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The Cathedral Messenger

A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

The Cathedral and CSA: A Sound Investment in the Future By Fr. Benedict

A quality education comes at a cost.

Public schools in Kansas are spending more than \$13,000 per student this year, and are asking the state legislature for an additional \$400-900 million in next year's budget. Private schools in Wichita charge varying amounts, but even those that charge \$20,000 per student find it necessary to have fundraisers and capital campaigns to help them make up for what tuition doesn't cover.

At Christ The Savior Academy – the only Orthodox classical school in Kansas – we are very efficient and careful in our spending. As a result, it costs us about \$8,000 to provide a quality education to a child for one year. We charge each student \$4,500 per year, which makes us a very affordable option, but leaves a significant gap.

The good news is, thanks to many committed donors in our community and some generous contributions from the Cathedral, we have been able to cover the difference. This is important, because it enables a great many families (including several with more than one child enrolled at CSA) to attend the school.

After tuition, the chief source of our funding (by far) is private donors. We have received large dona-



tions as well as small ones from individuals, families and even businesses. Sometimes these are one-time gifts; sometimes they are multi-year pledges. Last year, 83 percent of CSA families donated above and beyond their child's tuition. All of these donations go toward our operating budget – that is, the money we need to run the school.

Our next-biggest source of funding is the Cathedral community, which has generously voted to share a portion of proceeds from the Big Dinner. This is a gift for which we are so very grateful. Other sources of revenue that help a great deal, but which are only occasional (and so not included in the budget), are the memorial gifts made in memory of our dear departed.

Another important resource is fundraisers. For instance, the Antiochian Women have often donated money for scholarships for needy students. They have helped many families. Much of this money came from fundraisers held specifically for this purpose, such as the Car Show on the Cathedral parking lot. This year the fundraiser will be the Cinco de Mayo dinner on Thursday, May 4th. This money does not go to the school's operating budget, but is devoted to helping families in financial need meet the costs of tuition.

CSA is not a school just for the economic elite. Our mission is to bring the light of Christ and the light

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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>

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

PASCHA 2017

*All creatures have been filled with light, the heaven and the earth, and all that is below the earth. Let all creation, therefore, celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, in which it is strengthened.
Paschal Canon, Ode 3*

Beloved in Christ,

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

Having struggled together through the Fast, we have arrived at the Tomb of Christ and joyfully find it transformed from a place of gloom into a source of brilliance that permeates all the regions "in heaven and on earth and under the earth". (Phil. 2:10).

In accord with His will, God has called us to be shepherds of His people in challenging times. It seems that, in so many corners of our contemporary world, the darkness is deepening and the reign of death is expanding. But as we now stand together before the empty Tomb, we receive a light "never overtaken by night" which dispels every shadow. We receive a new life that shatters the power of death. Darkness flees and death is slain! In this new light and life, we—and indeed all creation—are strengthened, confirmed in our zeal to proclaim glad tidings of the triumphant Resurrection, which has liberated the universe from the tyranny of corruption.

My brothers and concelebrants, as we partake of Christ in the "Kingdom's day, which setteth not," let us renew our bonds of faithfulness and unity in the Risen Christ, in whose High Priesthood we have been deemed worthy to share.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop BASIL



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Wichita and
Mid-America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

PASCHA 2017

Beloved and Christ-loving Clergy, Monastics and Laity of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America:

I embrace and greet you with a holy kiss in the Name of the Resurrected Theanthropos Jesus Christ, and, together with you and Orthodox Christians throughout the world, I joyfully proclaim that Christ is risen! **Christos anesti! Al-Maseeh qaam! Christos Voskresse! Hristos a inviat!**

As we prepare to celebrate the most glorious Feast of feasts in our beautifully adorned church temples across the Heartland of America, let us recall and be inspired by another glorious Pascha – this one celebrated in stark Block 26 at Dachau Concentration Camp in 1945:

“The room was bare, save for a wooden table and an icon of the Theotokos. A creative solution to the problem of the vestments was found. Linen towels were taken from the SS hospital. When sewn together lengthwise, two towels formed an epitrachelion, and when sewn end-to-end they became an oration. Red crosses, originally intended to be worn by the medical personnel of the SS guards, were put on these towel-vestments. On Pascha, May 6th, countless Serbs, Greeks and Russians gathered in and around the barracks. In the entire history of the Orthodox Church there has probably never been a Paschal service like that one. Greek and Serbian priests together with a Serbian deacon wore the make-shift vestments over their blue and gray-striped prisoner’s uniforms. Then they began to chant, alternating from Greek to Slavonic, the Paschal Canon and the Paschal Stichera all from memory! The Gospel—“In the beginning was the Word”—from memory! And finally, the Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom—also from memory! A young Greek monk from the Holy Mountain stood up in front of us and recited it with such infectious enthusiasm that we shall never forget him as long as we live. Eighteen Orthodox priests and one deacon concelebrated this unforgettable service.”

