



Volume 29, Number 9  
**September 2020**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## Welcome Fr. Calinic Berger!

Father Calinic (pronounced Calin-eeek) was born in Detroit, Michigan and baptized by his maternal grandfather at the St. Simion Romanian Orthodox Church. In 1969 his family moved to California. As a child and as a teen he attended the Antiochian Orthodox Church "of the Redeemer" in Los Altos Hills, California where he formed the desire to serve God as a priest. Having graduated from Santa Clara University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, he later enrolled in the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1994. Following seminary, he enrolled in the doctoral program in Patristics and historical theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, completing his PhD in 2003.

In between and during his theological studies, he worked as an electrical engineer in the semiconductor industry. Feeling called to serve the Church, he decided to leave his job and was



ordained to the holy diaconate in 2005 and to the holy priesthood in 2006. Father Calinic is a hieromonk, that is, priest-monk, and therefore is not married. He has served as Visiting Professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary has taught and published on Orthodox theology and spiritual life in a variety of venues.

Fr. Calinic served as the pastor of Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, from 2006 to 2015. Desiring to return to the Antiochian Archdiocese of his youth, Fr. Calinic was received by Metropolitan Joseph and appointed assistant pastor at St Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles on December 6, 2015. He served the St. Nicholas Cathedral community faithfully for nearly five years, until being transferred to St. George Cathedral in August of this year. We are pleased and most blessed to welcome him into our community in Wichita!

**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**



Corinne Nofire, 8/29  
 Ann Sutherland, 8/27  
 Virginia Ablah, 8/20  
 Vladimir Stain, 8/16  
 (father of Stella Galichia)  
 Helen Clark, 8/9  
 (mother of Greg Clark)  
 Dr. Ed Elkouri, 7/27  
 Martha Sharp, 7/12

**“Mostly Moms”  
 Bible Study**



A group for moms and other interested women

Beginning Wednesday, September 9, 1:30pm and continuing every other week. Meeting on ZOOM. Please speak to Fr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

**CHURCH SCHOOL:**



“Church School will not hold in person classes this year. “Orthodox Journeys” weekly lessons will be provided online on the St George Cathedral website. Additionally, crafts will be provided in packets at the conclusion of Liturgy for the Cathedral’s youngest. We look forward to learning from this wonderful curriculum thank you all for your continued support of the Cathedral’s youth.”

**TEEN SOYO**

Teen SOYO is planning to begin our year together September 16 on the new church patio with a meet-and-greet with Fr. Calinic. Food will be provided. Current public health guidelines and restrictions will continue to be monitored and followed. If any changes in public health info occur regarding COVID-19, we will re-assess and parents will be notified via email.”



**SEPTEMBER FASTING**



During this period, the normal fasting traditions are observed: abstain from meat, poultry and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays. Saturday September 14th is a fast day, in observance of the Elevation of the Holy Cross .

**MABROOK! BLESSINGS!**

**BIRTH**

George Frantz, 8/31  
 (son of Trent & Samantha)  
 Anabelle Maria Malone, 8/17  
 (daughter of Michael & Patty)  
 Camille Marie Christian, 7/14  
 (daughter of Spencer and Jen)

**MARRIAGE**

Scott Spradlin and Mariah Warden, 8/22

MANY YEARS!



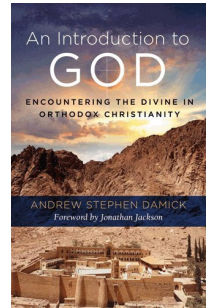
*Women's Faith & Growth*

Join us Thursday  
 September 17, 7:15p  
 in the Youth Center

for an evening of fellowship & faith

Studying book by  
 Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

**“An Introduction to God”**



*the treehouse*  
**LABOR RUN**  
 Running for moms so babies can bloom!

**5K RUN**  
**WALK**

**SAT SEPT 26 2020**

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

This year we are going virtual and are working hard to make this a fun filled event! Please join us in September and support families in your community that need help.



Funds raised from the Labor Run will help The Treehouse increase the number of moms and babies served, while expanding the depth of services for our current families.

**HOW DOES A VIRTUAL RUN/WALK WORK?**

1. REGISTER ONLINE
2. CHOOSE YOUR OWN LOCATION
3. POST PICS TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
4. LOG YOUR TIMES ONLINE

**FOR MORE INFO**

316.686.2600  
[www.wichitatreehouse.org](http://www.wichitatreehouse.org)  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/US/Wichita/LaborRun>



