

# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

Dn. Nicholas Adranly

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, California 925-257-2940

[www.stjohnorinda.org](http://www.stjohnorinda.org) email: [st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com)

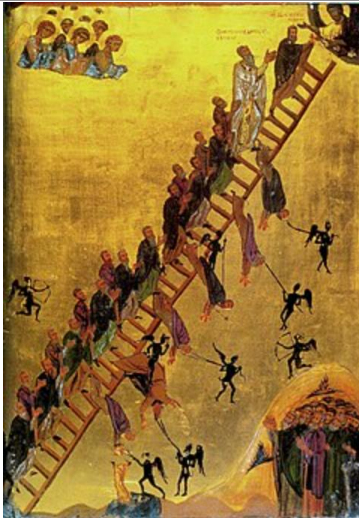
**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 1**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

APOSTLES ARISTARCHOS, PUDENS AND TROPHYMOS OF THE SEVENTY



## Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

On the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally

as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

## THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

## الرسالة

مَا أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالِكَ يَا رَبُّ، كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا وَعَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِذْ لَمْ يُمَكِّنْ أَنْ يُقَسِّمَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُ، أَقْسَمَ بِنَفْسِهِ. قَائِلًا: لِأَبَارِكَنَّكَ بَرَكَهً وَأَكْثِرَنَّكَ تَكْثِيرًا. وَذَلِكَ إِذْ تَأْتِي، نَالَ الْمَوْعِدَ. وَإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ يُقَسِّمُونَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُمْ، وَتَنْقُضِي كُلَّ مُشَاجِرَةٍ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقَسَمِ لِلتَّثْبِيتِ. فَلِذَلِكَ، لَمَّا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ وَرَثَةَ الْمَوْعِدِ بَيَانًا لِعَدَمِ تَحْوِيلِ عَزْمِهِ، تَوَسَّطَ بِالْقَسَمِ. حَتَّى نَحْصَلَ بِأَمْرَيْنِ لَا يَتَحَوَّلَانِ وَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمَا عَلَى تَعْزِيَةٍ قَوِيَّةٍ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ التَّجَّأْنَا إِلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِالرَّجَاءِ الْمَوْضُوعِ أَمَانًا. الَّذِي هُوَ لَنَا كَمِرْسَاةٍ لِلنَّفْسِ أَمِينَةٍ رَاسِخَةٍ تَدْخُلُ إِلَى دَاخِلِ الْحِجَابِ، حَيْثُ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَسَابِقٍ لَنَا وَقَدْ صَارَ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادُوقَ، رَئِيسِ كَهَنَةٍ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

## THE GOSPEL

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ إِنْسَانٌ وَسَجَدَ لَهُ قَائِلًا: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، قَدْ أَتَيْتُكَ بِابْنِي، بِهِ رُوحٌ أَبْكَمٌ. وَحَيْثُمَا أَخَذَهُ يَصْرَعُهُ، فَيَزِيدُ وَيَصْرِفُ بِأَسْنَانِهِ وَبِنَيْسُ، وَقَدْ سَأَلْتُ تَلَامِيذَكَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوهُ فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ قَائِلًا: "أَيُّهَا الْجِيلُ غَيْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِلَى مَتَى أَكُونُ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ حَتَّى مَتَى أَحْتَمِلُكُمْ؟ هَلُمَّ بِهِ إِلَيَّ." فَأَتَوْهُ بِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهُ لِلْوَقْتِ صْرَعَهُ الرُّوحُ، فَسَقَطَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَتَمَرَّغُ وَيَزِيدُ. فَسَأَلَ أَبَاهُ: "مُنْذُ كَمْ مِنَ الزَّمَانِ أَصَابَهُ هَذَا؟" فَقَالَ: "مِنْذُ صِبَاةٍ. وَكَثِيرًا مَا لَقَاهُ فِي النَّارِ وَفِي الْمِيَاهِ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. لَكِنْ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ شَيْئًا، فَتَحْنَنْ عَلَيْنَا وَأَغْنِنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ، فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ." فَصَاحَ أَبُو الصَّبِيِّ مِنْ سَاعَتِهِ بِدُمُوعٍ وَقَالَ: "إِنِّي أُوْمِنُ يَا سَيِّدُ، فَأَغْنِ عَدَمَ إِيمَانِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ الْجَمْعَ يَتَبَادَرُونَ إِلَيْهِ، انْتَهَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ قَائِلًا لَهُ: "أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ الْأَبْكَمُ الْأَصْمُ، أَنَا أَمْرُكَ أَنْ أُخْرِجَ مِنْهُ وَلَا تَعُدْ تَدْخُلُ فِيهِ." فَصَرَخَ وَخَبَطَهُ كَثِيرًا وَخَرَجَ مِنْهُ، فَصَارَ كَالْمَيِّتِ، حَتَّى قَالَ كَثِيرُونَ إِنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ. فَأَخَذَ يَسُوعُ بِيَدِهِ وَأَنْهَضَهُ، فَقَامَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتًا، سَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ: "لِمَاذَا لَمْ نَسْتَطِعْ نَحْنُ أَنْ نُخْرِجَهُ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ هَذَا الْجِنْسَ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْرِجَ بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالصُّومِ." وَلَمَّا خَرَجُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، اجْتَازُوا فِي الْجَلِيلِ، وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْرِي أَحَدٌ. فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يُعَلِّمُ تَلَامِيذَهُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ يُسَلَّمُ إِلَى أَيْدِي النَّاسِ، فَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَبَعْدَ أَنْ يَقْتَلُ، يَقُومُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ."

