



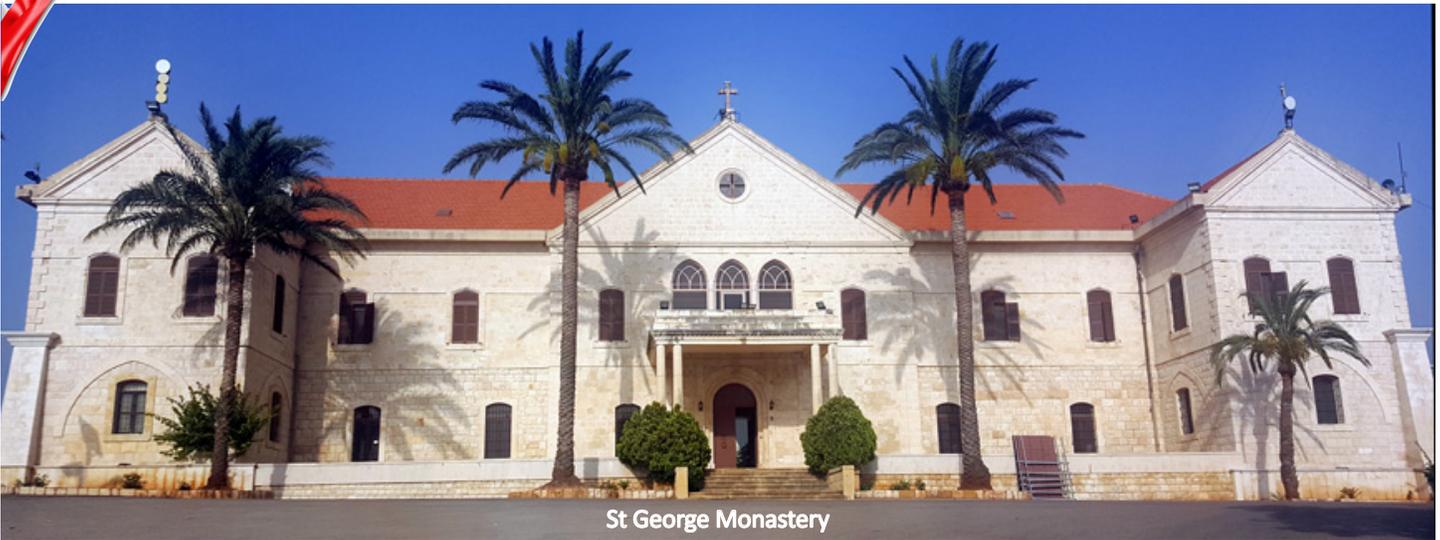
Volume 28, Number 7
JULY-AUGUST 2019

The Cathedral Messenger

A Publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

A Pilgrimage to Christian Lebanon

By Fr. Paul O'Callaghan (Part 1) (Part 2 will be continued in the next Messenger issue)



St George Monastery

For many years now, my good friend Faissal Abou Faissal has been inviting me to come to Lebanon. Each time my response has been the same: "I'm too busy." "I need to reserve all my vacation time to visit family." Finally, this year I said to myself, "I'm always going to be too busy. There will always be more on my plate than I can keep up with.



Nathan and Gabriel Abou Faissal

Given my connections to the Lebanese community here and my work on behalf of Christians in the Middle East – I just need to do it." I thus set out not only see the country, but to see for myself the status of Christians there – something that could only be obtained by being "on the ground."

After departing on June 6, the evening of the



The Little Entrance

Feast of the Ascension, I arrived in Lebanon a day and a half later. After settling into Faissal's hometown of Damour, our first journey was to St. George Maronite monastery in Naime', near Damour. The monastery is on a beautiful hilltop setting above the sea. (above)

On Sunday, we traveled to St. George Cathedral in Beirut for Sunday Divine Liturgy. There I served with four other priests, all of whom had outstanding voices. The Byzantine chant performed by the *choros* was

also heavenly. Metropolitan Elias Audi gave the homily, and the Abou Faissal boys led the processions at the Little and Great Entrances. (continued on pg 4)

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

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MEMORY ETERNAL

Sharyn L. Beck Jabara, 5/8
wife of Hassan Jabara

Donna Maxwell, 5/17
mother of Stacey Bayouth Ablah and
Sherri Bayouth Chahine

Les Kamas, of Freedom, OK, 5/25
nephew of Jean Cohlma

Colleen David, 6/23

Parish Life Conference Creative Festival

Winners



Anastasia Likiardopoulos
(Senior) ORATORICAL



Liana Maksoud
(Junior) ORATORICAL

Our Teens at PLC



MABROOK! BLESSINGS!