May our Paschal joy approximate in some small measure that experienced by those courageous Orthodox Christians in Dachau seventy-two years ago.

Wishing you and your families a glorious Paschal season, and looking forward to being with you all at our Diocesan Family Reunion hosted by St Anthony Church of Spring, Texas (June 7th-10th), I remain

Your Father in the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Basil".

+Bishop Basil
Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

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

1559 North Woodlawn Street, Wichita, KS 67208-2429
(316) 687-3169 Phone BpBasil@aol.com (316) 636-5628 Fax



MEMORY ETERNAL

Chafica Cohlma, 4/14

Alec Gordon, 4/4 of London, England
brother of Sheena Gordon

Dolores (Dee) Naifeh, of Guymon, OK
sister of Jean Cohlma

MANY YEARS!

MABROOK! BLESSINGS! CHRISMATIONS

Anthony Trent, 4/15
Briana Griffin, 4/15



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

When offering

HOLY BREAD

The limit for the total amount of names is
24 for the living and
24 for the dead.

This means: 3 families offering – 8 names each;
2 families – 12 names each; 1 family – 24 names.

Please prioritize the list of names by the following:

- Immediate family members
- Godchildren
- Those in special need of God's mercy
- Orthodox Christians

We have been getting 50-60 names recently
and it is too much. Thank you for your consideration.



CLASS OF 2017

Anna Spencer
Niko Chapas
Jad Hourani
Patrick Maksoud
Dean Pappademos
Daniel Likiardopoulos
Joel Amend
Lucas Merawi
Martin Van Stipdonk

Join US! May 7
to Honor Our Cathedral Graduates and for the
presentation of the Kouri/Cohlma Scholarships

Women's Faith & Growth

Join us Thursday May 18th, 7:15p
in the Youth Center
for an evening of fellowship & faith.
We are continuing with the book,
"The Quotidian Mysteries",
by Kathleen Norris,
We will be covering pages pp. 1-26.
See Kh. Meredith if you'd like to order the book
through Eighth Day Books.

ST MARY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVAL

AUTHENTIC ETHNIC FOOD, SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT, & MORE

MAY 5 - MAY 6 FRI 6 PM - 10 PM
SAT 11 AM - 7 PM

Exciting new additions this year, including a Friday
night event (hafli) you won't want to miss! Follow us
on Facebook for more details, along with some other
exciting news about our food, activities, shopping,
charity, pre-order, and more!



MAY FASTING

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



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN GRANTS

are available to the women of our Archdiocese
who wish to continue their education in order
to improve their circumstances and those of
their families. Please contact the Cathedral office for Grant
Application and more information. **All applications must be
received by June 1, 2017**

PUTTING ON CHRIST

“For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”

(Galatians 3:27)

For many of us, the verse quoted above will immediately bring to mind a melody that we have heard chanted at baptisms numerous times over. Yet some of us may not realize that it is a verse from one of the Apostle Paul’s epistles. Still fewer of us may know what it actually means. A yet smaller number will be aware of the liturgical context for it and reason why we chant it.

As we continue our journey to the Empty Tomb at Pascha, it is instructive to remember that the Lenten journey actually embodies another journey: that of catechumens to baptism and reception into the Church.

This is one reason why the Litany for the Catechumens has retained its place in the Presanctified Liturgy. The catechumens are prayed for, as they are progressing toward *the personal experience of redemption in Christ*. Historically, this was achieved *liturgically* as they submitted to baptism, were chrismated, and then communed on the eve of Pascha. It was the experience of *putting on Christ*. In today’s practice, this “vigil” Liturgy of Pascha takes place on Holy Saturday morning; originally, however, it was a baptismal Liturgy and served in the evening.

The Apostle Paul sets forth theology of baptism in chapter six of his epistle to the Romans. This is the epistle reading of the baptismal service.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him



so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”

One can observe the interplay of death and life throughout this passage. On the one side, there is death; it is the death of Christ but also *our death to sin*. Our Savior voluntarily took upon himself the

sin of the entire human race. On the cross, he died the death of a condemned sinner, and thus in Him sinful human nature was put to death once and for all. *We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin*. When he was crucified, our “old man” – the person dominated by the evil passions – was put to death *in Him*.