## Love Your Neighbor

### April – Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 28, 2024)

Each year, the Archdiocese asks each parish to take a collection to help support the Patriarchate in Antioch on Palm Sunday. This will be our “neighbor” for the month of April.



### Flowers for The Bier *نعش المسيح of Christ.*

Offered by Jack and Sylvia Dudum and family in memory of John and Misadeh Dudum and family; Elias and Nahiel Nazzal and family; Butros and Nabihah Dudum and family; also by Sam Khoury for the continued good health of Sam, Yessie, Sam Jr. and Sofia Khoury. Many years!

### Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00 PM
Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM, followed by a potluck.
Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Prison ministry Easter card writing workshop after Liturgy
Saturday May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

### Coffee Hours

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Farradj and Adranly families on the occasion of the 40 day memorial for Nuha Adranly. May her memory be eternal!
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Samir and Carol Syriani for the good health of their family!

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Vivian Srouji, Daniel Romley and Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Nuha Adranly**, the beloved sister of our Deacon Nicholas and our chanter George. Our condolences to the entire Adranly family. May her memory be eternal!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of nephew **Osama Zabneh**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Frida Cawog**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Karim Nino**. Many years!

### Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum, David Evans, Evan Kavar, Mason Kavar, Jonathan Juha and Maron Juha

- † Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum and Family** in loving memory of John, Misadeh, Audie and Mary Dudum and Jim and Rose Romley. May their memory be eternal!



### Memorial Services

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**: 2 year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Kh. Patricia Romley. May her memory be eternal!  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>**: 10-year memorial service for the servant of God Fakhry Farhan Kavar, offered by Ramsey and Kian Kavar and family. May his memory be eternal!



## Meeting Urgent Needs and Planning for the Future

Active in the Middle East since the 1990s, IOCC is using its deep experience and relationships to provide aid during the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land. Since conflict began in October, IOCC has remained in close contact with partners and staff on the ground.

From food and water to baby formula and medicine, IOCC has supplied essential support to thousands of displaced refugees in Gaza. Read more about how IOCC is providing emergency relief while planning for long-term needs.

***St. John Orthodox Church  
501 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563***

You could use this QR code for your donation





## Fellowship Hall News

### Building Committee Update:

Our contractor is making progress and we look forward to even more progress soon as the weather improves. One can see the scaffolding for the roof and additional weather-proofing layers on the walls as well as braces and brackets for the tile wall panels expected to go up soon.

Members of the Building Committee will be meeting with the landscape architect to review and finalize some of the hardscape around the building as well as fences and more retaining walls for the SW corner of the property for the Preschool play yard.

### Parish Help Needed

Fellow parishioners, the fundraising committee is seeking your help in finding funding for our community hall. If you or anyone you know, has any experience with grants for charitable organizations, we would love to talk with you! We would like to apply for some grants, but don't know where to begin. This is an important step in fulfilling our financial goals for the hall. If you have any information, please email David Hanna at [davidnlisah@hotmail.com](mailto:davidnlisah@hotmail.com). Thank you!

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## **See's CANDIES**

St John Orthodox Church Storefront

Help Us  
Reach Our Goal!



### See's Candies

Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.