MANY YEARS!

BAPTISM

Emelia Pauline Dahdal, 6/15
daughter of Rami & Rebecca

BIRTH

Jonathan Victor Salloum, 6/26
son of Victor and Sadie

2019 Sam & Jacque KOURI & Ruth COHLMIA

Scholarship Winners

Chase Farha & Josie Van Stipdonk



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, Tuesday, 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.

Farewell Friends



*Jan & Amy Henry
& Family*



Jo Lehrman



*Matthew & Sandy Sipp
& Family*

Kenya 2020



Applications for Project Kenya 2020 are being accepted now through August 1st and will be in hall on table. Please contact Matthew Ash or Sandy Sipp for any questions you may have, and plan on joining us! Fulfilling the Great Commission and serving our Kenyan Orthodox family is the experience of a lifetime. We need you, your family, and all you have to offer next year!



Hauran Connection
ST. TIMON DAY COFFEE SOCIAL

Sunday, July 28,
please join us following Liturgy

Funds collected during this month will be sent to Metropolitan SABA for his work in our sister Diocese of Hauran, Syria

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.

Following Liturgy, we were treated to a tour of the excavations of the previous churches lying below the present Cathedral by a professor of Anthropology, Mrs. Leilah Badr, who was largely responsible for the dig. The lowest strata was formed by the original “Church of the Resurrection” with the remnants of Byzantine and medieval construction above.

After leaving St. George Cathedral, we climbed the hills to Faytroun in the heights of the Keserwan region for a luncheon with relatives of the Abou Faissals. The impressive views revealed towns with churches sprinkled onto the mountainsides and nestled in the deep valleys below. On the way back to Damour, we traveled through much of the Maronite Christian heartland, through towns like Bikfaya, for example. Not only are these towns and villages clean and tidy, but the Maronites are very publicly demonstrative in asserting their identity. Banners with the image of the recently departed Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfier are seen everywhere, for example, not to mention the ubiquitous roadside shrines with images of the Virgin, Prophet Elias, St. George, and St. Charbel Makhlouf.

In contrast, the Orthodox Christian presence is much more subdued.

Our next journey took us north through the Bekaa Valley on the way to Baalbeck – the town of Bechwait. “Saidie Bechwait” is a chapel shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary there together with a large Maronite Church. “Saidie Bechwait” is reportedly the site of miracles associated with the image of the Virgin enshrined in the chapel.

The town of Baalback itself is extremely cramped with parking exceptionally hard to find as one approaches the ancient Roman ruins. Yet there in the midst of a heavily Shiite area, we spotted what looked like a small parking lot, and lo and behold, a statue of the Virgin with outstretched arms welcomed us. There, an ancient Maronite



Roman Ruins at Baalbek

church stood on the property. The Christian presence was comforting indeed in the midst of the somewhat forbidding surroundings.



Bechwait Church



Baalbek Church



Met Elias & Fr Paul

Following a relaxing day on the beaches of Damour, we traveled south to Sidon. There, in the midst of the ancient marketplace “souq” lies St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Chancery of Metropolitan Elias Kfoury of Sidon.

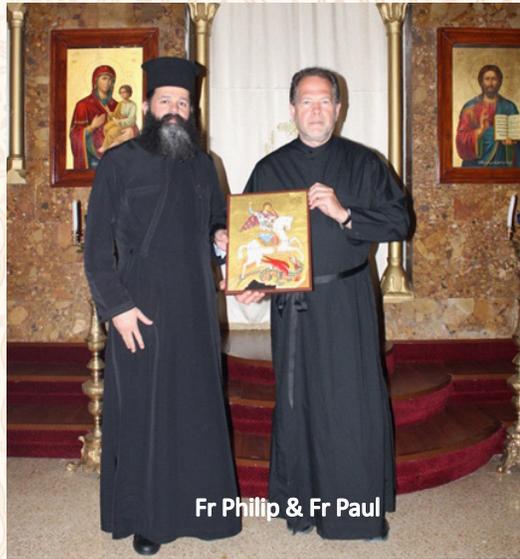
The Metropolitan and his secretary, Fr. warmly welcomed us to their offices. There we discussed the house donated by the Dakhil family to our St. George Cathedral for the

use of the bishop and clergy of the Archdiocese of Sidon. Metropolitan Elias then contacted Fr. Philip in Jedeidat Marjeyoun to inform him that we would be traveling there to inspect the house. Most of us know that Jedeideh is the original home of the founders of our community, and so the trip there was both meaningful and a high priority.