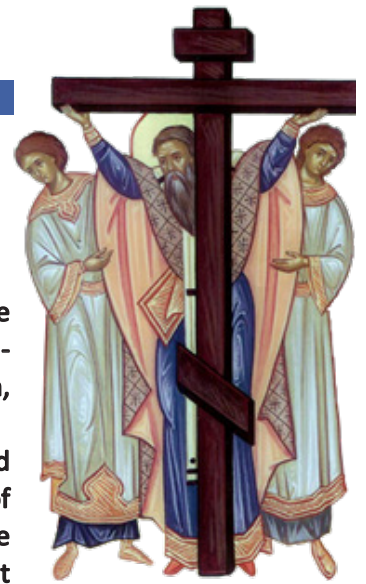
**EVENT LOCATION**

**FACEBOOK LIVE 8:30AM**

- ALL AGES WELCOME
- ROUTE PLANNER
- RUN KIT GIVEN OUT PRIOR TO EVENT (T-Shirts, Face Mask, Family Activity Materials, Post-Participant Refreshments, etc.)
- VIRTUAL PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT Enter you in a Prize Drawing
- BE A HERO FOR A MOM COSTUME CONTEST-POST PHOTOS

# Elevation of the Cross - Psalm 21

## "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?"



22 **My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? (Matt. 27:46)** Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent.

3 But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.

4 Our fathers trusted in You: they trusted, and You delivered them.

5 They cried to You, and were delivered: they trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

6 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people.

7 **All those that see me, ridicule me: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, (Mark 15:29)** saying,

8 **"He trusted in the Lord ; let Him rescue him. Let Him deliver him (Matt. 27:42)** since He delights in Him."

9 But You are He that took me out of the womb: You made me trust while on my mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon You from birth: From my mother's womb, You have been my God.

11 Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

12 Many bulls have surrounded me: strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

13 They gaped at me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it has melted within me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and **my tongue clings to my jaws; ("I thirst-John 19:28).** You have brought me to the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded me: the congregation of the wicked have enclosed me. **They pierced my hands and my feet. (Matt. 27:31-32)**

17 **I can count all my bones. (a bone shall not be broken – John 19:36)** They look and stare at me.

18 **They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing, they cast lots. (Matt. 27:35)**

19 But You, O LORD, do not be far from me. O my Strength, hasten to help me.

20 Deliver me from the sword; my precious life from the power of the dog. **("take this cup from me"-Luke 22:42)**

21 Save me from the lion's mouth: and from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 **I will declare Your name to my brethren: in the midst of the assembly, I will praise You. (Heb. 2:12)**

23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him. All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel.

24 For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden his face from Him; but when he cried to Him, He heard. **(Isaiah 53:3)**

25 My praise shall be of You in the great assembly: I will pay my vows before those that fear Him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied: those who seek Him will praise the LORD, Let your heart live for ever!

27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD: and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

28 For the kingdom is the LORD's: and He rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth, shall eat and worship. All those that go down to the dust shall bow before Him: even he cannot keep himself alive.

30 A seed shall serve Him; it shall be recounted of the Lord to the next generation.

31 They shall come, and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this.

\* All the phrases in **bold red** are used in the New Testament concerning Christ on the cross

### King David

The author of Psalm 21 is Saint David, who though he is king and has more than any human can imagine, is still tormented by feeling abandoned and defeated by his circumstances. He cries out , "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" And it is not just for himself that he shouts out in anguish, for he is the icon of the people of the promised land, the kingdom of heaven on earth, the royal chosen of God. The land, city, and people fall as their king falls.

### Queen Esther (Esther 4-6)

Esther is perhaps one of the most important books of the Old Testament for the Jewish people. The entire Jewish Holiday of Purim is dedicated to teaching and remembering the book of Ester and its meaning. Es-

ther who represents all of God's people is subjected to a foreign power and the immediate plot of her people to be subjugated to death. She fasts for 3 days and 3 nights before meeting with the foreign king to bargain for her peoples' lives. This is called the "Fast of Esther". Among Jewish tradition, it is said that as Esther walks down the hall of idols to confront the judgment of her people, she feels the shekinah of God leave her—and says *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"*

### Israel in Exile

When Israel was in exile during the Babylonian captivity in Persia; God's people would participate not only in the "Fast of Esther" for 3 days and 3 nights but also in her recitation of Psalm 21 beginning with *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"*

### Christ on the Cross (Matt 27:46 & Mark 15:34)

So when Jesus is on the cross and cries out "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? ,this is not Jesus questioning God. Jesus is fully God. Still, He is fully man and participates in that despair of man abandoned and defeated. He joins His people in chanting this psalm of Israel.

Jesus in his agony on the cross does not speak out of His own personal imagination, but speaks out of the historical story of His spiritual community. He calls the world by reciting the words of an exiled people. While dying, he is singing a song-- like a martyr about to be shot for his faith who begins to recite the LORD's prayer. He embraces love by calling His mystical community in exile, agony, and impending death. He is the image of King David who cries out for His people. He is the picture of Esther who confronts foreign power for her people to be spared death. He is the icon of the "exiled" in the new Babylon of Rome chanting of the heavenly city on the hill. All of the voices of Israel form a chorus that lift up praise together. God is with us even as God dies on the cross. At the foot of the cross, He knows the comfort of a mother who will never be separated from the love of God (v. 9,10). He dies and yet he sings. The song of the cross, Psalm 21, is for us.

