



Volume 35, Number 1  
**JANUARY 2026**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Food For Friends Christmas Food Baskets

A special thanks to all who participated in this year's Food Basket project



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas Food Basket project on December 20th. This year we celebrated our 41st year for this project where volunteers of all ages packed over 13,000 pounds of food and delivered it to 100 families in need in the Wichita area.

From the generosity of our parishioners, we raised over \$17,000.00 to purchase the groceries. Along with the groceries, parishioners delivered gifts that were bought especially for the children of the families. Following the deliveries, volunteers enjoyed a pizza lunch at Bowlero Bowling Alley hosted by the Community Support Ministry.

This is a beautiful tradition of giving that brings children and adults of all ages together to help others in

need. Since 1983, with the help of God and many generous parishioners, we have raised over \$337,000.00, purchased and distributed over 423,000 pounds of food, and provided 3,725 families in Wichita with food for the holidays.

A special thanks goes to Denise Johnston and Joy Farha with Ray Sales who ordered and organized the groceries, and to all the men and women who helped tape the boxes, set up the tables and the food, assigned the deliveries, and organized the gifts. We also want to thank Pratt Industries for their continued support in donating the 400 boxes we packed.

Many lives are touched by this project and we thank everyone for helping to make a difference.

# Metropolitan Saba Nativity Letter

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

### Nativity 2025

My esteemed brothers, the right reverend bishops of the Archdiocese, My beloved sons, the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese, My children in Christ, the dearly loved in the Lord, the sons and daughters of the Archdiocese,

In these blessed days, the Holy Church reminds us of the great event accomplished by God for our salvation: the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Church calls this feast “the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.” The emphasis is not so much on birth as it is on the Incarnation. The One who is born is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” By the birth of Christ, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Let us therefore not be satisfied with the outward expressions of the feast, but enter into its depth and its reflection in our lives and growth, so that we may come to know the “abundant life” which He came to give us.

I greet you on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and I pray that your days may be blessed and your lives made holy by His abiding presence within you and among you. I place before you some sayings of the French Orthodox theologian Olivier Clément (+2009), hoping they may help you reflect on some of the essential meanings of the Feast of the Nativity, so that you may live it more deeply.

Olivier sees the Nativity as a call to allow the incarnate Word to dwell within us, so that we in turn may become words of consolation and hope. Thus, the feast becomes more than a season or beautiful rituals; it becomes a daily journey of discipleship, through which the world is renewed from within, the logic of domination is replaced by the logic of giving, and the night of humanity is illuminated by a light that never fades.

Among his sayings:

- The Nativity is the beginning of the revolution of divine love, in which God enters into human fragility in order to transform it into glory. (*The Song of Tears*)
- God did not come to Bethlehem to assert power, but to reveal a weakness stronger than all power: the power of love. (*The Roots of Christian Mysticism*)
- The Nativity is not an event of the past, but a mystery present at every moment, for God continues to be born in the heart of the one who opens himself to Him. (*The Transfiguration of Death*)
- Christ came so that we might fulfill our humanity in Him, that He might raise it to its full stature in love and freedom. (*The Song of Tears*)
- The Incarnation of Christ proclaims that time is no longer a closed circle, but has become a path to eternity, because God has entered our history. (*The Song of Tears*)

(continues pg 5)

## Bulletin Board



### MEMORY ETERNAL

Mary Ellen Joyner, 12/2

## Join us for a Pancake Breakfast on **Godparents Day** **January 11th** after Liturgy



Please join us in celebrating our Godparents with a pancake breakfast directly following liturgy in the Fellowship Hall.

This is a free will give event and all profits from the breakfast go to The Treehouse.