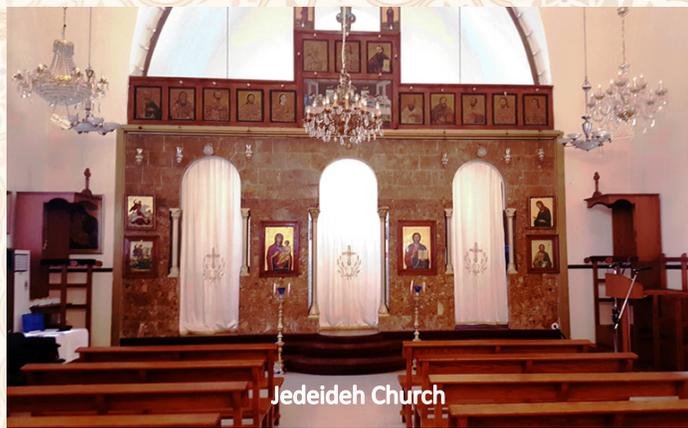
Dakhil Home

After traveling through the heavily Shiite town of Nabatiyeh, we arrived in Jedeidah and were greeted there by Fr. Philip at St. George Church. After venerating the icons and the altar, we proceeded to and inspected the Dakhil home. We were joined there by an engineer who pointed out the needed repairs and presented us with a preliminary budget to get the work done.



Fr Philip & Fr Paul

It really is a beautiful home that is in need of some structural and cosmetic repairs, along with fresh furnishings and updating. Fr. Philip could not have been more gracious and accommodating, and presented me with a hand painted icon of St. George as a memento of our visit.



Jedeidah Church



Dakhil House Exterior

From Jedeidah, we traveled to the nearby town of Deir Mimmas, hometown of the Hourani family. Deir Mimmas is visually stunning, perched as it is on steep hilltop surrounded by olive groves, with its namesake monastery down below. There we met with Fr. Salim Abboud, the town priest who serves the parishes and maintains the monastery property. He described how the Israelis utterly demolished the monastery during their 2006 invasion of Lebanon, and that it was rebuilt by the Prince of Qatar. Currently there are no monks at the monastery, and Fr. Salim administers the property.



Fr Paul & Fr Salim



Deir Mimma Chapel



Fr Paul & Fr Salim - Outside Deir Mimma

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN,
THE FACILITY REMODEL AND THE FIRST YEAR OF OUR NEXT CENTURY

HERITAGE *Sunday* DINNER

SUNDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 15
IN THE CATHEDRAL FELLOWSHIP HALL

MORE DETAILS TO COME ...



Ministry Sunday

Join Us! & Get Involved!

Sunday, August 25
during Coffee Hour

Parish Organizations

- Antiochian Women • Cathedral Choir
- Church School

Ministry Teams

- Adult Education • Community Support
- Missions Support • Outreach Team
- Youth Advisor Team

Growth, Learning & Fellowship Groups

- Men's Bible Study
- Men's Theology Group
- "Mostly Moms" Bible Study
 - New Breed • OCF
 - Weekday Bible Study
- Women's Faith & Growth Group

2019 Vacation Bible School with Kh. Gigi Shadid



The children were greeted and welcomed by Kh Gigi Shadid. What an amazing blessing to have her and their 3 children come from Houston to be with all of us. She and our amazing teachers led them in prayer and then introduced the theme: "Time to go to Church" using all of our five senses. Kh Gigi shared that we worship holistically and engage our whole being when we enter the church. We worship God with all of our senses in order to fully participate with our mind, body and soul. For the Closing Celebration, we all enjoyed the songs that the children had learned during this wonderful week!



The *Simple Gifts* of Christ the Savior Academy

By Ana Boyle, 5th grade Student Prefect (2018-19)

What are three things that you will always bring with you from your time at Christ the Savior Academy?