And while the psalm begins in a dark subterranean place of the flesh: *"My God, my God why have You forsaken me?"*; the song turns around to face the twilight and feel the beating warmth: *"But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel."*(v. 3) The hope and courage to go for-

ward is found, to join this procession of holy sound, to march into battle proclaiming this psalm of exile. God moves from *"far away"* (v. 1) to *"not far from me"* (v. 19). The music and the memory pull together the unmeasurable distance. The lament of Man who is planted into the earth for three days and three nights and fasts from life itself, becomes the angelic crescendo from a seed of light that births the Sun of hope.

### Modern Exile

A viral pandemic, racial unrest, the explosion in Lebanon, vitriolic political hatreds...these times around us make many of us feel weakened and alone. We feel separated quite literally from our people--entombed in our own flesh. The surroundings feel dark, lightless, ominous, even deathlike. The wood of this cross feels too heavy to carry through these streets. A dead silence in the womb of our heart detaches roots and begins to decay. We have lost the desire to speak even a Word. Our chest aches as if blood and water were being poured out. Our prayers have dried up in our mouth. Our heart like wax has melted. Even with those meant to guard us, everything seems up to chance. This cross has taken everything away from us. We too begin this prayer *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"*

### The Elevation of the Cross

In that breathless moment, a song cries from the cave of our heart. We must listen carefully and hear the rest of Psalm 21. There is a sound very low like trembling thunder. And then a slight scent of basil. The cross of Christ elevates and delivers strength to rise with it. We follow the voices of the living and the dead who sing *"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD: and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.(v. 27)"* All of history becomes eternal. All loss becomes gain. Like Saint Helena, we are guided to discover the true cross, again. We are the poor who are satisfied not by the measure of what we are given but by the measure of our thankfulness (v. 26).

On September 14th, we gather for thankfulness. We celebrate this discovery and re-discovery. On this day—on every day, put the cross of Christ upon you. Let this sign impregnate your flesh. Carry it in front of you. Bear down with it. Give birth to it. Close your eyes. Lift up your hands. Breathe deeply and release. Inhale the fragrance of flowers as if incense and sing together with Christ as we die and rise.

# Farewell Friends



*Fr Jeremiah &  
Katherine Phillips  
& Family*



*Terry & Robin Moore  
& Family*

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It was with sadness that we bid farewell to Father Jeremiah, Presbytera Katie and their children as they departed our Cathedral family on August 16 for his new assignment at St. Sophia Church, Dripping Springs (Austin) TX.

Fr. Paul presented a gift from the Parish Council and an icon of St. George so that they will always keep us in their remembrance.

May God prosper their service there in the Lord's vineyard!

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Blessings to Terry and Robin Moore and family, as they relocate to Jacksonville, FL. They will be greatly missed here at St. George Cathedral.

**Arabic Divine Liturgy**

**With Fr Nicholas Dahdal**

**Saturday, September 19, 10:00am**

# Your Missions Dollars at Work in Indonesia

by Sally Buxton

## A Ministry with Kansas Connections



In 2014, St. George learned of a priest who had gone to seminary at Holy Cross in Boston, and had begun a kindergarten on Sulawesi Island (with land purchased with funds from the Farah Foundation, directed from Wichita), and was building the school so that it could eventually become an Orthodox Church, because the government prohibited initiating the establishment of a church. We participated in funding the construction of the building in our first years of partnership.

We have been happy to hear about and support this ministry, as we have learned of its outreach in various locations across Sulawesi Island, but only recently did we think to ask and learn about the original vision and history of this work. We discovered a remarkable story about the priest who founded this ministry. His story follows in slight paraphrase.

**Father Yohanes** Bambang cahyo Wickasano was born into a Muslim family, and as part of a Muslim family he never

The Indonesian Islands, “**The Spice Islands**,” the home of cloves and nutmeg! **Tempe** is a traditional soy product originating from Indonesia. It is the only major traditional soy food that did not originate from Chinese cuisine.

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, but the old ruling Dutch allowed Protestant and Catholic missionaries to begin churches.



Neatness in grooming is prized, whether on a crowded hot bus or at a festival. Civil servants wear neat uniforms to work, as do school children and teachers.



thought that would be a Christian, because in his mind Christianity was a pagan religion. It was therefore worthy for him to hate Christians while he was Islamic, and still in elementary school. Everyday after school finished, he would stone a Christian School because he was thinking that this Christian school was created by people who worshipped three gods.

