

SAINT

HARY

+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 925-258-4255 www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 06, 2025

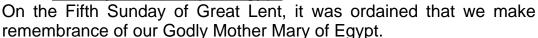
Tone 8 / Eothinon 8; Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

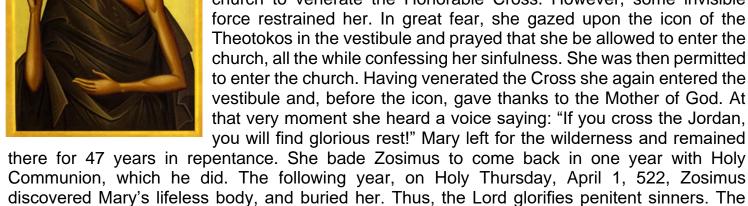
EUTYCHIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE PLATONIDA OF NISIBIS IN SYRIA

الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير

Sunday of St. 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



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

Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them. God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

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

.صلُّوا وأُوفُوا الرَّبَّ الِهَنا

اللهُ معروفٌ في أرض يهوذا. إسْمُهُ عَظيمٌ في إسْرائيل.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رسالَةِ القِديس بولُسَ الرَّسول إلى العِبْرانِيين. (11:9-14)

يا إخْوَةُ، إِنَّ المَسيحَ إِذْ قَدْ جاءَ رئيسَ كَهَنَةٍ لِلْخيْراتِ المُسْتَقْبَلَةِ، فَبِمَسْكَن أَعْظَمَ وأكْمَلَ غير مَصْنوع بِأَيْدٍ، أَيْ ايْسَ مِنْ هذِهِ الخليقة. ولِيْسَ بدَم تُيُوسِ وَعُجُولِ بَلْ بدَم نَفْسِهِ دَخَلَ الأقداسَ مَرَّةً واحِدَةً فَوَجَدَ فِداءً أَبَدِيّاً. لأَنَهُ إِنْ كانَ دَمُ ثيران وتُيُوسِ ورَمَادُ عِجْلَةٍ يُرَشُّ على الْمُنَجَّسِينَ فَيُقرِّسُهُمْ لِتطْهيرِ الجَسَدِ، فَكَمْ بِالأَحْرَى دَمُ المَسيح، الذي بالروح الأزَّلِيّ قَرَّبَ نفْسَهُ للهِ بِلا عيْب، يُطَهِّرُ ضَمائِرَكُمْ مِنَ الأعْمالِ الْمَيَّتَةِ لِتَعْبُدُوا اللهَ الْحَيِّ.

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 بشارَةِ القِديسِ مَرْقُسَ الإِنْجيليّ البَشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهِر. (32:10-45)

