



Sunday, January 28
Rabbi Vered Harris
9:00 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

Rabbi Vered L. Harris became the spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Israel in Oklahoma City in 2012. She is the fifth rabbi to serve the congregation since its founding in 1903.

Rabbi Harris' community work in Oklahoma City includes interfaith dialogue, guest lecturing, and multi-faith prayer services. At the Temple she enjoys serving with a professional and volunteer team offering religious education, pastoral care, prayer, and social action opportunities. Her specific interests include ritual, creative expression, and applying Jewish values to our modern lives. Rabbi Harris is concerned about civil and human rights, and particularly the ways in which members of minority groups are heard and respected in our community.

Rabbi Harris received her Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Letters and her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), and her Master of Arts degree in Jewish Education (MAJE) from the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR. Her MAJE projects included *The Role of the Rabbi in the Religious School*, and a curriculum integrating prayer and the arts. Her Rabbinic thesis was *Contemporary Midrash: A Tradition Continues*. In 2002 Rabbi Harris was awarded the title of Reform Jewish Educator from the National Association of Temple Educators.

Her undergraduate degree is from California State University, Northridge, in Liberal Studies with a focus on the ethnic child, and a minor in Jewish Studies.

Rabbi Harris' publications include *Abraham, Great-Grandma Mary, and Me*, (Reform Judaism, Winter 2013), *A Shabbat State of Mind* (the American Rabbi, 2009), and she was the weekly writer for the book of Numbers in 2017/5777 as part of *Reform Voices of Torah*, the Reform movement's national on-line commentary.

Nationally, Rabbi Harris is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Association of Reform Jewish Educators. She is also an alumna of the Elaine Breslow Institute at Beit T'shuvah (2016), the American Jewish World Service Young Rabbis Delegation to Muchucuxcah, Mexico (2011), the Jewish Women's Archives Educator Institute focusing on the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. South (2010), and Germany Close-Up (2008).

Rabbi Harris' family is from the United States and Israel. She is an advocate for a diverse and inclusive Jewish state of Israel. Mostly raised in Simi Valley, California, Rabbi Harris has lived in California, Israel, Germany, Ohio, and Kansas prior to settling in Oklahoma with her husband Benjamin and their three children.

Understanding Our Shared Roots

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the three major religions of the world, all recognize and revere Abraham as their first prophet, consequently they are collectively called the *Abrahamic* religions.

FOR SAFETY SAKE
 Armed security will be on duty
 at all three presentations.

January 2024
 Guest Speakers

Thursday January 18, 6:30 p.m.

Sundays January 21 and 28

9:00 a.m. Adult Class

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

May Peace Prevail

on All

God's Holy Mountains

Roots of Conflict and Resolution



Trinity Lutheran Church

5701 S. May Avenue

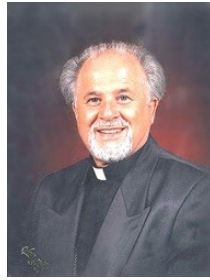
Oklahoma City, OK 73119

(405) 685-3432

okctrinity@gmail.com

trinitylutheranokc.com

Thursday, January 18
Father Constantine Nasr
6:30 p.m.



The Rev. Constantine Nasr came to Oklahoma City in 1982 as a young, energetic priest ready to lead a growing Orthodox Christian

congregation. Retiring in 2011, Fr. Constantine built the parish of St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church over a ministry spanning three decades.

Born in Jerusalem to parents who had a fervent love for God and the Orthodox Christian Church, Fr. Constantine often walked with his Orthodox Christian priest father to visit parishioners in the West Bank. His father's legacy and a calling from the Lord helped inspire him to become a priest, as well. His father's journey to the U.S. in 1954 to raise funds for Palestinian refugees expelled from Israel after the formation of the state of Israel in 1948, led to the family's relocation to America where Fr. Constantine's parents believed their children would have expanded opportunities for education and success.

A graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary, Fr. Constantine is a pioneer in American Orthodoxy in terms of Missions and Evangelism. Because of his efforts and the efforts of those he recruited to assist him, St. Elijah has welcomed hundreds of people who have embraced the Orthodox Christian Faith. Fr. Constantine helped establish numerous missions in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Colorado, and helped train many men in priestly and diaconal service. Fr. Constantine recently released a new book, his eighth, on married relationships, *Mastering the Art of Marriage: Staying Together When the World Pulls You Apart*.

Other books include *The Bible in the Liturgy*, *Journey Through the Divine Liturgy*, *Resource Book for Mission and Evangelism*, *Memory Eternal: Selected Eulogies*, *A Practical Guide for Priests & Pastors*, and his life-long project, *Anthony Bashir: Founding Father of the American Orthodox Church*. He has lectured at Orthodox seminaries and parishes in the United States and Canada.

Standing beside Fr. Constantine, helping him in his ministry, have been his wife, Sharon, his son Constantine and wife Mandy, and son Philip.



Sunday, January 21
Imam Imad Enchassi
9:00 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

Dr. Imad Enchassi is currently the Chairman of Islamic Studies, Chaplain and professor at the Wimberly School of Religion at Oklahoma City University. He serves as an adjunct professor of Islamic Studies at Phillips Theological Seminary and St. Paul's School of Theology. He is also the Senior Imam at the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City.

Dr. Enchassi grew up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. He spent his childhood surrounded by war and conflict and became a volunteer as a white helmet for the Red Cross during the war when he was a teenager.

Dr. Enchassi has over 8 Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Ph.D. degrees from Texas Tech University, South Plains College, Southern Nazarene University, University of Phoenix, and Dawa University. He has earned degrees in Human Resources, Leadership, and Islamic Studies.

The courses he teaches include Introduction to World Religions, Introduction to Islam, Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue, Judeo-Christian Roots of Islam, The Muslim Experience in America, and Survey of the Major Themes in the Quran.

In 2004, Dr. Enchassi became the founder and executive director of the Mercy Education Foundation and the president and Imam of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City (ISGOC). Many philanthropic initiatives and programs have been started under Enchassi's leadership including the Mercy Food Pantry, the Shifa Clinic, and the Mercy Cemetery – Oklahoma's first Islamic cemetery. Mercy School is an established K–12 school in Edmond and the Shifa Clinic is a free clinic near ISGOC.

Dr. Enchassi has been featured in media outlets including CNN, MSNBC, ABC, BBC, and Al-Jazeera. He is a published author with his book, *Cloud Miles*, and is currently working on his second book, *Survey of the Quran*. Dr. Enchassi resides in Oklahoma City with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Understanding Our Shared Identity

Judaism, Islam, and Christianity are all *People of the Book*.

We share three common traits:

- we all use the Torah—the first five books of the Hebrew and Christian bible—as sacred scripture;
- we all trace our lineage to Abraham;
- we are all monotheistic, meaning we believe in one God.