Meeting  
Reminder

**2025 Annual Parish Meeting**  
to be held  
**Sunday, February 1st, 2026**



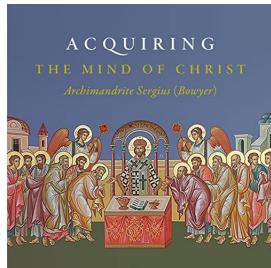
## Women's Faith & Growth

**Join us Thursday  
January 15, 7:15p**

at the Parish House  
— 1328 N Tallyrand St —

for an evening  
of fellowship & faith

Beth Buerge & Ashley Mullinix  
will lead the discussion  
*Acquiring the Mind of Christ*  
by Arch. Sergius Bowyer



## JANUARY FASTING

There is fasting Monday the 5th in preparation for the Theophany of Christ. The normal fasting traditions are observed after that: abstain from meat, poultry and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

MANY YEARS!

### Baptisms

Simon Raphael Wagle, 12/27,  
Dallas Tatiana Brown, Nathan Scott Duncan,  
Chad August Heineman, Reece Nikatas Watkins and  
Alexandria Watkins 12/21

### Marriage

Mitchell Copeland & Halsten Amend, 12/13

### Christmations

Cameron John Boydston, Cole Gabriel Pomeroy,  
Aaron and Angelina Hook, Wyatt Leo, Teagan Mary  
Magdalen, Rhett John, Ridge Innocent and Rory  
Raphael Lange, Jacob John, Olivia Lucia, and Selah  
Marina Eskridge, Richard Duncan and Linh Cecilia  
Heineman Julian Joseph, James Gabriel and  
Jude Thaddeus Wagle, 12/24

## 2026 stewardship

To date we have received 114 pledges totaling  
\$603,820 compared to last year  
of 94 pledges totalling \$\$527,020 .

Please make your online –pledge via Realm  
at [https://onrealm.org/StGeorgeCathedral/  
AddPledge/2026stewardship](https://onrealm.org/StGeorgeCathedral/AddPledge/2026stewardship)

### adult education

## Practical Orthodoxy:

The Do's and Don'ts of Practicing the Faith

**Beginning January 14th**

All presentations will take place on Wednesday evenings following Vespers at 7:15.

## CATHEDRAL CARE

As we begin the new year, an important reminder of the need for everyone attending services and events at our parish to clean up after themselves and to teach our children to do so as well. Please do not bring any food or drinks into the educational wing of the building during coffee hour, including the gymnasium and Teen Room. Please do not leave food, drinks or paper goods in the hallway, fellowship hall, kitchen and bathrooms following coffee hour or any type of gathering at church. Let us consistently, lovingly and respectfully care at the highest level for all parts of our beautiful parish home to ensure the church property is well-maintained by each of us for many years to come.

# Exploring Orthodoxy 2026

## Pathways of Piety

### Holiness in the Modern World

with **Fr. Evan Armatas**

of Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Mission  
Loveland, Colorado

**February 7, 2026**



### am schedule

- 9:00 Doors Open
- 9:15 Third Hour Prayers
- 9:30 Refreshments
- 9:45 Introduction
- 10:00 Keynote Session I
- 11:30 *Icon of Holiness 1: St. Joseph the Hesychast*  
– Luke Gilstrap



<https://tinyurl.com/5ebxnb8n>

### pm schedule

- 12:15 Complimentary Lunch
- 1:30 Keynote Session 2
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 *Icon of Holiness 2: St. Amphilios Movie*
- 4:00 Break
- 4:15 Panel Discussion and Q & A
- 4:45 Ninth Hour Prayers
- 5:00 Great Vespers

\$15 Registration fee includes lunch, snacks, and refreshments.

**CHRIST THE SAVIOR ACADEMY**

#### A Heartfelt Thank You: Voted One of Wichita's Best!

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news with our parish family to kick off the New Year! Thanks to your incredible support, Christ the Savior Academy has been officially recognized as one of Wichita's Best Private Religious Schools, taking Bronze in The Wichita Eagle's 2025 Best of Wichita awards.

This honor is a reflection of our vibrant community—from our hardworking students and talented educators to the parishioners who support our mission and pray for us regularly. Thank you for making CSA a place where faith and academic excellence go hand in hand. And to everyone who took the time to vote for us this past September—thank you!

