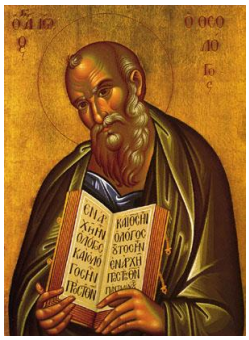


+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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 email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Tone 5 / Eothinon 2; Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt

Hieromartyr Januarios, bishop of Benevento & companions;
Martyr Alexandra the Queen & companions

الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

On the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!" Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary's lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

الرسالة

أَنْتَ يا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنا وتَسْتُرُنا مِنْ هَذا الجيلِ،
خَلِّصْني، يا رَبُّ، فإنَّ البارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسالَةِ القِدّيسِ بولُسَ الرَّسولِ إلى العِبْرانِيين. (9:11-14)

يا إِخْوَتُ، إِنَّ المَسيحَ إِذْ قَدْ جاءَ رَئيسَ كَهَنَةٍ لِلْخيْراتِ المُسْتَقْبَلَةِ، فَبِمَسْكَنٍ أَعْظَمَ وأَكْمَلَ غيرِ مَصْنوعٍ بِأَيْدٍ، أَيْ لَيْسَ مِنْ هذِهِ الخليقة. ولَيْسَ بِدَمِ تُيُوسٍ وَعُجُولٍ بَلْ بِدَمِ نَفْسِهِ دَخَلَ الأَقْداسَ مَرَّةً واحِدَةً فَوَجَدَ فِداءً أَبَدِيّاً. لأَنَّهُ إِنْ كانَ دَمُ ثيرانٍ وتُيُوسٍ ورَمادُ عِجْلَةٍ يُرَشُّ على المُنَجَّسينَ فَيُقَدِّسُهُمْ لِتَطْهيرِ الجَسَدِ* فَكَمْ بِالأَحْرَى دَمُ المَسيحِ، الَّذي بالروحِ الأَزَلِيِّ قَرَّبَ نَفْسَهُ للهِ بِلا عَيْبٍ، يُطَهِّرُ ضَمائِرَكُمْ مِنَ الأَعْمالِ المَيِّتَةِ لِتَعْبُدُوا اللهَ الحَيّ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise.” And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, “Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire” And Jesus said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And they said to Him, “Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, “You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

الإنجيل

فَصْلٌ شَريفٌ مِنْ بِشارَةِ القِديسِ مَرْقُسَ الإنْجيلِيّ البَشير والتلميذِ الطاهِر. (10:32-45)

