

# +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

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 07, 2024**

**TONE 3 / EOTHINON 11**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

**VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

MARTYR KALLIOPIOS OF CILICIA; REPOSE OF TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ENLIGHTENER OF NORTH AMERICA

الأحد الثالث من الصوم الكبير (السجود للصليب الكريم المُحيي)

## **Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross**



On the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.*

*Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)**

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

## الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.  
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يا إخوة، إذ لنا رئيس كهنة عظيم قد اجتاز السماوات، يسوع ابن الله، فلنتمسك بالإعتراف. لأن ليس لنا رئيس كهنة غير قادر أن يرثي لأوهاننا، بل مجرب في كل شيء مثلنا ما خلا الخطيئة. فلنقبل إذن بثقة إلى عرش النعمة، لننال رحمة ونجد ثقة للإغاثة في أوانها. فإن كل رئيس كهنة متخذ من الناس يُقام لأجل الناس فيما هو لله، ليُقرَّب تقادم وذبايح عن الخطايا، في إمكانه أن يُشفق على الذين يجهلون ويضلون، لكونه هو أيضاً مُتلبساً بالضعف. ولهذا يجب عليه أن يُقرَّب عن الخطايا لأجل نفسه كما يُقرَّب لأجل الشعب. وليس أحد يأخذ لنفسه الكرامة، بل من دعاه الله كما دعا هارون. كذلك المسيح لم يمجّد نفسه ليصير رئيس كهنة، بل الذي قال له "أنت ابني وأنا اليوم ولدتك". كما يقول في موضع آخر "أنت كاهن إلى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق".

## THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)**

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْفُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّمْنِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قال الربُّ: مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبَعَنِي فَلْيَكْفُرْ بِنَفْسِهِ وَيَحْمِلْ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبَعَنِي، لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَخْلِصَ نَفْسَهُ يُهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِي وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ يَخْلِصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يَنْتَفِعُ الْإِنْسَانُ لَوْ رِيحَ الْعَالَمِ كُلَّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطِي الْإِنْسَانُ فِدَاءً عَنْ نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَحِي بِي وَبِكَلَامِي فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ الْخَاطِئِ. يَسْتَحِي بِهِ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ مَتَى أَتَى فِي مَجْدِ أَبِيهِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ قَوْمًا مِنْ الْقَائِمِينَ هَهُنَا لَا يَذُقُونَ الْمَوْتَ حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ قَدْ أَتَى بِقُوَّةٍ.

**We had a Great Trip to the Zoo!**

We had an incredible trip to the Oakland Zoo filled with unforgettable memories. Everyone's excitement made it more special! 18 kids and multiple families!! We are all looking forward to another fieldtrip.



**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.

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
<b>Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Great Compline at 6:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
<b>Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
<b>Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Prison ministry Easter card writing workshop after Liturgy
<b>Saturday May 4th</b>	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
<b>September 28-29</b>	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

**Coffee Hours**

<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Farradj and Adranly families on the occasion of the 40 day memorial for Nuha Adranly. May her memory be eternal!
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**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!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Nabil Kawar**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of **Osama Mitry** (25 years). May his 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 Kawar, Mason Kawar, Jonathan Juha and Maron Juha

- † Flowers on the Sunday of the adoration of the Cross offered by Hudson Nicola and Julia and Brie Bailey for the good health of their Jiddo, Nick Nicola. Many years!



- † 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 Kawar, offered by Ramsey and Kian Kawar 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!

# LORE

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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 find the link on our Facebook or ask anyone in the fundraising committee

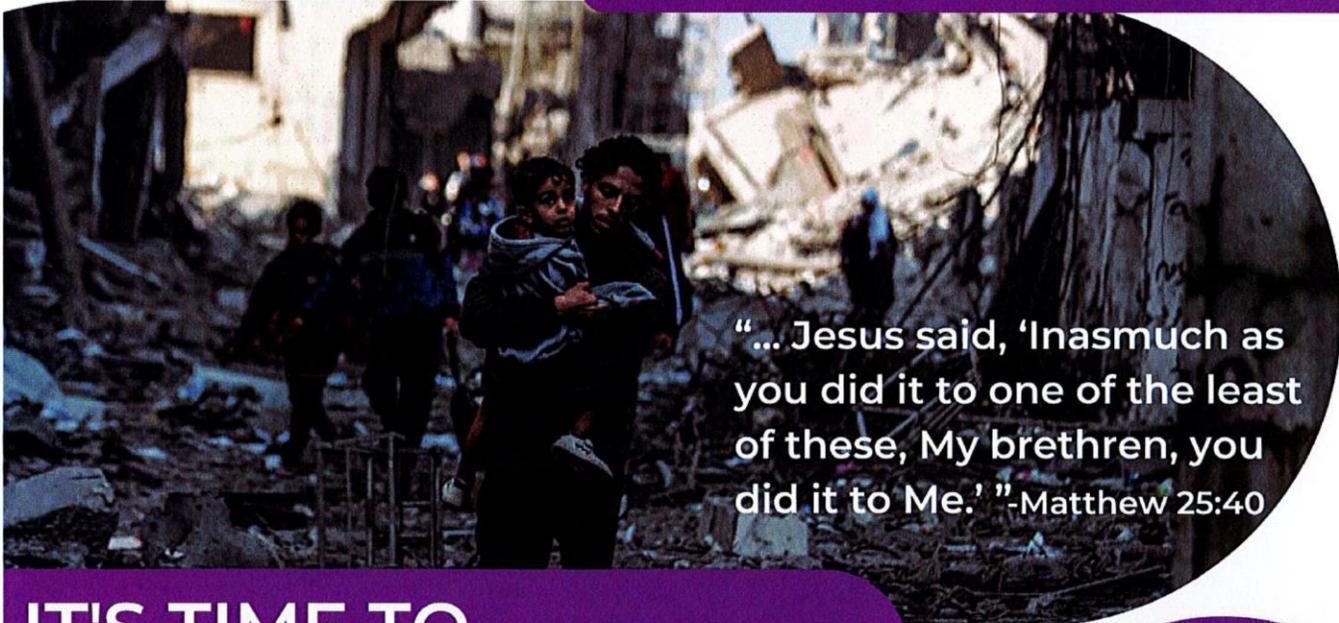
## Zinc Shingles on the Roof!



