



Volume 28, Number 1  
**JANUARY 2019**

# The Cathedral Messenger

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

## 35th Annual Food For Friends Christmas Food Baskets



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



On December 15th, we celebrated our 35th year for this project where volunteers of all ages packed and delivered 10,500 pounds of food to 100 families in need in the Wichita area. Along with the groceries, parishioners purchased gifts bought especially for the children of the families. Special thanks to Denise Johnston and Joy Farha with Ray Sales, who organized the groceries, and to all the men and women who each year tape the boxes, set up the food, assign the deliveries, and organize the gifts. We also want to thank Pratt Industry for donating the 400 boxes we packed. Many lives are touched by this project and we thank everyone for helping to make a difference.

**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**

*Nativity 2018*

*Christ is born, glorify Him!  
Christ is from heaven, go to meet Him!  
Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up. Sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing out with gladness, all ye people. For He is glorified!*  
(First Ode of the Christmas Canon)



*Beloved in Christ,*

*Today, as the fire from the cave of Christ's birth burns deep within our hearts, we rejoice with all the earth. Anticipation imbues the world as we celebrate the birth of the One who willingly became Man for our salvation. Quiet, meek, guileless and patient, how do we behold and gaze upon the resplendent One who draws us to Himself in pure love?*

*He comes prepared for victory to prepare us. He comes willingly that we be willing. He comes courageous and strong to give us courage and strength. He comes in humility to humble us. He comes in peace, that all men should live in peace.*

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

*Yours in the service of Christ,*

*Metropolitan Joseph*

**+JOSEPH**

*Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America*

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

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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

The Nativity of Christ – 2018



SHRINE MARKING THE SPOT OF THE MANGER IN BETHLEHEM

To the Christ-loving Priests, Deacons, Monastics and Lay Folk of this God-protected Diocese:

I embrace and greet you with a holy kiss and the joyous festal proclamation:

**CHRIST IS BORN – المسيح ولد –**  
**Χριστός Γεννάται – Христос рождается**  
**Hristos se rodi – Hristos se nastje**

May God the All-holy Trinity grant you and your households the happiest of Feasts and a New Year filled with His abundant and richest blessings. With assurance of my continued love, prayers and blessings, I remain

In Christ the Incarnate Word of God,



+Bishop Basil

*"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

Paula Ellis Hamra of Encinitas, CA, 12/3

Don't Forget!

St George Orthodox Cathedral  
**2018 Annual Parish Meeting**  
to be held Sunday, January 27th, 2019  
immediately following Divine Liturgy

## 2019 PLEDGE STATUS

So far, 134 pledge cards for 2019 have been turned in for a total amount of \$507,878. The total pledges for 2018 received at this time last year were 154 in the amount of \$566,226. Please complete your 2019 pledges. If you need a pledge card, contact the office or pick up one at the bengarri. Thank you.

## 2019 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

If you would like the convenience of not writing checks, you may have your pledge payments automatically withdrawn from your account on the 15th of each month. Contact Steve Buxton in the

## Teen SOYO at the Alley



**Sunday, January 6**  
**5:00-7:00p**

\$20 per person includes:  
Go-Karts, Bowling and Pizza.  
RSVP to Fr. Jeremiah by Jan. 3

## JANUARY FASTING



January 4 is fast free. January 5 is a fast day. Otherwise, the traditional fasting (from meat, poultry, fish, eggs and dairy products) is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

## MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

### BAPTISMS

Ezra and Silas Buerge, 12/24

### BIRTH

Blake June Jabara, 12/19

### CHRISMATIONS

Constantine Blizzard, 12/14  
Brandon, Elizabeth, Charlotte  
and Isaiah Buerge, 12/24

### MARRIAGE BLESSED

Constantine Blizzard & Nicolette Martinez. 12/14

MANY YEARS!



The Cathedral Choir blessed everyone with their beautiful songs that they shared for all the residents at Regent Independent Living Center where Farris Razook, Bill Ayesh and Marlene Orr reside. Every day I hear wonderful comments about the choir's lovely voices.

They also sang for Nancy Farha at the Masonic Home, Alice Laham at Regent Assisted Living Center and ended the evening singing to Judy Castrisos and Sally Bayouth at Sedgwick Plaza. It was very kind of all the choir members to share their time and wonderful talents during the Christmas Season with our oldest members of the Cathedral.  
— Cathy Ellsworth

## WINTER CONTINUING CATECHESIS

### SOURCES OF ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

#### SEGMENT ONE: A ROAD MAP THROUGH THE PHILOKALIA

January 9 – An Introduction to the Philokalia  
– TBA

January 16 – The Philokalia and You  
– Tom Brown

January 23 – Getting To and Through St. Maximos  
– Fr. Joshua Lollar

January 30 – Interesting Characters and Questions  
– Athanasius Sherry

Wednesday evenings following Daily Vespers at 7:15.

