



Volume 30, Number 7  
**JULY-AUGUST 2021**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## **BROOKLYN STREET RENAMED FOR ST. RAPHAEL (HAWAWEENY)**

New York, June 8, 2021



The new street sign identifying the stretch of State Street between Hoyt and Bond Streets in Brooklyn as “St. Raphael of Brooklyn Place” was festively unveiled on Sunday.

The stretch of street of home to St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral, the first community founded by St. Raphael in 1895. Today it serves as the main cathedral for the entire Antiochian Archdiocese.

The day began with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, who then led the clergy and laity in procession to the corner of State and Bond Streets to the singing of the troparion dedicated to St. Raphael, the Archdiocese reports.

At the corner, Met. Joseph removed the covering over the sign to reveal the new name: “St. Raphael of Brooklyn Place.”

Watch video of the unveiling on the Cathedral’s Facebook page.

“St. Raphael ministered to Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds and interacted with people of all creeds. He traveled the breadth and width of not only the United States, but Canada and Mexico, gathering his scattered flock. He planted the seeds of this ancient faith on these shores, a faith now embraced by peoples of all races and backgrounds,” Met. Joseph said.

“It is for this very reason St. Raphael belongs to this entire community. Both the faithful of this historic cathedral and those who live and work around it can embrace the life of St. Raphael of Brooklyn. We are honored to share this block, this borough and this city with all of you and this outward example shows that the city and its inhabitants also honor our presence here.”

Met. Joseph was joined by clergy from various jurisdictions and a representatives from the civil authorities.

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

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**St. George  
Summer Youth Sports  
2:00-4:00 on Sundays  
In the St. George gym  
July 11, July 18, July 25  
Pre-K - 5th Grade**



many years!

**Mabrook! Blessings!**  
marriage  
Andre Wakim and Jennifer Mattar, 6/5

**MODESTY & DIGNITY In Church**

As summer approaches, please remember that dress in church should always be dignified and modest.

For women, sleeveless or low cut dresses and tops, short skirts, tight fitting outfits, and boldly colored clothes are not appropriate. For men, no shorts or message t-shirts; a jacket is customary and long sleeves preferred.

Skimpy outfits and backyard wear are hardly necessary for comfort in a modern air-conditioned church.

**Teen SOVO Trip  
Frontier City  
in  
Oklahoma City**

**July 10**

Please contact  
Ben Moeley  
to sign up




**Join us for an evening with  
Stephanos Bibas,  
as he presents:  
"Reflections on Mercy"  
5:00pm Sunday, July 25  
at St. George Cathedral**

Stephanos Bibas serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Before his appointment to the bench, Bibas was a professor of law and criminology and director of the Supreme Court clinic at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is a noted scholar of criminal procedure. He has also served as a deacon of the Orthodox Church since 2015.

**YABOY!**  
at the  
**Sedgwick County Zoo**  
**Saturday, July 24**  
**2:00-5:00p**  
**4th-6th Grades**



**JULY FASTING**

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



**AUGUST FASTING**

August Fasting The Dormition Fast takes place August 1-14. We fast from meat, and dairy products, fish, and wine except on Saturdays and Sundays when there is an allowance for wine, and on the feast of Transfiguration, Monday, August 6th, when there is an allowance for fish and wine. A fast day always occurs on August 29 for the Beheading of John the Baptist in which we abstain from meat and dairy products.



## “HOPPE” in Christ! The work of Nathan and Gabriela Hoppe in Albania

We have missed gathering in the last two years to celebrate St. George’s history of outreach to our community, our nation and the world! **An opportunity to do just that is coming!**

We’d like to remind you of their wonderful ministry, as they come. **Gabriela is a master of creating outreach to youth and women as she devises crafts and Bible studies and camps!** Since Christmas was outlawed in Communist Albania, she has centered many activities for the home around understanding and celebrating the many parts of this precious story.