Going under the waters of baptism therefore is a type of death: *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death*. This is why baptism must be by immersion; it simulates death. Yet is not simply death in a moral sense – in other words, the end of a bad way of life for a good way of life, although it certainly includes that. When we are *buried therefore with him by baptism into death*, His death becomes our death. This is because, on the cross, our death became His death. When we go under the water, our sinful human nature (the old man, the Old Adam) is entombed with Him, because in Him it was entombed once and for all. *We have been united with him in a death like his. All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.*

Our Problem in Church A Message from a Parishioner

(DISAPPOINTING TO SAY THE LEAST – FP)

Our problem is, as busy as we are, St. George Cathedral should be a place for our brains to rest, to take in the much needed words, the chanting, and the whole spiritual aspect of it. It has really been great for our family. Attending Liturgy often opens up dialog among us on what we take from each Sunday. Yet it is so hard to sit in the pew and try to listen, to take everything in, without the major distractions.

Others around us talk through the whole Liturgy. They talk about their clothes, their hair, where did they get their outfits, and gossip about people. Then they bring the little ones who walk on the pews, cry, fight over toys etc. During Pascha last year, we had a family split between two pews, with us in the pew in between. It was like we didn't exist. Those in front of us were pointing through us, laughing, whispering to each other, etc., to their family behind us. It was so rude and disrespectful to those of us who happened to be caught in between.

Perhaps this sounds selfish, but it is so annoying. We attend church to decompress and escape from the stresses of life, even if it is for an only hour or so. Yet we find ourselves distracted and frustrated.

We thought maybe it was just a few "off" Sundays and the distractions would stop, but it continued almost every Sunday. Each time, we walked away feeling cheated out of yet another sermon, or song, or word. So we just stopped coming.

A little consideration would go a long way. Be aware that there are others around you, and they are impacted by your behavior. Parents of little ones also need to be reminded that we have a cry room. It is there for a reason.

We hope that some encouragement from you, Fr. Paul, will help improve the situation.

Missions Trip

UPCOMING

The missions team of St. George is excited to announce a Wichita short term mission trip to Nyeri, Kenya summer of 2018! Bishop Neofitos is working out the details now which we will get to you ASAP! A Facebook page will be created for the trip with those details along with a sign up. We will be working on repairing the school grounds of the Makarios Children's Home and School, building new structures for the school, and providing vital Orthodox teaching on the tenets of our faith to these children eager to learn about Orthodoxy! Counselors, therapists, teachers, and builders, we need you especially to help with rape victims, children surviving the worst abuse, etc. Please plan on bringing your teen or preteen as well. Ella Sipp was such a blessing to these kids who were amazed that an American youth would visit them. It changed Ella's life tremendously and we know it will have a HUGE impact on your child as well. Let's make sure this next generation understands the blessings we have as American Orthodox Christians, and can fully appreciate how to share that blessing with the world! Come experience the Kenyan expression of Orthodoxy and trust that as we offer them our aid and assistance, we will be transformed by their unadulterated love for fellow man, and their enthusiasm for their faith.

- Trip will be July 19-31st of 2018, ten days.
- Funds will be raised as a team.
- Trip will be spent building and teaching.
- Teens and preteens are encouraged to come with their parents!



SPRING adult education series



~ Contemporary Saints & Elders ~

A Series on Holy Persons of Our Generation

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 – BASILIKI SHERRY
ELDER PAISIUS (OLARU) OF ROMANIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 – JON DE JONG
ST. PAISIOS OF MT. ATHOS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 – FR. JOSHUA
ST. NICOLA VELIMOROVIC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 – KURT SHERRY
THE ELDER THADDEUS OF VITOVNICA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 – TBA
ST. JOHN OF SHANGHAI AND SAN FRANCISCO

All presentations will be made following Daily Vespers at 7:15pm

The Cathedral and CSA: CONTINUED

of learning to all children. We are a mix of families, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, from upper, middle, and lower economic classes. This mix is good for the school and for our students. To make it possible for anyone to go, CSA has decided to keep its tuition much lower than other schools in Wichita.

Because of you, we are able to provide a great classical education in the liberal arts, one steeped in the Orthodox Christian Faith, to every student who comes knocking on our doors. Has this drained St. George financially? No! Since the school's inception, the Endowment has exceeded its goal of \$2 million, the Big Dinner continues to grow and exceed previous earnings, and the Church budget last year had a surplus. Truly, God has generously provided for all of our needs.