# I thought I was just starring in a movie, then my mom shocked me by telling me this secret ...

By Ashley Bratcher | Fox News

I've always considered myself pro-life but certainly not an activist. I had no idea who Abby Johnson was when I first auditioned to play her in the biopic "Unplanned." I was given just six pages. Six pages that ignited my curiosity.

There was something about Abby that stuck with me. How could this incredibly passionate woman one day change her mind about everything she believed in? There had to be more to the story.

Within hours of auditioning, I had Googled every article and YouTube'd every video I could find about Abby.

What I found left me in a puddle of tears on the floor. My heart was broken and my eyes were opened to the harsh reality of abortion. The experience that she described while working at Planned Parenthood shook me to my core.

A fire was lit inside of me. I was convicted.

Nearly a month later, when I finally got the call that the role was mine, organized chaos ensued. I needed to pack for 7 weeks and get on a plane within 5 hours.

I arrived in Oklahoma on a Thursday, set to begin filming on Monday. Things happened so quickly that most of my friends and family had no idea I had even left.

When my mother called me on Saturday, I hesitantly answered. We've had a rocky relationship. I hadn't told her where I was or what I was doing, and I knew that the project I was working on would make her emotional.

When I was in high school, my mother shared with me that she'd had an abortion when she was 16. She had been devastated by her choice and 3 years later she found herself in the same predicament. At 19, she became pregnant with me. "I knew I could never have an abortion again," she told me.

That was the end of the story. It was a casual conversation. I never thought twice about it until it was time to explain "Unplanned."

As I began telling her Abby's story, I heard her fall apart. Her voice broke as she said, "I need to tell you something that I've never told you before." Through

tears she confessed, "I was going to abort you."

I sat in confused silence as she continued, "I was at the clinic sitting on the table when the nurse who was very pregnant came in to talk to me. I felt sick. I couldn't do it. I got up and walked out."

I didn't know what to say. I needed time to process what I'd just heard. It didn't make sense. How could it be possible that I was here telling Abby's story while never having known my own?

Later that night I called my dad. It wasn't an easy conversation to have. I pleaded, "Is this true? Why didn't someone tell me?" He confirmed the details of the experience. They agreed they were too young to have a baby. "We didn't have enough money so I pawned a shotgun so we could pay for the abortion."

How do you tell your daughter that? When is the right time to tell her that you were going to abort her?" I don't know how to put in words what it feels like to learn you were seconds away from never existing.

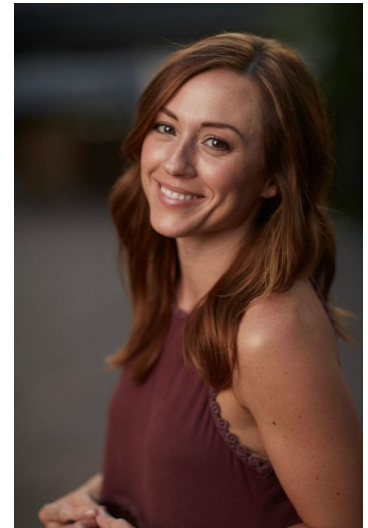
He sobbed on the phone, "You being there making this movie is proof to me that God is so real. That he has a plan for your life."

It's incredible, and at times incomprehensible to me, that this is my story.

I'm so grateful that my mother believed my life was more valuable than the price of a shotgun, that the money intended to end my life was used to give me life.

I'm grateful that God, through his providence, planted me here to tell my story and that I have the privilege of sharing this film with the world.

And yes, I do secretly hope that one of the outcomes of all of these "coincidences" is that many will find the courage my mother found when she listened to her conscience and made the choice that gave me life.



The Ninth Annual Eighth Day Symposium

# EROS AND THE MYSTERY OF GOD: On the Body, Sex & Asceticism



## Speakers include

**Hans Boersma**

Professor of Ascetical Theology at Nashotah House

**Adam Cooper**

Professor of Patristics & Theology at John Paul II Institute of Marriage

**David Ford**

Professor of Church History at St. Tikhon's Orthodox

**Ephraim Radner**

Professor of Historical Theology at Wycliffe College

## Save the date now!

WHEN JAN 24, 2019 at 7pm - JAN 27, 2019

WHERE St Mary Orthodox Christian Church

REGISTER [www.eighthdayinstitute.org](http://www.eighthdayinstitute.org)

Last year, at the 8th annual Eighth Day Symposium, the focus was on friendship: "Cultivating Friendship in a Fractured Age." I'm convinced friendship is one of the greatest needs of our day...it's why Fr. Paul wrote an entire book on the subject.

The theme for this year's Symposium builds on last year's theme. And in terms of engaging our current culture, I think it is even more important: "Eros & the Mystery of God: On the Body, Sex & Asceticism."