في ذلكَ الزمان، أخذَ يسوعُ تلاميذَهُ الإِثْنَى عَشَرَ وابْتَدَأَ يَقُولُ لَهُمْ ما سِيَعْرِضُ لَهُ. "هُوَذا نَحْنُ صاعِدونَ إلى أورَشَليمَ، وابْنُ البَشَر سَيُسْلَمُ إلى رؤساءِ الكَهَنَةِ والكَتَبَةِ، فَيَحْكُمونَ عَلَيْهِ بالمَوْتِ وبُسْلِمونَهُ إلى الأُمم. فَيَهْزَأُونَ بهِ، وبَبْصُقُونَ عَلَيْهِ، وبَجْلِدونَهُ، وبَقْتُلُونَهُ، وفي النَوْم الثالِثِ يَقومُ." فَدَنا إليهِ يَعْقوبُ وبوحَنًا ابْنا زبَدَى قائِلَيْن: "يا مُعلِّمُ، نُربِدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنا مَهْمَا طَلَبْنا." فقالَ لَهُما: "ماذا تُربِدان أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُما؟" قالا لَهُ: "أَعْطِنا أَنْ يَجْلِسَ أَحَدُنا عَنْ يَمينِكَ والآخَرُ عَنْ يَسارِكَ في مَجدِكَ." فَقالَ لَهُما يَسوعُ: "إِنَّكُما لا تَعْلَمان ما تَطْلُبان. أَتَسْتَطيعان أنْ تَشْرَبا الكَأْسَ التي أَشْرَبُها أنا، وأَنْ تَصْطَبِغا بالصِبْغَةِ التي أَصْطَبِغُ بِها أنا؟" فَقالا لَهُ: "نَسْتَطيع". فَقالَ لَهُما يَسوعُ: "أمَّا الكَأْسُ التي أَشْرَبُها فَتَشْرَبانِها، وبالصِبْغَةِ التي أَصْطَبغُ بها فَتَصْطَبغان. وأَمّا جُلوسُكُما عَنْ يَميني وَعَنْ يَساري فَلَيْسَ لي أَنْ أُعْطِيَهُ إلّا لِلذينَ أُعِدَّ لَهُمْ." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ العَشَرَةُ، ابْتَدَأُوا يَغْضَبُونَ على يَعْقوبَ ويوحنَّا. فَدَعاهُمْ يَسوعُ، وقالَ لَهُمْ: "قَدْ عَلِمْتُمْ أَنَّ الذينَ يُحْسَبونَ رُؤساءَ الأُمَم يَسودونَهُمْ، وعُظَماءَهُمْ يَتَسَلَّطونَ عَلَيْهمْ. وأَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلا يَكونُ فيكُمْ هَكَذا. ولَكِنْ مَنْ أَرادَ أَنْ يكونَ فيكُمْ كَبيراً، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خادِماً. ومَنْ أرادَ أَنْ يكونَ فيكُمْ أَوَّلَ، فَلْيَكُنْ لِلْجَميع عَبْداً. فإنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَر لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ بَلْ لِيَخْدِمَ، وليَبْذُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِداءً عَنْ كَثيرين".

Love Your Neighbor

April - Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 13, 2025)

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.

Thank you for a Successful Ladies Luncheon

A special thank and appreciation from the heart to all who supported the ladies luncheon last Sunday we raised \$1,400. The next luncheon is in June and we encourage all our parishioners to attend and support us, the minimum donation is \$20 children 6 and under are free and it is much cheaper than going out to have lunch at a restaurant. We look forward to have more families to come forward and sponsor future luncheons in 2025. All the proceeds of 2025 luncheons will be towards the building fund. Thank you

Help with the Easter Egg Hunt

Our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt is fast approaching, coming up on April 19th! We are looking for some volunteers and donations to help make this event a memorable one for all of our youth at St. John's! Please review the SignUp Genius link (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A8A929AA8-55762312-stjohns#/) and sign-up to donate some items or volunteer to help set-up/tear down and during the event!

We have created an Amazon Wishlist for the event, please take a look if you are able to help purchase any items: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/348DHSHRJZJR8?ref =wl share

Please reach out to Rania or Kimberly if you have any questions:

raniamariekashou@gmail.com

kimberlynicola@gmail.com

Thank you! Kimberly Bailey

PROJECT MEXICO & ST. INNOCENT ORPHANAGE

At St. John's, many of our teens have had the opportunity to volunteer to build homes for communities in need in Northern Mexico, just across the US border (about 30 minutes from San Diego). We have some interest in taking a group down this summer, June 12-18th. This is a wonderful, transformative volunteer experience as part of "a mission to build hope, one home at a time" and has been a blessing to participate in. https://www.projectmexico.org/homebuilding#gl

The homebuilding program is open to all teens 14 years & above or adults of any age!!! Younger teens under 14 can join along with a parent chaperone. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Rula Adranly <u>rulaadranly@comcast.net</u> or Nadine Potts <u>nbhpotts@sbcglobal.net</u>.



of Christ . نعش المسيح

We are asking for donations for the flowers for the Bier of Christ. Please let Fr. Nicholas know if you can donate flowers.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 4 th	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM		
Monday, April 7 th	at 6:00 PM صلاة النوم الكبرى		
Wednesday, April 9 th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM		
Saturday, April 5 th	Screening of "The Island", a movie about a small Russian monastery in Alaska at St. Michael Archangel Orthodox Church, See flyer below for details.		
Sunday, April 6 th	Prison Ministry Easter Card Writing Workshop after Divine Liturgy.		
Saturday, April 12 th	Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM		
Sunday, April 13 th	Palm Sunday احد الشعانين at 10 am. The Triumphant Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem!		
Sunday, April 13 th	Rose Bake Sale. Please call denise @ 925 360-3350 for pre oder of Easter cookies and Fadwa Samara @ 510 909-0119 for pre order of Atayef.		