I am convinced that this generosity, and the school it makes possible, will prove to be one of St. George's greatest legacies to the Wichita community. It will also be our greatest gift to the next generation of Orthodox faithful at St. George itself, as it will serve to keep the Cathedral a vibrant, faithful, numerous, and Christ-centered community by enabling its youth to grow not just academically but spiritually. I, for my part, cannot think of any better form of stewardship.



**SOMETHING TO
THINK ABOUT
ON A RAINY, STORMY DAY.....**

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL,
YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !**

**B. I. B. L. E. simply means:
Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

When you are about to forward this to others,
the devil will discourage you.

**So go on! Forward this to people who
are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.**



Lazarus Saturday

Thank you to ALL who worked so hard to make Lazarus Saturday the best it's ever been! Special thank you to Kevin Boyd from St. Michael's for providing Lenten coffee drinks for all of us! Visit Kevin at Java Villa on Harry and Rock Rd.



Teen SOYO GRILLIN' & CHILLIN'

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BY TRACI SPENCER

wē'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

WICHITA CHILDREN'S HOME - OPPORTUNITY ZONE

On Saturday, April 22nd, twenty-three St. George volunteers completed a Done in a Day Gardening project for the Wichita Children's Home's Homeless Teen program, entitled OZ. They weeded raised beds, planted flowers and vegetables, and spread mulch. In addition, we were given a tour of their facility. They have a nice area in the basement of the Radical Praise Church. The Opportunity Zone program provides the teens' meals, a place to rest, art therapy, fellowship, shower and bathrooms, clothing, diapers and formula for young mothers, and group support.



YOUNG AT HEART

On Sunday, April 25th, from 11:30-1:00 St. George, St. Mary, and St. Michael parishioners enjoyed a catered meal by Danny Shadid, had fellowship, and played Bingo. Special thanks to Mikell Awwad, Val Learned, Joan Farha, Elena Somerhalder, and Sharon Glenn for making it a success.

WHAT'S COMING UP ?

THE TREEHOUSE

The Community Support Committee is providing 300 roses to be given to mothers who eat at George Youssef's restaurant, French Bistro, on Saturday, May 13th between the hours of 11:00 – 10:00 p.m. George is graciously giving 10-15% of his sales to The Treehouse that day. Come support a worthy and life changing ministry in our community.

HARBOR HOUSE

On Saturday, May 13th, from 10:00-12:00 please join us for a Cook-Up-A-Storm for Harbor House. St. George volunteers will prepare frozen meals for women seeking help from domestic violence. We will meet in the St. George kitchen at 10:00 a.m. Please let Cindy Abdallah know if you can help at 648-9576 or 351-7678. A sign up sheet will be available on the Community Support bulletin board.

MCADAMS ACADEMY

WE NEED HELP MOVING McADAMS ACADEMY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3. Youth for Christ established an alternative education program, entitled McAdams Academy. It provides educational opportunities for select Sedgwick County students, in a safe and caring situation, as well as provides for their behavioral and social needs. Mark the date on your calendars. We will post the time as soon as it is decided. Please let Cindy Abdallah know if you can help at 351-7678. We will have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, MAY 9th
12:00 NOON in the BASEMENT Youth Room.
We would love to have you join us!!**

The Cathedral Messenger

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7515 East 13th Street North
Wichita, KS 67206-1223
www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S
1ST
CINCO DE MAYO
Fiesta Dinner
SAVE THE DATE
THUR May 4, 6:00pm - 9:00pm
in the St. George Fellowship Hall

FEATURING
LOS REYES MARIACHI BAND

Adults \$12.00 • Children \$6.00 (10yrs and under)
Pre-sales begin April 2nd
Contact Cindy Abdallah 648-9576 or Kelly Reinert 259-6235
Tickets will be sold at Coffee Hour April 23rd and April 30th

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT: CHRIST THE SAVIOR SCHOLARSHIPS



**2017 VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

**HERO
CENTRAL**
Discover Your Strength in God!

TUESDAY, MAY 30 - FRIDAY, JUNE 2
1:00 - 4:00P AT ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL

**VBS IS OPEN
TO CHILDREN
AGE 4 AS OF
SEPT. 1, 2016
THROUGH
5TH GRADE**

**"DO GOOD!
SEEK PEACE
AND GO
AFTER IT!"**
PSALM 34:14