other, love each other, and walk alongside each other as we make our way to the Chalice each Sunday and, ultimately, to the Kingdom. You helped me discover that knowing God is about building relationship with Him—directly, as in prayer, but most often indirectly, by coming to know and love each other—and you modeled this for me.



As we leave the Cathedral for Denver at the end of September due to my job requirements, we do so with hearts that are heavy—heavy with the sadness and tears that come with departure but also heavy with gratitude for all that you have given to us, which we’ll take from here to there in our hearts. You—the Church—have changed our lives for the

better for all of eternity. All we can say is “thank you” from the bottom of our hearts.

As the years slip by into the future, please remember us—in your private prayers and, from time to time, at the altar—and we will do the same. Whenever you find yourself heading West for any reason, please let us know and allow us to extend to you the hospitality you have always extended to us. You can reach me on my cell at 316-308-7261 or email us (dejongbiz at sbcglobal dot net).

— Jon (and Ann Marie, Arianna, Nikolaas, and Mara) de Jong

## KENYA MISSION TRIP - CONTINUED

by ancient, rhythmic drumming and clapping. Their faces beamed with pride and gratitude and they even pulled the Bishop out of his cathedral to join them in a little dance. I should mention that earlier in the week a little girl mentioned to us that she wanted cake. So, for a few days we put our heads together with Sophia to see if we could make that a reality for all the children. Following the performances, we handed out small cake muffins to all of the children and teachers as we left the church!

Now the time had come for us to say our goodbyes – we had grown so close to the kids, teachers, staff, and clergy. We had experienced so many moving, beautiful moments where we witnessed and felt God’s love for all of us. We had experienced a few struggles (a couple of us wound up in the hospital while others on our team dealt with some sickness and internal struggles) where we experienced the mystical grace and comfort of God as well, and we learned that these momentary trials we experienced while on the Lord’s mission were just small martyrdoms, and we took comfort in Him. We worshipped, prayed, broke bread, communed, laughed, cried, taught, learned,

hoped with our Kenyan brothers and sisters. It was hard for us to get back in the church van to leave. Our final moments there were filled with strong hugs from the kids...a lot of “I love you’s” back and forth, and words of love and encouragement from us to them, and from Bishop Neofitos to our team.

Reflecting on our time as missionaries in Kenya, we are still energized and strengthened in our faith to have witnessed the beauty that is the Orthodox Church in Kenya. The Orthodox Church is the body of Christ in this world. Knowing that when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy at St. George here in Wichita we are joined in communion with our Lord, the Saints, and our Kenyan brethren and all Orthodox the world over...that was made very real by our time in Kenya. We went to teach, serve, and love and what we discovered is that we were taught, served, and loved. Let us continue pray for the faithful and the people of Kenya and for the Diocese of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, just as assuredly as they continue to pray for their St. George family. Glory to God for all things!



I was given a great opportunity to go on Wichita's most recent YES trip. We helped with the Treehouse's Labor Run and passed out positive notes inside a Walmart. People's faces gleamed with joy as we handed them cards. I remember handing a card with a joke on it to a worker who seemed tired and his face just lit up and he even chuckled at the poorly handwritten joke and thanked me. It just touched me to see how a tiny little card could change someone's day so much. After that we had to buy lunch with only four dollars and do a scavenger hunt that got us involved with service. We had to do things like talk to three people, open the door for someone, etcetera. Then we went to the children's home. We were expecting young children but in fact got the pleasant surprise of teenagers. We played with them and it was awkward at first but then we hit it off! I don't think I have ever had so much fun sweating and blowing bubbles as I did that day. It's a memory that I will cherish forever and it even inspired me to change the way I see people and to remember to always live to serve and love.

— In Christ, Anastasia Likiardopoulos



## IDC MINI-SYMPOSIUM HELD ON WICHITA'S WEST SIDE



L-R George Saghbene, Ninar Keyrouz, Fr. Sherman Orr, Fr. Paul, Nahren Anweya

Many St. George Cathedral members will recall the Symposium held in February 2016 on the Christians of the Middle East. Guest speakers included Assyrian Christian activist Nahren Anweya and In Defense of Christians Communications Director Ninar Keyrouz. That event was well attended, but attendees were nearly all from the East Side of Wichita.

IDC Wichita Chair George Saghbene and Fr. Paul O'Callaghan have longed dreamed of and discussed a possible outreach to the huge Roman Catholic population on the West Side of town. This hope was realized on September 18, 2018. Fr. Sherman Orr, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, graciously offered his parish's facilities for the Symposium. Nahren and Ninar returned again to witness for the cause.

The evening consisted of presentations by Fr. Paul ("Who Are The Christians of the Middle East?") and Nahren ("An Iraqi Christian Story"). The movie "Our Last Stand" followed.

About 120 people attended. Many were deeply affected to learn of the persecution and plight of Christians in their native lands. The presentations were well-received and the evening was a great success! Many thanks to Fr. Sherman and his staff, Chair George Saghbene, and Nahren and Ninar for making it happen!