فى ذلكَ الزمان، أَخذَ يسوعُ تلاميذَهُ الإثْنَى عَشَرَ وابْتَدَأَ يَقولُ لَهُمْ ما سيَعْرِضُ لَهُ. "هُوَذا نَحْنُ صاعِدونَ إلى أورَشَليمَ، وابْنُ البَشَر سَيُسْلَمُ إلى رؤساءِ الكَهَنَةِ والكَتَبَةِ، فَيَحْكُمونَ عَلَيْهِ بالمَوْتِ ويُسْلِمونَهُ إلى الأُمم. فَيَهْزَأُونَ بهِ، ويَبْصُقُونَ عَلَيْهِ، ويَجْلِدونَهُ، ويَقْتُلونَهُ، وفى اليَوْم الثالِثِ يَقومُ." فَدَنا إليهِ يَعْقوبُ ويوحَنَّا ابْنا زبَدَى قائِلَيْن: "يا مُعلِّمُ، نُريدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنا مَهْمَا طَلَبْنا." فقالَ لَهُما: "ماذا تُريدان أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُما؟" قالا لَهُ: "أَعْطِنا أَنْ يَجْلِسَ أَحَدُنا عَنْ يَمينِكَ والآخَرُ عَنْ يَسارِكَ فى مَجدِكَ." فَقالَ لَهُما يَسوعُ: "إنَّكُما لا تَعْلَمان ما تَطْلُبان. أَتَسْتَطيعان أَنْ تَشْرَبا الكَأْسَ التى أَشْرَبُها أنا، وأَنْ تَصْطَبِغا بالصِبْغَةِ التى أَصْطَبِغُ بها أنا؟" فَقالا لَهُ: "نَسْتَطيع". فَقالَ لَهُما يَسوعُ: "أَمَّا الكَأْسُ التى أَشْرَبُها فَتَشْرَبانِها، وبالصِبْغَةِ التى أَصْطَبِغُ بها فَتَصْطَبِغان. وأَمّا جُلوسُكُما عَنْ يَميني وَعَنْ يَساري فَلَيْسَ لى أَنْ أُعْطِيَهُ إلّا لِلذينَ أُعِدَّ لَهُمْ." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ العَشَرَةُ، ابْتَدَأُوا يَغْضَبُونَ على يَعْقوبَ ويوحنَّا. فَدَعاهُمْ يَسوعُ، وقالَ لَهُمْ: "قَدْ عَلِمْتُمْ أَنَّ الذينَ يُحْسَبونَ رُؤساءَ الأُمَمِ يَسودونَهُمْ، وعُظَماءَهُمْ يَتَسَلَّطونَ عَلَيْهِمْ. وأَمّا أَنْتُمْ فَلا يَكونُ فيكُمْ هَكَذا. ولَكِنْ مَنْ أَرادَ أَنْ يَكونَ فيكُمْ كَبيراً، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خادِماً. ومَنْ أَرادَ أَنْ يَكونَ فيكُمْ أَوَّلَ، فَلْيَكُنْ لِلْجَميعِ عَبْداً. فإنَّ ابْنَ البَشَرِ لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ بَلْ لِيَخْدِمَ، ولِيَبْذُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِداءً عَنْ كَثيرينَ".

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 Nabiha Dudum and family. Many years!

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Wednesday, April 17th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00 PM
Friday, April 19th	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM, followed by a potluck.
Saturday May 4th	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Coffee Hours

April 21st	A farewell luncheon in honor of Christian Farradj by Jordis Fasheh and others. Many years!
April 28th	Bake sale. No coffee hour.
May 5th	Easter / Pascha

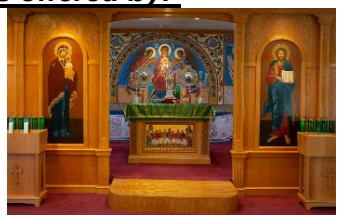
Holy Oblations

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 for the good health of **Frida Cawog**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Karim Nino**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Carol Syariani**. 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 Kawar, Mason Kawar, 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

June 9th: 10-year memorial service for the servant of God Fakhry Farhan Kawar, offered by Ramsey and Kian Kawar and family. May his memory be eternal!

June 30th: by Fairouz Freij : one year memorial for Khalid Haddad, 30 years for Angel Freij and 20 years for Emilie Haddad . May their 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.

Holy Week Schedule

April 8th : Lazarus Saturday	Lazarus Saturday Liturgy at 10:00am.
April 28th : Palm Sunday	Matins at 9:00am, Divine Liturgy at 10:00am Bridegroom Service صلاة الختن at 6:30pm
April 29th : Holy Monday	Bridegroom Service *صلاة الختن* at 6:30 pm
April 30th : Holy Tuesday	Bridegroom Service *صلاة الختن* at 6:30 pm
May 1st : Holy Wednesday	Holy Unction صلاة الزيت المقدس at 6:30 pm
May 2nd : Holy Thursday	Vesperal Liturgy and Washing of the Feet at 10:00am Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm
May 3rd : Holy Friday	• Royal Hours, Vespers and Taking the Body from the Cross – 2:30 pm • Lamentations *تقاريظ الجناز* at 6:30 pm • Vigil at Christ's Tomb at 9:00pm
May 4th : Holy Saturday	Vesperal Liturgy at 10:00am Rush Service 10:30 pm followed by the Divine Liturgy
May 5th : Great and Holy Pascha	Agape Vespers at 1:00pm

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. Thank you!