  
**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

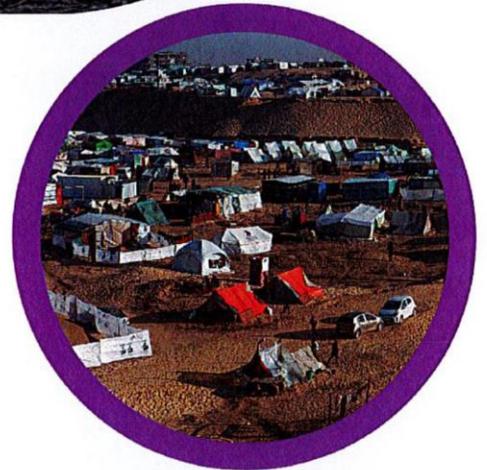
We have partnered with an aid agency that is providing tents for families whose homes have been destroyed amid the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. Tents are furnished and can house a whole family.

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,

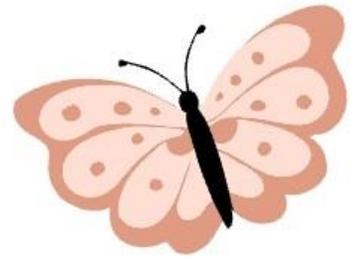
Your Father in Christ,

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

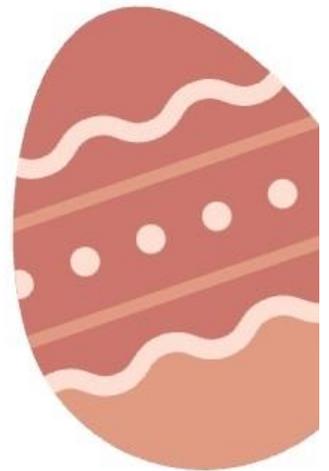
*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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ST. JOHN'S

# PASCHA EGG HUNT

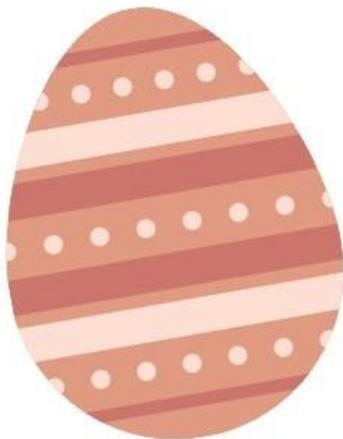


*Saturday May 4th  
after morning service*

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

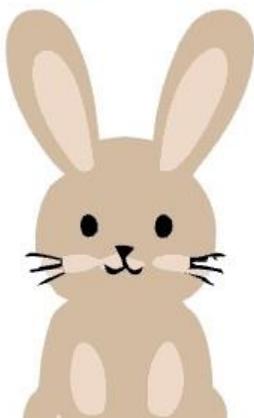
\*\*\* RAFFLE BASKETS \*\*\*

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



# FUNDRAISER

JOIN US!



**IS GIVING  
50% BACK TO:**

**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.



**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**

RESURRECTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH INVITES YOU TO THE



# MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

OCMC PAN ORTHODOX MISSION AWARENESS DINNER

## Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church

20104 Center Street | Castro Valley, CA. 94546

### Sunday, April 7

Pan Orthodox Vespers at 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner & Program Immediately Following Vespers

**DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED  
FREE WILL OFFERING ENCOURAGED**

*(Proceeds will benefit OCMC ministries around the world.)*

Join us to hear about the latest news and happenings of OCMC's missionary efforts from around the world. Discover how you can live out Christ's last command to: **"go and make disciples of all nations."**

To register and donate online, go to:

[www.ocmc.org/Castro-Valley](http://www.ocmc.org/Castro-Valley)

For questions, please contact:

Local Event Chair Renee Talyor at [renee@resurrectiongoc.com](mailto:renee@resurrectiongoc.com), or  
OCMC Event Coordinator Elaine Drikakis at [elained@ocmc.org](mailto:elained@ocmc.org)

Donations can be mailed (payable to OCMC with 'Castro Valley' in the memo) to:  
220 Mason Manatee Way | St. Augustine, FL 32086



Featured Speaker:

**Anastasia Pamela Barksdale**

*OCMC Parish Engagement Coordinator  
& Former Missionary to Albania*



Special Missions Presentation By:

**Shannon Todd**

*OCMC Missionary Serving  
with Project Mexico*

**REGISTER  
ONLINE BY  
APRIL 3!**



TO DONATE ONLINE, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE.