



# ST. GEORGE HOUSTON *Messenger*

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Kaneesa CAMP

by Jackie Saa

St. Silouan of Mt. Athos once said, "Look at the man who likes to have his own way. His soul is never at peace. He is always discontented- this is not right, that is not as it should be. But man who is entirely given over to the will of God can pray with a pure mind, his soul loves the Lord and he finds everything pleasant and agreeable..."

When Father James asked me if I was interested in being a counselor for Kaneesa

Camp back in March, I had no idea that taking this opportunity would ultimately change what I had been planning for myself for the past eight months. I learned quickly that God's will does not always look like our will. In fact, it often looks a lot different.

In all honesty, I was hesitant to become a counselor. It had been a long time since I was a camper, and although I loved the Church, I was not as involved as I would have liked to have been. I always knew that I wanted to be an Aggie and was looking forward to preparing for Texas A&M in the fall. I wasn't quite sure how summer camp would fit into my busy schedule, especially as I was about to make one of the biggest transitions of my life thus far. Even though I was reluctant, every time I had thought about doing it I felt an unexplainable pull towards becoming a counselor at this camp. I knew in my heart that taking this opportunity would change my life in some way, I just didn't know what it looked like yet.

Leading up to the week of camp, I continued to feel that divine tug on my heart, and I was eager to see the things that God had in store. Within the first day of counselor training, I could already see that God was moving in not only me, but everyone there. Fellowship was being formed within just the first few hours of being there, and once all the campers came, I could begin to see why God had put me there.

Being a counselor was a far different experience than I had anticipated. I was now in charge of six 13 year old girls who were looking to me for religious and personal guidance. I was initially unaware of the role that I took on in my campers' lives. All the small things that I would

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# Kaneesa Camp

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I have previously overlooked were now being analyzed through their thirteen year old eyes. However, my campers were helping me as much as I was helping them - I had a newfound sense of responsibility and wanted to become the best version of myself for them. I felt like I was becoming the person God had called me to be.



Camp is the most ideal, perfect week. With no distractions, the sole purpose of the week is to build relationship with God, your campers, your co-counselors, and yourself. All the worries I had leading up to camp were now gone. I realized that because everybody was there for the same reason, fellowship was stronger and unlike any other setting I had previously been in. I had never felt such a sense of peace and belonging. I distinctly remember Tuesday night at dinner- Kristen Zaid and I had put our cabins together in the dining hall, music was

blasting through the speakers, and everyone was eager for the evening program. I remember sitting back, telling myself to take a mental snapshot of the moment, because I had never felt like I had belonged somewhere more. I knew it was divine timing: the right place, at the right time, with the right people. The connections I made with these people made me want to stay, even with all the things that I considered so important just a few days before.

Towards the middle of the week, God fully revealed to me why I was there. I realized that the fulfillment I received from being around the Church and its community was unlike anything I have ever experienced. It was a bittersweet feeling, being around such amazing people that I had seen within the Church community but had never spoken to. I hadn't realized I was missing out on so much fellowship and love. I knew that the Lord was calling me to a purpose greater than what I had planned for myself. That's when I made the decision to set aside attending Texas A&M in the fall, and to stay here and be close to the Church I loved, and the community I now felt more a part of than ever. It was far from easy to decide this for myself, especially considering I had been committed to going there for the past eight months. Though it was a difficult decision, I knew that with the relationships I had developed with the camp community would allow for continuous spiritual growth. I didn't want the passion I had for the Church to fade, but rather, I wanted to be able to further grow into the person God called me to be.

Kaneesa Camp was a life changing experience. It changed an entire course of my life that I was previously so set on. God's guidance revealed to me my purpose and where I need to be in order to serve Him and His Kingdom. I learned that sometimes you have to set aside your will to be able to fully accept God's Will for your life - and even though the two might look alot different - God's Will is undoubtedly the best path.

Special Thank You to St. George Church, St. Joseph Church, The St. Nicholas Mens Society, B & G Wholesale, The French Corner, and the many individual parishioners who offered donations.





**Kaneesa**  
**CAMP** ★

# baptisms

May 15

**Daniel Jerry Shanar**

Son of Jerry & Jacqueline Shanar

May 16

**Hoda Pourzargham**

May 22

**Robert Earl Ogle IV**

Son of Robert & Nora Ogle

June 5

**Xavier Tristan Salazar**

Son of Jose & Diane Salazar

June 6

**George Jacob Moussa**

Son of Jacob & Rebecca Moussa

June 20

**Emma Maria Salomon**

Daughter of Arturo & Maria Salomon

June 26

**James Julio Calderon**

Son of Julio & Susan Calderon

June 26

**Silas Anthony Mody**

Son of Sam & Samantha Mody

June 27

**Nicole Mekdessi**

Daughter of Juan Mekdessi

June 27

**Camilla Danielle Abercia**

Daughter of Zachariah & Rana Abercia

July 10

**Noah Baba**

Son of Steven & Vivi Baba

July 17

**Liam Haddad**

Son of Eddie & Megan Haddad

July 15

**Darhan Sydykov**

August 7

**Alexandra Ruiz**

Daughter of Abe & Maria Ruiz

August 8

**Misael Acosta**

August 15

**Kairo Joseph Steichen**

Son of Aaron & Dalia Steichen

August 22

**Malec Jimmy Jad Zaid**

Son of Jimmy & Samantha Zaid

August 29

**Claire Haddad**

Daughter of & Sandy

# chrismations

May 1

**Santiago Tomas Garcia**

May 16

**Tania Prontka**

May 16

**Anastasia Sydykov**

# weddings

May 9

**Elie & Ivette Keedy**

May 15

**Thomas & Noelle Jeffreys**

May 22

**Joseph & Hoda Jabbour**

July 10

**Paul & Cynthia Haddad**

July 24

**Ethan & Alex Marie Levine**

August 28

**Sharof Rashidov & Nora Azar**

# funerals

May 14

**Labibe Azzam**

May 17

**Raja Kamel Saadeh**

May 20

**Georgette Assaf**

May 24

**Ramy Bitar Deeb**

June 16

**Bader Jiries Baba**

August 10

**Ellen Rizek Kawaja**

August 15

**Eisa Hafeez Khawaja**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Beginning Sept. 8**

**VESPERS: 6:30 P.M. CLASSES: 7:15 -8:00 P.M. DINNER: 8:00 P.M.**

Catechism with Fr. George

Bible Study with Fr. James

Teen Chat with Chris Al-Dehneh

Children's Program (ages 5-11)

Please feel free to come to  
any or all portions of the night.

## *Refugee Donation Drive*

St. Nicholas Men's Society is working with Interfaith Ministries of Houston to conduct a donation drive to benefit refugees in our area. We are looking for items would furnish an apartment for refugees. Items may be dropped off at St. George during office hours now through Sept. 19.

✘Clothing and shoes

✘TV's, radios, laptops, computers

✘Kitchenware: small appliances, microwaves, blenders, toasters, toaster ovens, cooking utensils, cutlery, plates, pots and pans, etc.

✘Houseware: small furniture, tables, chairs, end tables, chests of drawers, night stands, lamps, clocks, rugs, etc.

# Fellowship Activities Center (FAC) Update



As we look at the history of St. George Houston, we are honored by our past, striving for the present and excited about the future. We invite you to join us in Fulfilling Our Legacy and making this vision a reality. Please visit [www.stgeorgehouston.com](http://www.stgeorgehouston.com) to commit.

Capital Campaign Fundraising Goal  
\$5.5 million for new FAC building  
(currently \$3.2 million committed)

Fundraising Timeline  
Raise funds by March 2024  
Complete construction in 2025

- ✦ New First Floor Lobby/Pre-function space
- ✦ New parish hall with a seating capacity of 510
  - ✦ Dedicated choir rehearsal suite
  - ✦ 7 additional classrooms
  - ✦ Dedicated 3000 square foot
- ✦ Teen/Young Adult Room with terrace



Seraphim \$1,000,000+

Cherubim \$500,000+

- Jesse Kawas † & Adela Kawas †
- Anonymous

Thrones \$250,000+

Powers \$100,000+

- St. George Ladies Altar Society

Dominions \$50,000+

- Christopher & Anastasia Hogan
- John & Susie Sobchak
- Payton & Ashley Wright
- Anonymous
- Anonymous