- Own a business and need to gift?
- Any gift?
- Easter chocolate??
- SEE'S just because it's SEE'S??

ANYONE can purchase!! Please scan the QR code, find the link on our Facebook, or ask anyone in the fundraising committee .

## Zinc Shingles on the Roof!

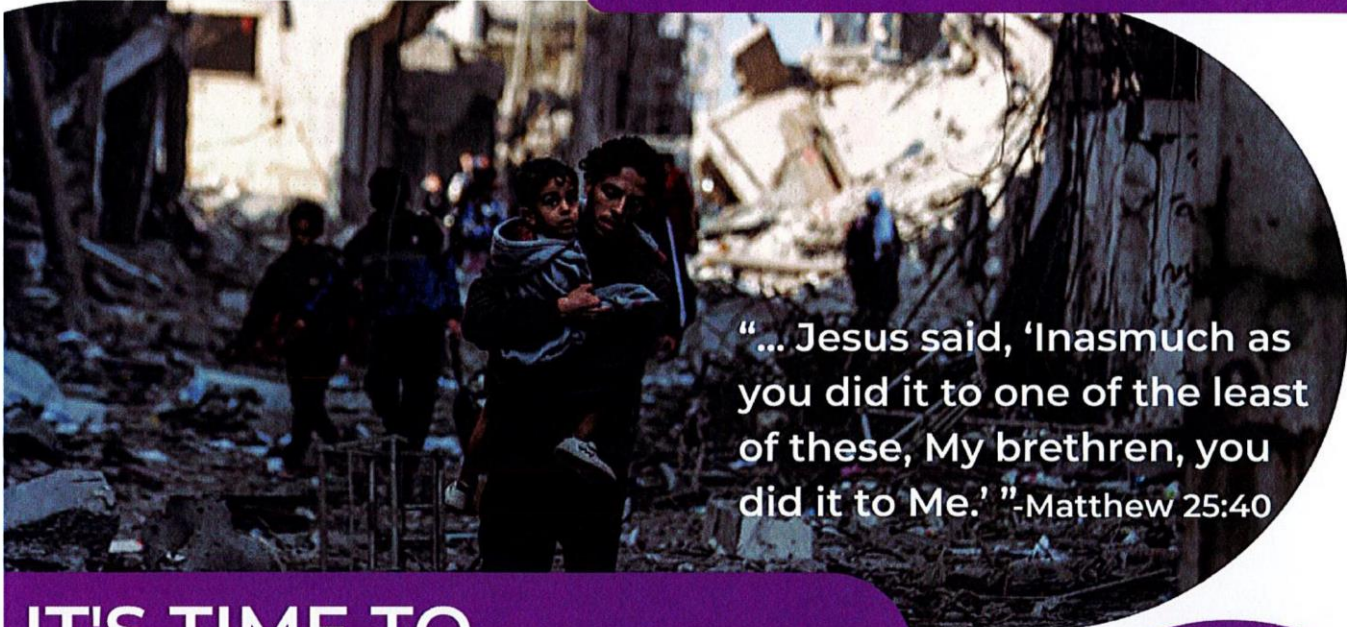




  
**BASILICA OF ST. MARY**  
Antiochian Orthodox Church • Livonia, MI



## GREAT LENT PROJECT



“... Jesus said, ‘Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”-Matthew 25:40

## IT'S TIME TO **DONATE** GAZA TENT SPONSORSHIPS

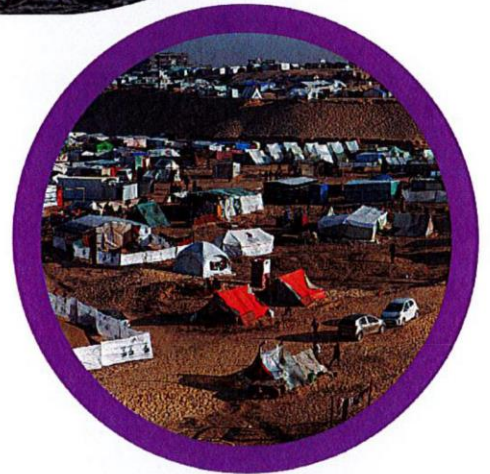
We have partnered with an aid agency that is providing tents for families whose homes have been destroyed amid the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. Tents are furnished and can house a whole family.