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## Healing and Conversion

Father Yohanes says that God would not let him have a bad heart in ill-treating Christian people, so He, because of His mercy, gave him an illness during his time in Junior High School. When he was sick he was remembering what was said by his close friend—that if you pray to Jesus and ask for help, He will help you and give you recovery from your illness. And then he prayed to Him and asked His help and He brought Fr. Yohanes recovery from his illness!

Beginning from this event he decided to become part of the Protestant Church, and as a Christian he began to participate in helping Muslim people to be brought to Christ. Based on wishing to bring these Muslim people into the Church, he wanted to be a servant of God, therefore he decided to enter an Evangelical Protestant Seminary in Jogya - Central Java.

## Discovering the Orthodox Church in a protestant seminary

From this Seminary he began to know about the Orthodox Church, and began to study the teaching of Orthodoxy. After he finished his bachelor's degree, he decided to continue his studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary in Boston, and he completed his Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S). He was ordained a priest by Bishop Maximus at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh in the year 1990, then he returned back to Indonesia and began to do his mission from "zero."

As he came from a Muslim family, his desire was now to bring Muslim people to Christ. Many people in his Ortho-



dox chapel at his schools came from Islam. And he has made himself available to guide the Muslim students who study at the Islamic University who want to write their theses and ask him to be their tutor. He is willing to teach them and giving them his Orthodox knowledge.

His strategy to spread the Good News of Christ includes establishing schools and chapels and through educating the Indonesian people by writing and translating many Orthodox theological books.

He is also teaching all the people of Indonesia through social media in his live-streaming Orthodox and Youtube channel. You can see and hear Fr. Yohanes at <https://youtu.be/GisbljInFbE>

## Many Branches of Ministry

In the journey of Fr. Yohanes Bambang's ministry to develop Indonesian Orthodox Missions, not only at Mojokerto City where he lives, he has also tried to open many branches of Orthodox ministries. For instance, in Surabaya, in Kediri, in Banyuwangi, in Bali and even in Manado. any people have asked him to come and open an Orthodox community in their communities.



The strategy in doing and developing this Orthodox Mission is through the education field and publishing many orthodox theological books as a means for people to access the teaching of Orthodoxy.



Basically many people in the whole of Indonesia are getting to know the existence of the Orthodox Church, that's why Father Yohanes has asked for our help—for the sake of mission development. By seeing the pictures that Fr. Yohanes sent us, you can see how much that he has to do.

He is not hesitating to receive the invitation of Protestant churches to give a speech, and he undergoes this for the sake of introducing our faith to those who thirst for the true teaching that we have.



Father Yohanes, wants to convey to us, for our care, attention and help, his thanks and his hope that God may see what we have done for His work in Indonesia.

# *The Cathedral Messenger*

**St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral**

7515 East 13th Street North

Wichita, KS 67206-1223

www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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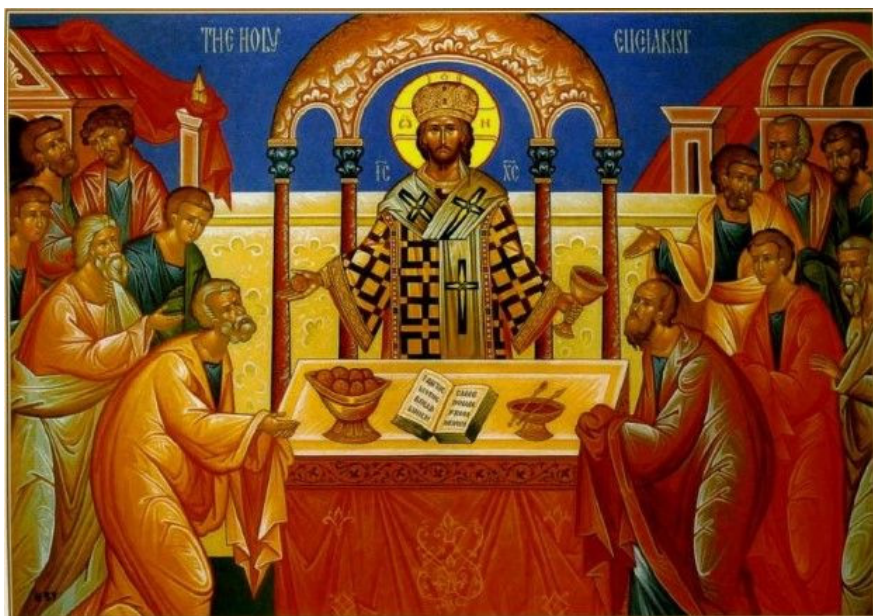
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## **Explorations in the Divine Liturgy**

**A series with Fr. Calinic**

**Wednesday Evenings 7:15p  
beginning September 16  
In-person and Zoom.**

**Zoom link to be sent by email prior to  
the first class.**