Looking for a school home? We are currently accepting inquiries for the upcoming school year. Visit [csawichita.org](http://csawichita.org) to learn more about our programs or to schedule a private tour.

**Ladies LUNCHEON AND CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**

**Saturday, January 3 from 11a-1p**

**at the home of Jennifer Sebits,  
1601 N Veranda 67206**

Please come and bring a small package of your favorite Christmas cookies, homemade or store bought! We will enjoy food, fellowship, and cookies! \*please label cookies with your name and if they contain nuts. RSVP to Ashley Mullinix (316) 619-6195 or Joan Farha (316) 806-9640.

- The cave is no longer merely a place, but the human heart when it opens itself to the presence of God. (*The Song of Tears*)
  - In a world consumed by nothingness and despair, the light of the Nativity shines forth to say to us: You are not alone God is with you, God is within you. (The Roots of Christian Mysticism)

On this blessed feast, my prayer for you is that God may remain with you, that you may always be aware of His presence, and that you may respond to Him.

May every Nativity find you in all goodness.

With my love and prayers,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The St. Joseph of Arimathea Ministry of St. George Orthodox Cathedral Presents:

# A CHRISTIAN ENDING

Preparing for the Final Journey

## A Free Seminar on the Orthodox Approach to the End of Life

Saturday, January 24, 2026



### FEATURING

V. Rev. John Reimann,  
Pastor

St. Anthony Orthodox Church  
San Diego CA

### Schedule

- 8:30 Doors Open & Refreshments
- 9:00 Introduction and Welcome  
— Fr. Paul
- 9:15 An Orthodox Approach to the End of Life  
— Fr. John
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Burial Ministry at St. Anthony Church  
— Fr. John
- 10:45 The St. Joseph of Arimathea Ministry of St. George Cathedral  
— Adela Garton, Joan Farha and Carrie Camden
- 11:30 Lunch Provided
- 12:15 Legacy Giving: Endowments, Ministries and Charities
- 1:00 Legacy Planning: Estate Prep for ages 18-80 (and beyond)  
— Nicole Sultani and David Hahn
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Q & A with Fr John and others
- 2:30 Close

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/33z9b9we>



# Progress on the West Side Mission Proposal!

by Fr Paul O'Callaghan



As I discussed in last month's article, the Parish Council has been studying the possibility of forming a satellite location of our Cathedral community on the west side of Wichita. This would establish an Orthodox presence in the area, and potential new members from that side of town could be directed to that campus.

A potential location for the west side mission has been identified on 37th Street West, between Tyler and Maize Rd. It consists of two parcels; the first being one acre with a 3600 square foot home, and the second being five acres with an older house and outbuildings.

The home on the first parcel is uniquely adaptable for conversion into a church. This became apparent as I and fellow committee members conducted two walk-throughs of the facility. An architect accompanied us on one of those tours. Subsequently, the Parish Council authorized funding for her to draw up some preliminary plans for how this could be accomplished. Some of her work is illustrated in the images accompanying this article.

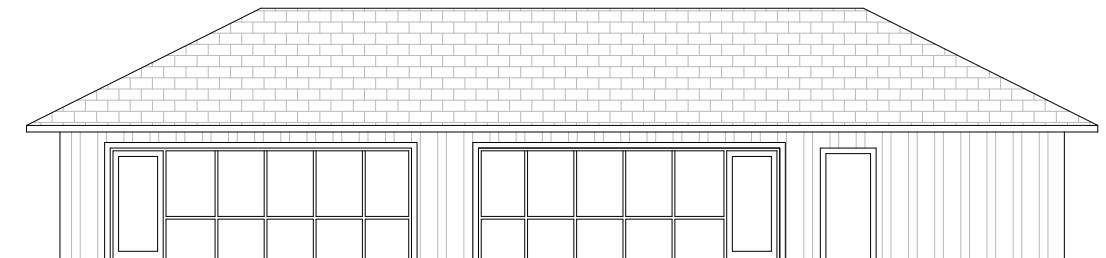
I'll give a brief verbal description of how the facility is laid out, which can be seen in the attached floor plan image. The house is constructed in an L-shape. The master bedroom, kitchen, great room, two smaller adjoining rooms are on a west-east axis. The south-north axis is made up of the master bedroom, three other bedrooms, bathroom and utility room flanked by a five-foot hallway on the east.