Coffee Hour

April 6 th	Raif and Sonia Rihani for the good health of their family!
April 13 th	Coffee available. No host because of the bake sale.

Holy Week Schedule

April 12 th : Lazarus Saturday	Lazarus Saturday Liturgy at 10:00am.
April 13 th : Palm Sunday	Matins at 9:00am, Divine Liturgy at 10:00am Bridegroom Service صلاة الختن at 6:30pm
April 14 th : Holy Monday	at 6:30 pm صلاة الختن
April 15 th : Holy Tuesday	at 6:30 pm صلاة الختن
April 16th: Holy Wednesday	at 6:30 pm صلاة الزيت المقدس
April 17 th : Holy Thursday	Vesperal Liturgy and Washing of the Feet at 10:00am Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm
April 18 th : 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
April 19 th : Holy Saturday	Vesperal Liturgy at 10:00am Rush Service 10:30 pm followed by the Divine Liturgy
April 20 th : Great and Holy Pascha	Agape Vespers at 1:00pm

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- **†** St. John Parish Family for the good health of Nick Nicola, George Messih, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum Bennett, Fairouz Freij, Henriette Hilal and Aida Youakeem. Many years!
- St. John Parish Family in memory of **Rose** Freij. May her memory be eternal!
- † Victor and Angela Husary for the good health of Chris Husary. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of Naim Nazzal. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of Nabil Tovil. Many years!
- † St. John Parish family for the good health of Samir and Pat Jeha. 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, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

- † Thank you to Ziad and Charlene Nassoura for donating the communion wine. God bless you and your children!
- † Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by Jim and Denise Dudum and Family in loving memory of John, Misadeh, Audie and Mary Dudum, Jim

and Rose Romley and Naim Nazzal. May their

memory be eternal!

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



ROSE'S ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH







SPECIAL – Lenten lunch boxes will be available to go including delicious falafel, hummus, zatar bread and more \$10 each

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

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

7 YEAR OLD GAZAN GIRL IN THE US

NEEDS A STEM
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Your stem cells could save her life

or the life of any searching patient



ETHNICITY IMPACTS COMPATIBILITY

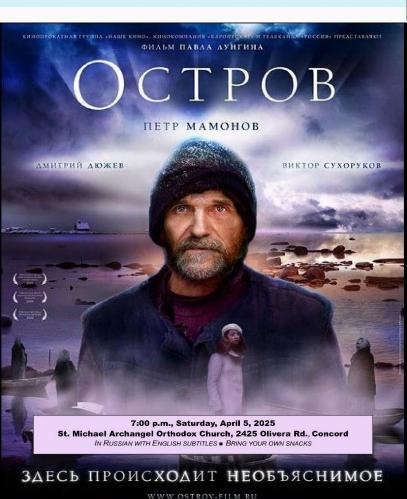
A donor match for this Palestinian child is most likely an 18-40 year old Arab person in the U.S.

my.nmdp.org/Swab4Palestine | text Swab4Palestine to 61474

NMDP will send you a free buccal swab kit by mail. NMDP was founded in 1987 as Be the Match and follows the strictest privacy protocols - all data is anonymized and secure

PLEASE SEND THIS TO 10 ARAB PEOPLE





Dine & Donate

A dine and donate fundraising event, where a portion of a restaurant's sales on a specific day are donated to our church when mention St.John and/or show the flyer. Essentially creating a win-win situation for both the restaurant and St. John. Plus you can gather with fellow community members and have no mess to clean. Additionally you don't



have to cook or worry about what to eat that day. :)

S S S S S S S





IS GIVING 50% BACK TO:

St. John Orthodox Church

Thursday, Apr 24 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 using the fundraiser coupon code below.