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware recently suggested that the most important question for Orthodox theology in the 20th century was ecclesiology, i.e., 'What is the Church?' While this remains an important theme for the twenty-first century, he goes on to remark:

The key question in Orthodoxy today is not only 'What is the Church?', but also and more fundamentally 'What is the human person?' What does it imply to be a person-in-relation according to the image of God the Holy Trinity? What does it mean to attain 'deification' through incorporation into Christ? Obviously the two questions, 'What is the Church?' and 'What is the human person?' are intimately linked: for it is only within the Church that human persons become authentically themselves.

Taking our cue from Metr. Kallistos – and from Fr. Paul who coined the main theme this year – we've got a stellar line up of presenters and lectures to explore the human person within the context of the pressing issues of our day: eros, sex, asceticism, and the human body.

I hope you can join us at St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church for the 9th annual Eighth Day Symposium on January 24-26.

## Plenary presentations include:

- **Hans Boersma**, Body, Gender & Sex: Lessons from St Gregory of Nyssa
- **Adam Cooper**, Can Asceticism Make Us Better Lovers? The Promise & Limits of St Maximus the Confessor's Theology of Marriage
- **David Ford**, An Orthodox Theology of Eros, Sexuality & Marriage: The Vision of St. John Chrysostom
- **Ephraim Radner**, There Is No Desire Out of the Desires of Scripture

## Breakout presentations include:

- **Hans Boersma**, Eight Theses on Sex
- **Adam Cooper**, When Lovemaking Becomes Liturgy: John Paul II's Reflections on Song of Songs & Tobit
- **David Ford**, From the Garden to the Eschaton: The Eternality of Marriage as Understood in the Orthodox Church
- **V. Rev. Paul O'Callaghan**, TBA
- **Ephraim Radner** - How Do We Shape Desire?

And as usual, we'll have:

- A private meeting with Ephraim Radner for Eighth Day Patrons, Pillars & Olympians on Thursday afternoon (24th)
- A welcome reception at Eighth Day Books on Thursday evening (24th)
- The annual festal banquet at St Mary on Friday evening to celebrate the life of St. Mary of Egypt (25th)
- An open house at Eighth Day Books and Eighth Day Institute on Saturday evening (26th).

Registration is available at [www.eighthdayinstitute.org](http://www.eighthdayinstitute.org).  
Enter **StGeorge30** for a 30% for parish discount!

# 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

### The Lord's Diner

On Sunday, December 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 Mikell Awwad know if you can help serve at 250-3016. You no longer need a Food Handler's Card but can do an online class which takes 15 minutes (See Community Support Bulletin Board).

### 35th Annual Food for Friends Christmas Food Baskets

Many THANKS to all who participated in this year's Food Basket project!! On December 15th, we celebrated our 35th year for this project where we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers that delivered more than 10,000 lbs of food and gifts to 100 needy families in the Wichita area.



**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 8th**  
**12:00 noon in the Conference Room.**  
**We would love to have you 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.

## What's Coming Up?

### 2019 Agencies that we will support:

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rise Up For Youth            | Kansas Food Bank      |
| Atishwin Institute           | NAMI                  |
| Real Men, Real Heroes        | Guadalupe Clinic      |
| Hope Ranch                   | The Treehouse         |
| Raise My Head                | Senior Services       |
| Choices Medical Clinic       | Lord's Diner          |
| Cash for Classrooms          | Warming Soul's Center |
| DUI Victims Center of Kansas |                       |

### The Lord's Diner

On Sunday, January 20th, St. George volunteers will be serving the homeless in our community at the Broadway location from 5-7:30 p.m. Please let Mikell Awwad know if you can serve at 250-3016.

### Kansas Food Bank

On Monday, January 28th, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. St. George volunteers will meet at The Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E. Douglas, to fill bags of food for backpacks that will be given to school age children in need to take home over the weekend. Please let Jane Evans know if you can serve at 636-2519.



# The Cathedral Messenger

St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral  
7515 East 13th Street North  
Wichita, KS 67206-1223  
www.stgeorgecathedral.net

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In the case of freezing rain, icing, or heavy snow, Daily Vespers, weekday Liturgies, meetings, and activities may be cancelled. If possible, an e-mail notification will be sent out by the Cathedral Office. In cases of uncertainty, please contact the Cathedral Office or Fr. Paul or Fr. Joshua's cell phone number.

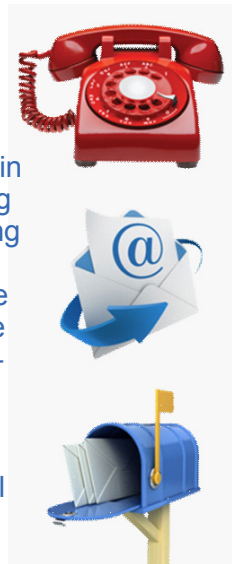


## Time to Update

To: St. George Parish

In order to best keep in synch and in communication with **YOU** regarding notices, updates or anything relating to parish announcements, we ask that you please keep **US** up to date of any changes - as in a new home address, home/mobile phone numbers, or any email address edits.

Please email:  
gina@stgeorgecathedral.net or call  
the Cathedral office - 636-4676.



Thank you.