## Community Support

by Traci Spencer

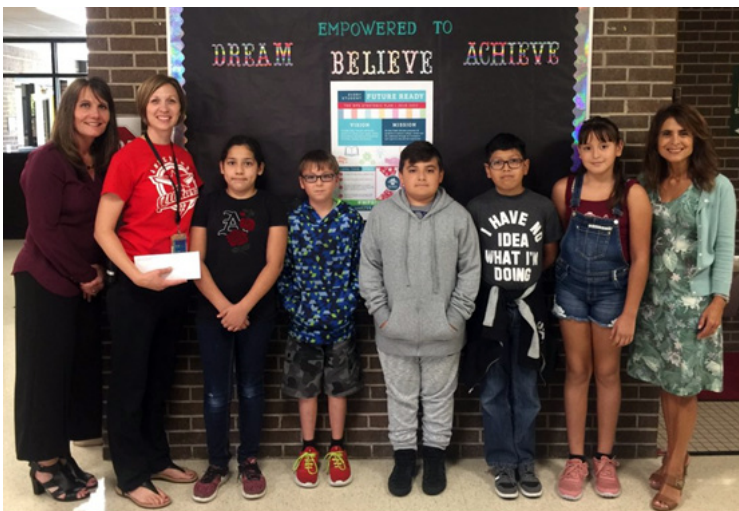
**we'd love to have you join us!**

"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

#### Cash for Classrooms

On Friday, September 14th, Elena Somerhalder and Traci Spencer met with the Principals at the following schools: Enders Open Magnet Elementary, Anderson Elementary, Enterprise Elementary, and North High School. We discussed the needs of each school with the Principals and Community Support gave \$500 to each of the schools for their Cash for Classrooms program. Enders Open Magnet, Enterprise, and Anderson Elementary Principals expressed a need for volunteers to read to their students. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering in one of these schools. The students and Principals are extremely grateful for the support of St. George.



### Next Meeting October 16th

**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.

#### The Lord's Diner

On Sunday, September 16th, St. George volunteers served the homeless in our community at the Broadway location. St. George serves at the Lord's Diner the 3rd Sunday of every month. Please let Pat Milburn know if you can help serve at 265-1380 or sign up on the Community Support Bulletin Board.



#### YOUNG AT HEART

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

Sunday, October 21st, St. George volunteers will be serving the homeless in our community at the Broadway location. Please let Pat Milburn know if you can help serve at 265-1380 or sign up on the Community Support Bulletin Board.

#### DUI RED RIBBON

Tuesday, November 13th, St. George volunteers will be writing the names of DUI victims on Red Ribbons in memory of loved ones. In addition, Community Support will give \$500 towards food for police officers acknowledging their sacrificial service in our community. We will meet at 1:00p.m. at their NEW LOCATION at 313 N. Seneca, St. 103 in the Multipurpose Room. Please let Traci Spencer know asap if you can help with this worthwhile project at 371-5599.

# *The Cathedral Messenger*

**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**  
7515 East 13th Street North  
Wichita, KS 67206-1223  
[www.stgeorgecathedral.net](http://www.stgeorgecathedral.net)

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Matriarchs of St. George on the steps of the new St. George Church in 1950. Proceeds from their Syrian dinners helped pay for the church. Courtesy Mary Razook.

## Centennial Photo Recap

1. **Nabiha Bayouth Farha** (Grandmother of Leslie, Ted, Ned, Ed)
2. **Rose (Wadia) Farha** (Mother of Ray, Flo, Joan, Bus)
3. **Nahima Salemy Farha** (Mother of B.F., Nellie, Sam, Sumia, William, LaBebe, Minera, Phil)
4. **Emalene Farha** (Mother of Floyd, Sr., Alfred M., Arthur (Tiny), Edna, Helen, Ethel, Lucille, C. F. (Bob), and Jim)
5. **Zakia Elkouri** (Mother of Mitchell, Louise, George, Fred, Mary Belle, Virginia)
6. **Rosa Swyden** (Grandmother of Pam)
7. **Atta Farha** (Mother of Fred, Ralph)
8. **Father John Matthieson**
9. **Julia Jabara** (Mother of Martha Sharp, Grandmother of Jane, Candace, Brock, Bob)
10. **Sophia Matthieson** (Mother of Father John)
11. **Mary Razook Ojile** (Grandmother of Charlene Jabara)
12. **Zakia Bayouth** (Mother of Bob, Lindy, Vivianne)





# November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

*Antiochian Women of St. George Cathedral  
Host*

## Midwest Orthodox Women's Retreat

*Featuring*

### Fr. Josiah Trenham, Ph.D.

Fr. Josiah serves as pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, California and will be presenting "The Voice in My Head: The Sacred Gift of Conscience". These lectures will explore the meaning and function of the conscience - a significant and much neglected subject in contemporary theology and preaching. Fr. Josiah will speak about what the conscience is, the fall of the conscience and its pathologies, the redemption of the conscience and the contours of its health, respecting the consciences of others - living in peace with disagreement, and the conscience in the Divine Liturgy, at death and at the last judgment.