Help us to reach our target of 100 tents throughout the Lenten season

**\$350.00** PER TENT

Checks can be mailed to our office, payable to St. Mary Church- Gaza Tent Project. Or donate online at the link below, or by scanning the QR code

**[WWW.STMARYLIVONIA.COM](http://WWW.STMARYLIVONIA.COM)**



18100 Merriman Rd. Livonia, MI 48152 734-422-0010



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 049/2024

Great Lent, 2024

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN**

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

During this holy season of repentance, we strive with renewed focus to live rightly, being “doers of the word and not just hearers” (James 1:22). Along with increasing our prayers and abandoning self-indulgence, we especially focus on caring for the needs of others. As we hear on Meatfare Sunday, we will be judged by God on how we have responded to the sufferings of the “least of these” (Matthew 25), so we must strive to give attention to their needs as we would to Christ’s.

Although our Lord Jesus Christ taught and exemplified this law of love in the most perfect way, it is also beautifully stated in the Old Law, where God commands, “If one of your brothers happens to be in need . . ., you will not harden your heart nor shut your hand to your needy brother. You will surely open your hands to him” (Deuteronomy 15:7–8). Such giving is not just some humanitarian project but a relational act: opening our hearts and hands to our brothers and sisters. It is a determination to actually see the homeless woman we pass on the street and to remember the friend or acquaintance who has fallen on hard times. Although the magnitude of suffering in the world tempts us to insulate ourselves against the needs of others, the law of love reminds us that each person is a treasure and that his need is not a problem but an opportunity to embrace him.

As we have for 50 years now, we again encourage you to open your hearts and hands to the needy by contributing to our Food for Hungry People program this Lent. We appeal to your well-known generosity and ask the blessing of Almighty God on all who participate in this worthy effort.

With prayers for an edifying and enriching Great Lent and a glorious celebration of Pascha, I remain,

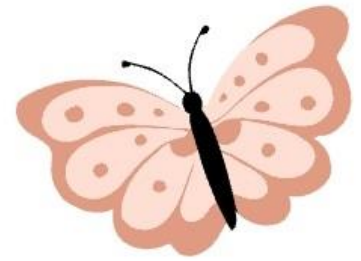
Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a small icon of a cross followed by the text "SABA".

✠ SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

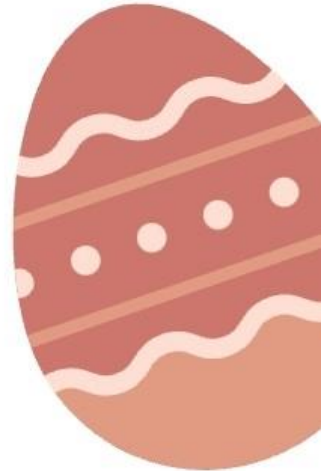
*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F



ST. JOHN'S

# PASCHA EGG HUNT



*Saturday May 4th  
after morning service*

EGG HUNT, BRUNCH, ARTS & CRAFT, & MORE!!

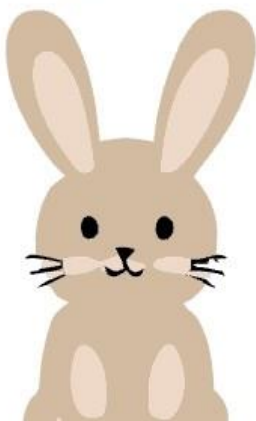
\*\*\* RAFFLE BASKETS \*\*\*

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS  
PURCHASING TENTS IN GAZA



IN ADDITION WE WILL BE PUTTING CARE  
PACKAGES FOR LOCAL HOMELESS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE  
PLEASE CONTACT RANIA KASHOU OR IRENE GUAJARDO





**ROSE'S ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**



**Please contact Denise Dudum at 925-360-3350 if you'd like to contribute your special baked goods or if you'd like to**

**PRE-ORDER**

# FUNDRAISER

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**St. John Orthodox  
church**

**Thursday, May 16  
All day**

**The Kebab Shop**  
2359 Oak Grove Rd Bldg H  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

To participate in this fundraiser, show this flyer during checkout at the store or order online at [order.thekebabshop.com](http://order.thekebabshop.com) using the fundraiser coupon code below.

**Fundraiser Code:**

**FUNDRAISER**

This fundraiser event is between St. John Orthodox church and The Kebab Shop. The Kebab Shop will donate 50% of qualifying food and beverage sales to St. John Orthodox church. Additional sales exclusions may apply including: Delivery, Catering, any other promotions. Offer valid only on select date(s) and location(s). Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the store. The Kebab Shop may impose additional terms and conditions.