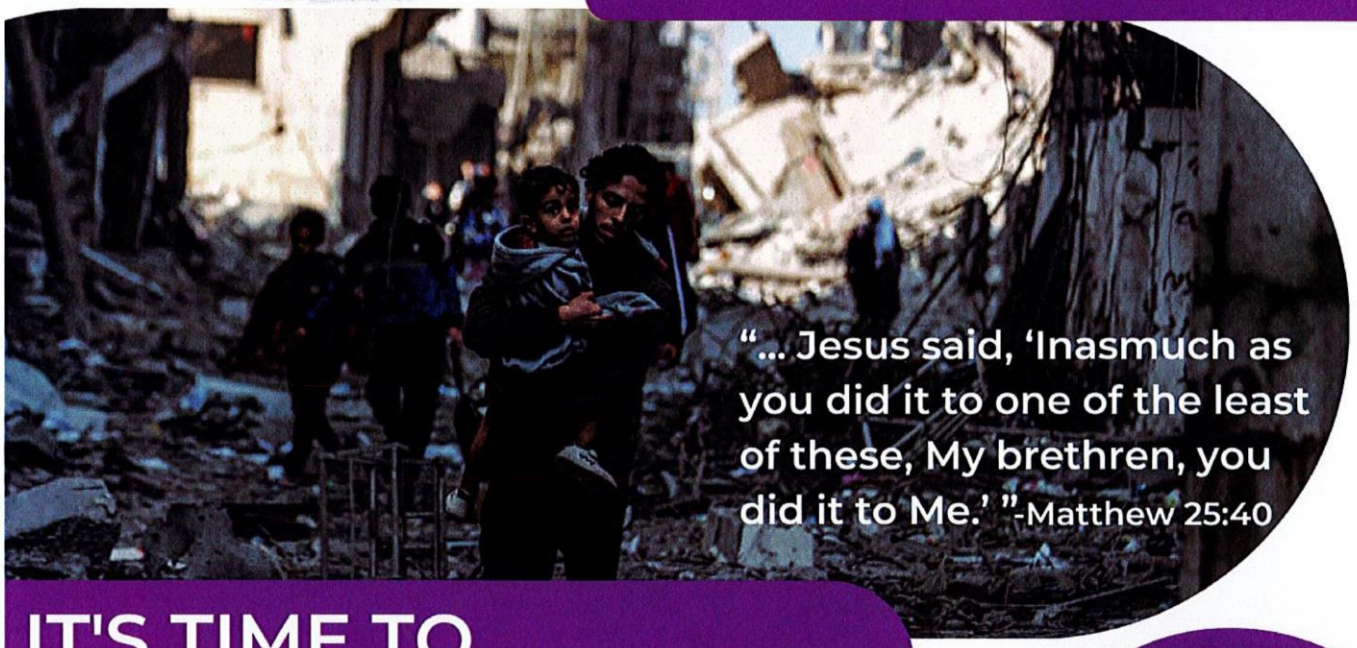
See's Candies
Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.
- Own a business and need to gift?
- Any gift?
- Easter chocolate??
- SEE'S just because it's SEE'S??

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

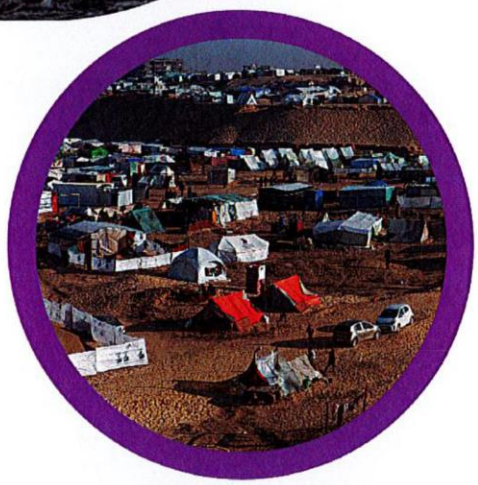
Zinc Shingles on the Roof!

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

GREAT LENT PROJECT



IT'S TIME TO DONATE GAZA TENT SPONSORSHIPS



We have partnered with an aid agengy 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

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,

✠SABA
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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(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 28TH

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