History, liturgy, and all the teachers are three things that make Christ the Savior Academy special and have taught me to love classical education, while being formed in faith and virtue. The beautiful thing about classical education is its emphasis on history, which is shown in every class. The Orthodox liturgy forms our faith through its beautiful icons and hymns. All the teachers at CSA are virtuous, kind, and dependable, giving me an example to follow. For these “simple gifts” CSA has been very valuable to me.

Entering the conversation of history is a great joy for me. In 3rd grade I made an axe and a vase for a history project on Clovis. I especially like Clovis because of his example in giving to the church, though his tactics were quite gruesome. The war of the roses was fought in the 15th century over who was to be king of England. It taught me to be happy with what I have and not want more. St. Justinian was the king of Constantinople and ruled wisely and justly. He also built the Hagia Sophia. St Justinian has taught me how to stand for my faith in this world.

Though it’s not my tradition, I have gained appreciation for the Orthodox liturgy by being at CSA. Singing in the choir is one of my favorite parts of the liturgy. One of my favorite hymns we sang is the Lenten hymn, “O Taste and See.” I really enjoy seeing all the icons for their beauty and the story they tell. I learned a lot about their

meaning in Icon Studies with Ms. Oldziej. I have also gained endurance and strengthened in my legs by standing through the whole liturgy!

The teachers are virtuous, kind, and dependable. They have been a great example to me. Math with Mrs. Earles gave me a clear understanding of math and logic. The three headmasters—Mr. Mansager, Fr. Benedict, and Dr. Gilbert—taught me by their example of the love of learning. Studying history with Mr. Wagner, especially the middle ages, gave me joy in learning and his teaching. Geography with Miss Likiardopoulos gave me a love for the created world. Mrs. Lenk taught me how to trick the teachers by looking at them as if I was paying attention, but thinking of something else (of course, she will deny this!). Doing experiments with Fr. Ignatius taught me that insects, after being rubbed with salt, can stay alive after being drowned. I learned about one of my favorite composers—Rimsky-Korsakov—in Mrs. Oller’s music class. And I learned how to play violin from Mrs. Farha.

Christ the Savior Academy is the best school I could wish for. Being asked to be the school’s prefect was a great honor to me. The history, liturgy, and examples of the teachers are things I will always carry with me. These “Simple gifts” make CSA special. I’m so glad my parents brought me here.

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

KANSAS FOOD BANK

On Monday, June 3, nine St. George volunteers helped sort canned goods from 1:30-3:30 to help prevent hunger in our community.



THE LORD'S DINER

On Sunday, May 19th, eight St. George volunteers served the homeless in our community at the Broadway location. St. George serves the third Sunday of every month from 5:00-7:30. Please let Mikell Awwad know if you can serve at 250-3016.

YOUNG AT HEART

On Tuesday, June 25th, Community Support provided a catered meal, BINGO, prizes, and fellowship from 11:30-1:00 in the St. George Fellowship Hall. We had a great turnout. Special thanks to those who helped make it special.



What's Coming Up ?

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

St. George is once again providing food and groceries to 25 less fortunate families in the Wichita area. We will gather in the gym to put the baskets of food together and make deliveries on Saturday, July 13th at 10:00 a.m. This project only takes an hour of your time.

BOOKS AND DRIVERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We would like to provide a book for each child for each of the 25 families. If you are interested in adopting a family (buying a book for each of the children in the family) please contact Cindy Abdallah at 648-9576 or sign up at coffee hour following Divine Liturgy. We need at least six drivers so please sign up if you are able to help!! Please bring your books to the church by July 7th.

THE LORD'S DINER

On Sunday, July 21st, St. George volunteers will be serving the homeless in our community at the Broadway location from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Please let Mikell Awwad know if you can serve at 250-3016.

THE ATISHWIN INSTITUTE

Due to bad weather and their basement flooding, we have rescheduled the tour of Atishwin Institute to Sunday, July 21st at 5:00 pm. Bill Vinyard felt it would be more meaningful if members of our parish were present at the House Meeting to present the \$2,000 check to help them purchase new windows or mattresses for their recovery home. Please let Traci Spencer know if you are able to attend this special event and support Bill Vinyard and his passionate work helping men in recovery in our community. You may reach Traci at 371-5599.

Next Meeting Tuesday, July 9th

12:00 noon in the Conference Room.

We would love to have you join us!!

We 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.

The Cathedral Messenger

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2019 Spring Teen SOYO Last Meet