Principalities \$25,000+

- Antone & Hanan Araj
- Gregory & Kathy and Georgette Asaf
- Kousta & Sheena Foteh
- Rommy & Christine Foteh
- Issa & Faten Gnaim
- Charlie & Tanya Gnaim
- Habeeb & Faten Gnaim
- Shadee & Christina Gnaim
- Henry & Marlene Kaim
- Anthony & Heidi Kaim
- Gabriel & Amanda Kaim
- Nick & Vicki Massad
- Raja & Stephanie Saa
- Fr. James & Kh. Gigi Shadid
- Ronnie & Vera Shanar
- Tony & Sheila Shanar
- George & Sandra Zaibaq
- Anonymous
- Anonymous

## Virtues \$10,000+

- Michael & Amanda Araj
- Saman & Shahnaz Baba
  - Akram & Violet Baba
- Aaron & Natasha Castro
  - Edward Dumont
- Robert & Susan Heimbaugh
- Fr. George & Kh. Miray Katrib
- Michael & Hoda Kardoush
  - Hatem & Yvette Khalaf
- Michael & Lucie Ogdee
  - Nick & Tania Prontka
- Jose & DeAnne Salazar
- George & Deena Salfiti
- Gordon & Roula Shahin
  - Samir & Grace Tuma
    - Anonymous
    - Anonymous
    - Anonymous
    - Anonymous
    - Anonymous

## Archangels \$5,000+

- Christopher Al-Dehneh
- Nabil & Ginger Arwadi
  - Eddy & Sahar Bridy
- Dina Bridy & Ivan Gamboa
  - Ramzi Dadoush
- Andrew & Irene Giannakakis
  - Ryan & Christina Hicks
  - Pierre & Fadia Khoury
- Salem & Antoinette Mufarreh
  - Daniel & Sheryl Namee
    - Joshua Namee
  - Danielle A. Prontka
- Argo Georgandis Pyle
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous

## Angels <\$5,000

- Leila Baba
- Donna Baine
- Elaine Maniha
- Harvey & Collie Michaels
- Posey & Souad Shackelford
  - Diana Zabak
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous
  - Anonymous

## Donors

- Alexaundria Abercia
- James & Kristen Anton
- William & Nancy Attra
  - Fuad & Hala Baba
    - Issa Baba
- Derek & Jinan Copold
- Victor & Clemence Eadeh
- John & Nadine Eidman
  - May Freiha
- Souheil & Mariana Haddad
- Nabil (Bill) & Linda Haidamous
  - Michel & Yolla Jabbour
- Chris & Elizabeth Janda
  - Alexandra Janda
  - Cynthia Kostas
  - Robert Macey
  - Allan Maniha
- Raymond & Christine Merheb
  - Albert & Carolyn Nahas
    - Wanda Saba
- Afaf & Nadeem Salameh
  - Ata Tom & Lina Salek
  - JD & Angie Slaughter
- Fawzi & Barbara Tarabay
- Michael & Nicol Voutsinas
  - Karol Zako
- John & Teresa Zastany

(current Donor List as of August 25, 2021)



# ST. GEORGE HOUSTON *Messenger*

St. George Orthodox Christian Church  
5311 Mercer Street  
Houston, TX 77005  
(713) 665-5252  
[www.stgeorgehouston.com](http://www.stgeorgehouston.com)

## CHURCH STAFF

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Pastor             | V. Rev. Fr. James Shadid  |
| Assistant Pastor   | Rev. George Katrib        |
| Pastor Emeritus    | V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Shahda |
| Deacon             | Archdeacon Joseph Carter  |
| Youth Director     | Chris Al-Dehneh           |
| Operations Manager | Eddy Bridy                |

Save The Date

*St. George Gala*  
Saturday January 21, 2022

*Do you or someone you know know desire to be a member of the Church?  
Are you a member of the Church wishing to know more about the Faith?*

# ORTHODOXY 101

## Catechism Classes

Every Wednesday 7:15 p.m. at St. George Beginning Sept. 8