Just before Christmas in 2019, a devastating earthquake struck close to their city, Tirana. The following week schools were closed, and the Hoppes stepped in to provide a place and activities for children of working parents.

With the strict lock-down in Albania last year, the Central Children’s Office of the Orthodox Church sent out packages to each family with materials that they could use to do activities and engage with each step of the journey from Lazarus Saturday through the Resurrection. They even demonstrated how to create a bier for the epitaphios.

Nathan participates in many national and international agencies working for unity. He has been the designated speaker for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Tirana, hosted at St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Cathedral. He participated in a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Catholic Orthodox Dialogue and participates in meetings of the Advisory Council for World Vision Albania of which he has been a member for many years.

Nathan traveled to **Egypt in 2019** to participate in a regional consultation bringing together Orthodox and Evangelical Christians from the Middle East and North Africa around the theme of Christian witness in times of persecution and suffering. His Holiness Pope Tawadros led them in focusing on the importance and methods of **building deep relationships between Christians of different traditions.**

After four years of work Nathan completed his Doctor of Ministry degree at St. Vladimir’s seminary! The title of his final project was *Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities in Albania and Beyond*. Having this credential is a major asset in his work as a professor at Logos University!

Another major milestone was having Covid 19 together as a family! They are very grateful to have passed Covid with so little difficulty, relatively speaking, and hope that this has given them at least some long-term immunity.

Daniel had an unexpected opportunity to meet with the president of Albania, Ilir Meta!

The youth group of the Orthodox Church had organized a blood drive. The president came and visited and met with Archbishop Anastasios in the Sunday school room, where Daniel was waiting for his mom. The president invited Daniel to join him for cookies (and put this picture on his FaceBook page)!

From the progress of the children and adolescents who attended liturgy each week in a suburb of Tirana, to the 80 families who comprise the parish now....we thank God for the Hoppe’s vision and outreach!

Fifty young people at The Church of the Transfiguration



in Tirana, have been participating in a special Sunday morning program, when they attend liturgy and then have breakfast and games! Again...we thank God for the vision and the impact of Nathan and Gabriela and their co-workers!

The Hoppes ask us to pray that God would transform the lives of these young people and young families, that they would come to baptism and full participation in the Eucharistic life of the Church. **This is the vision in Nathan’s dissertation and the HOPE that is being offered to the Albanian people by the diligence and faithfulness of the Hoppe family!**



JOIN US FOR  
**MISSIONS SUNDAY!**  
**JULY 18**  
GOING INTO ALL THE WORLD...



**The Hoppes are coming!**

**Nathan and Gabriela and their son Daniel will be with us on July 18!**

Please join us, following Liturgy, for a luncheon and a Powerpoint-presentation of the amazing scope of the work of these longest-serving OCMC missionaries!

(See an update-article in this newsletter, and go to [www.missionaries@ocmc.org](http://www.missionaries@ocmc.org) to read more and see a video.)



**Hauran Update**

Metropolitan Saba writes that, "Father Peter, formerly at St. George in Sweda, [our sister-church in the Hauran Project] has gone to Damascus, and **Fr. Nicola is serving there, now.** Rakham is empty and completely destroyed. There are three new subdeacons in the chancery." He writes, "God bless you all. Keep me and the diocese in your prayers." Go to his Facebook page at "Metropolitan Saba Esper" and read his frequent posts of spiritual encouragement.

We will have a table in the hall on July 18 to enable you to lend your support. Or, send checks to St. George marked "Hauran."



**Project Kenya: June 18-28, 2022**

Beth Buerge has taken up the mantle from Sandy Sipp, our precious friend, to work with OCMC to plan another trip to Kenya, and the St. Makarios orphanage!

We thank God for Beth and others who are open and willing to work to make this support possible! Contact [citybeth@gmail.com](mailto:citybeth@gmail.com) for application information.

She will be available in the hall on July 18 for your questions.

Please pray for their plans to come to fruition by the grace of God!!