#### Lodging:

Ramada Hotel & Convention Center Downtown Topeka  
420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS 66607  
(785) 234-5400 or (800) 432-2424

Please call Ramada Hotel as soon as possible to reserve your room. The room price is \$79 plus tax for either one king bed or two queen beds and includes the continental breakfast buffet. You can split a room to lower costs. Please let them know you are with the "Women's Retreat" to get this negotiated rate. After November 2<sup>nd</sup>, rooms cannot be guaranteed available so please book early.

Retreat begins 5 pm Friday evening with sign in followed by dinner at 6 pm. Saturday's sessions will end by 4 pm.

Registration fee: \$90/person includes conference, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and snacks.

#### Registration form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration form and \$90 payment to:

St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral  
7515 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St N  
Wichita, KS 67206  
(316) 636-4676



# St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral

## The **85<sup>th</sup>** Annual **Lebanese Dinner & Food Sale 2018**

**Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 p.m.**  
**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 12-7 p.m.**

- Dine-In or Drive Thru
- Cathedral Tours throughout the day
- Country Kitchen with Ethnic Specialties & Homemade Goodies

**Adults - \$18 • Children - \$12**  
(age 10 & under)



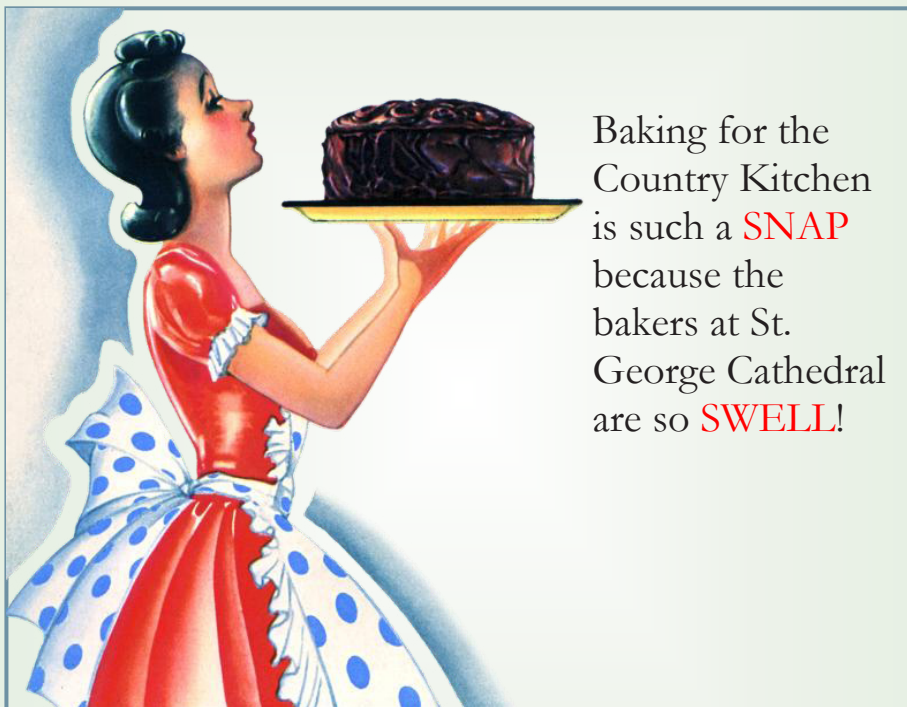
**Tickets & Information • 316-636-4676**

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



# COUNTRY KITCHEN

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Let's whip up some made-from-scratch goodies. Homemade labels and express check-in forms are available in the Cathedral office or at coffee hour. Questions? Please contact Val Learned (371-4866).



## DONATION DROPOFF SCHEDULE:

Friday, Oct. 12, 1:00 p.m. □ 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13, 12:00 p.m. □ 2 p.m.

Please take all items to the Cathedral.



## Express Check-In Form

Each year the community looks forward to the items found in the Country Kitchen. Your baked goods, ethnic specialties, jellies, canned items, candies, are a very important and wonderful addition to the annual dinner. Thank you for your hard work!

Drop your goodies off on **Friday, October 12th from 1:00 to 4:00p.m. or on Saturday October 13th from 12:00 to 2:00p.** Please label your goodies prior to bringing them to the church. Labels are available in the Cathedral office and in the coffee hour. Non-perishables may be dropped off in the church office during the week prior to the dinner.

**Don't have time to wrap your goodies? The Country Kitchen chairwomen will do it for you.**

**HOMEMADE FROM THE KITCHEN OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

ITEMS	SIZE OF PACKAGE	QUANTITY	PRICE	NOTES	PERMISSION TO REPACKAGE?
EXAMPLE: CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES	1 DOZEN	6	\$6.50	WITH NUTS	YES