Code for online ordering:

FUNDRAISER

This fundraiser event is between St. Jahn Orthodox Church and The Kebab Shop. The Kebab Shop will donate 50% of qualifying food and beverage soles to St. John Orthodox Church. Additional sales exclusions may apply including: Delivery, Catering, any other promotions. Offer valid only an 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.









His Eminence The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles And the West

March 27, 2025

Dear reverend clergy, parish council officers and faithful parishioners:

As you know, every year, in the West and throughout the Archdiocese, in every geographic and administrative area, there have been organized, promoted and established Parish Life Conferences.

In the West, there have been and continue to be dedicated persons who, over the years, have worked to refine and expand these conferences, so all of us can enjoy the experience of sharing, caring and growing in our life in Christ, in His Body, the Church.

The historical beginnings and social pedigree of these Conferences can be generally discovered in the post-World-War-II American experience, where all ethnic and national groups formed the so-called "melting pot" of U.S. political identity. It was at this time when America was not so much multicultural as it was an acculturation of all social, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and national peoples. It was the time of the GI Bill, when higher education was available to returning veterans and where that—at the time—uniquely American home expansion called "urban sprawl" and numerous neighborhood subdivisions crowded the city landscapes of urban centers and spread across every state and farm.

Though I am simplifying this development of Conferences, they were planned for us around the senior SOYO organization of our Archdiocese. These early years saw very large conventions and gatherings that celebrated their Orthodoxy along with their appreciation for being here, in what they called a "God-protected land," as it was known among many immigrant groups.

We have, since then, been blessed with a dynamic addition of—in the words of Scripture—"the redeemed for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Rev. 5.9b; cf. 7.9). We are more than a big tent; we have a domed stadium!

With that review, our Metropolitan and our Archdiocese still schedule PLCs and expect our clergy and parishes to support, attend, participate in and promote our host parish's PLCs.

We have many opportunities and obligations that are admirably publicized by the PLC organizing volunteers, as has been mentioned previously.

In this regard, I have taken an informed survey of our priests concerning the overall challenges of time, resources and benefit that come from PLCs today. I have heard of the challenges of costs, which are only increasing, both in general and for attending our Conferences.

This year, as I compose this memorandum, the PLC is three short months away, and we cannot assemble all the desired venues of parish needs, such as: stewardship, teen group development, young adult groups, etc. Be assured, however, that we will work on giving our clergy more tools and resources for their parish needs in future PLCs, as we work to include them.

We need to start to build expectations and participation <u>this year</u>. As we work together to grow and evolve our Conferences in the years to come, this year's PLC will be primarily a social and liturgical gathering, but it will definitely include some workshops and inspiring take-away messages. So, we would *not* want anyone to evaluate its value on preconceived or biased bases. Come and see!

Since I was in seminary, PLCs were obligatory for pastors, and our Metropolitan expected us at the Conference (exclusive of obvious reasons for being absent and pre-excused permission not to attend).

To mitigate costs, we are working with the Order of St. Ignatius and certain individuals who may be willing to help with travel, room and other expenses, so we can come together. *And I believe it is really important for us to be together*. Beyond specific offerings of workshops and such, it is often those conversations on the sidelines, and those relationships we forge when we are together in person, that prove invaluable. Finally and crucially, we can get out of our parochial boundaries at the PLC, as we gather from across the West, clergy and laity around the Bishop, to make manifest the larger Body of Christ.

We must build a spiritual and social camaraderie with each other. In fact, the Divine Liturgy—the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Faithful—may be explained in this way: community of the gathering, for the communication of the Word, to become One in communion with His Body—community, communication, communion. That's the ideal of Parish Life Conferences, and it is still relevant today!

Yours in Christ,

+Bishop ANTHONY

+ Bishop Anthony

Bishop of Los Angeles Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



CALIFORNIA FISH GRILL IS PROUD TO SUPPORT St. John Church

Thursday, June 12 at 11AM-8PM 2910 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Bldg. G Walnut Creek, CA 94598

California Fish Grill will donate 25% of sales from this event back to the organization. Simply present this flyer, mention the organization upon ordering or **scan the QR code at kiosk.**

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ST. JOHN CHURCH 5/19/25

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