In the conversion, the master bedroom becomes the narthex, the kitchen, great room and two adjoining rooms becomes the nave and the altar, and the five-car garage the fellowship hall. The existing garage doors would be replaced by glass doors frequently used in bars, clubs, and restaurants. See the included image. A parking lot is planned in front of the building for 40 cars.

Some may ask, "Why not start smaller in a rented facility without making such a big initial investment?" That's a good point, but my answer is, "We cannot attract people to something ugly and minimalist while living in the shadow of St. George Cathedral." Anything we propose must be attractive – indeed beautiful. We have envisioned how to turn this house into an attractive church facility. I believe that "if we build it, they will come."

**We have formulated this proposal to be presented to a general parish meeting called for Sunday, January 4 following Divine Liturgy.** The purpose of this meeting is to provide pertinent information, answer questions, and to decide whether to make an offer on these properties. It will include a basic funding plan, renderings, and (hopefully) a projected timeline for completion of the project. Please note that we are only requesting authorization to enter negotiations with the seller; an actual purchase must be approved by the parish at a subsequent parish meeting and blessed by the Metropolitan.

May God, through the intercessions of St. Nicholas, guide our deliberations in this matter to the fulfillment of His Holy Will!



## Article



Submitted by Mikell Awaad

### Community Support 2026 Agencies

It's been decided! The following community agencies have been chosen to receive support from St George Cathedral for 2026 either financially or through volunteerism. Want to get involved with planning or decision-making? Join us at our next meeting January 13th, noon, at the Parish House. Contact Carrie Camden at [camden9492@gmail.com](mailto:camden9492@gmail.com) for more information.

Atishwin Institute ([atishwin.com](http://atishwin.com))  
USD 259 (Cash for Classrooms)  
DUI Victims Center ([www.duivictimscenterofkansas.com](http://www.duivictimscenterofkansas.com))  
Emberhope ([www.emberhope.org](http://www.emberhope.org))  
Family Promise ([familypromisewichita.org](http://familypromisewichita.org))  
HopeNet ([www.hopenetwichita.org](http://www.hopenetwichita.org))  
Juniper Arts Academy ([www.juniperartsacademy.org](http://www.juniperartsacademy.org))  
Kansas Food Bank ([kansasfoodbank.org](http://kansasfoodbank.org))  
Lord's Diner ([thelordsdiner.org](http://thelordsdiner.org))  
Pando Initiative ([thepandoinitiative.org](http://thepandoinitiative.org))  
Treehouse ([www.wichitatreehouse.org](http://www.wichitatreehouse.org))

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**The Lord's Diner** – January 18th, 5:00-7:30. The Lord's Diner provides a hot meal to anyone who has a need. To volunteer with our St George/St Mary Team contact Pat Milburn at [patmilburn74@gmail.com](mailto:patmilburn74@gmail.com).

### Kansas Food Bank

January 26th, 1:30-3:30. Help package pantry food to distribute to needy kids and families. To sign up, contact Jane Evans at [sittie49@gmail.com](mailto:sittie49@gmail.com)

### Dillons Community Rewards Update

To earn money for St George Cathedral every time you shop at Dillons, designate St George Cathedral as your Community Rewards recipient. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p9zrezy>

Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, January 13 at The Parish House  
Join us!

For more information contact Carrie Camden at  
[camden9492@gmail.com](mailto:camden9492@gmail.com)



St George donated \$500 each to Fresh Hope and The Pando Initiative.



# *The Cathedral* **Messenger**

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**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**

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*Return Service Requested*