

+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

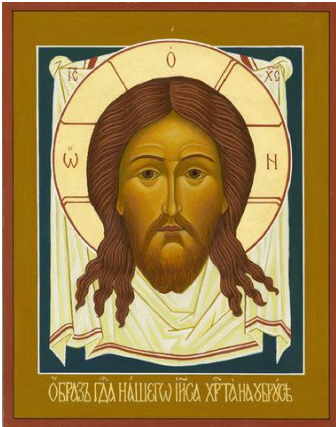
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026; TONE 2 / EOTHINON 11

AFTER-FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

RECOVERY FROM EDESSA OF THE ICON OF CHRIST NOT MADE BY HANDS: 'THE HOLY NAPKIN'



On August 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Recovery from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of Christ Not Made by Hands, known as 'The Holy Napkin.' Prince Avgar of Edessa sent a portrait-painter, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ our Savior, in which he begged the Lord to come and heal him of his leprosy. In the event that Lord was unable to come, the prince commanded Ananias to paint His likeness and bring it, believing that the portrait would heal him. The Lord replied that he could not come, as the time of His Passion was at hand. Our Savior took a napkin and wiped His face, leaving a perfect reproduction of His most pure face on it. The Lord gave this napkin to Ananias, with a message that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely, and He would later send him an envoy that would rid him of the remainder of the disease. Receiving the napkin, Avgar kissed it and the leprosy fell from his body, with just a little remaining on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Avgar, fully healed him and baptized him. Then the prince smashed the idols that stood at the city's gateway and placed the napkin with the face of Christ above the entrance, stuck onto wood, surrounded with a gold frame and ornamented with pearls. The city eventually fell to Arab conquest, and the Holy Napkin was translated to Constantinople in 944.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

قُوتِي وَتَسْبِحَتِي الرَّبِّ. أَدَباً أَدَبَنِي الرَّبِّ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسَ. (9:2-12)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ خَاتَمَ رِسَالَتِي هُوَ أَنْتُمْ فِي الرَّبِّ. وَهَذَا هُوَ اخْتِجَاجِي عِنْدَ الَّذِينَ يَفَحَصُونَنِي. أَلَعَلَّنَا لَا سُلْطَانَ لَنَا أَنْ نَأْكُلَ وَنَشْرَبَ؟ أَلَعَلَّنَا لَا سُلْطَانَ لَنَا أَنْ نَجُولَ بِامْرَأَةٍ أُخْتٍ كَسَائِرِ الرُّسُلِ وَإِخْوَةِ الرَّبِّ وَصَفَا؟ أَمْ أَنَا وَبَرْنَابَا وَحَدَنَا لَا سُلْطَانَ لَنَا أَنْ لَا نَسْتَعْلِ؟ مَنْ يَتَجَبَّدُ قَطُّ وَالنَّفَقَةُ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ؟ مَنْ يَغْرِسُ كَرْمًا وَلَا يَأْكُلُ مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ؟ أَوْ مَنْ يَرْعَى قَطِيعًا وَلَا يَأْكُلُ مِنْ لَبَنِ الْقَطِيعِ؟ أَلَعَلِّي أَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا بِحَسَبِ الْبَشَرِيَّةِ؟ أَمْ لَيْسَ النَّامُوسُ أَيْضًا يَقُولُ هَذَا؟ فَإِنَّهُ كُتِبَ فِي نَامُوسِ مُوسَى "لَا تَكُمُ ثَوْرًا دَارِسًا." أَلَعَلَّ اللَّهَ نُهُمُهُ الْثِيرَانِ؟ أَمْ قَالَ ذَلِكَ مَنْ أَجْلَنَا لَا مُحَالَةً؟ بَلْ إِنَّمَا كُتِبَ مِنْ أَجْلِنَا. لِأَنَّهُ يَنْبَغِي لِلْحَارِثِ أَنْ يَحْرُثَ عَلَى الرَّجَاءِ، وَلِلدَّارِسِ عَلَى الرَّجَاءِ أَنْ يَكُونَ شَرِيكًا فِي الرَّجَاءِ. إِنْ كُنَّا نَحْنُ قَدْ زَرَعْنَا لَكُمْ الرُّوحِيَّاتِ، أَفَيَكُونُ عَظِيمًا أَنْ نَحْصِدَ مِنْكُمْ الْجَسَدِيَّاتِ؟ إِنْ كَانَ آخَرُونَ يَشْتَرِكُونَ فِي السُّلْطَانِ عَلَيْكُمْ، أَفَلَسْنَا نَحْنُ أَوْلَى؟ لَكِنَّا لَمْ نَسْتَعْمِلْ هَذَا السُّلْطَانَ، بَلْ نَحْتَمِلُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لِئَلَّا نُسَبِّبَ تَعْوِيقًا مَا لِإِبْرَارَةِ الْمَسِيحِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (18:23-35)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: يُشَبِّهُ مَلِكُوتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ إِنْسَانًا مَلِكًا أَرَادَ أَنْ يُحَاسِبَ عِبِيدَهُ. فَلَمَّا بَدَأَ بِالْمَحَاسِبَةِ، أَحْضَرَ إِلَيْهِ وَاحِدٌ عَلَيْهِ عَشْرَةُ آلَافٍ وَزَنَةِ. وَإِذْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ مَا يُوفِي، أَمَرَ سَيِّدُهُ أَنْ يُبَاعَ هُوَ وَامْرَأَتُهُ وَأَوْلَادُهُ وَكُلُّ مَا لَهُ وَيُوفَى عَنْهُ. فَخَرَّ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ سَاجِدًا لَهُ قَائِلًا: تَمَهَّلْ عَلَيَّ فَأُوفِيكَ كُلَّ مَا لَكَ. فَرَقَّ سَيِّدُ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدِ وَأَطْلَقَهُ، وَتَرَكَ لَهُ الدِّينَ. وَبَعْدَ مَا خَرَجَ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ، وَجَدَ عَبْدًا مِنْ رُفَقَائِهِ مَدْيُونًا لَهُ بِمِئَةِ دِينَارٍ، فَأَمْسَكَهُ وَأَخَذَ يَخْنُقُهُ قَائِلًا: أُوْفِنِي مَا لِي عَلَيْكَ. فَخَرَّ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ عَلَى قَدَمَيْهِ، وَطَلَبَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلًا: تَمَهَّلْ عَلَيَّ، فَأُوفِيكَ كُلَّ مَا لَكَ. فَأَبَى، وَمَضَى وَطَرَحَهُ فِي السَّجْنِ حَتَّى يُوفِيَ الدِّينَ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى رُفَقَاؤُهُ مَا كَانَ، حَزِنُوا جِدًّا وَجَاءُوا فَأَعْلَمُوا سَيِّدَهُمْ بِكُلِّ مَا كَانَ. حِينَئِذٍ دَعَاهُ سَيِّدُهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: أَيُّهَا الْعَبْدُ الشَّرِيرُ! كُلُّ مَا كَانَ عَلَيْكَ تَرَكَتُهُ لَكَ لِأَنَّكَ طَلَبْتَ إِلَيَّ. أَفَمَا كَانَ يَنْبَغِي لَكَ أَنْ تَرْحَمَ أَنْتَ أَيْضًا رَفِيقَكَ كَمَا رَحِمْتُكَ أَنَا؟ وَغَضِبَ سَيِّدُهُ، وَدَفَعَهُ إِلَى الْمَعْدِبِينَ حَتَّى يُوفِيَ جَمِيعَ مَا لَهُ عَلَيْهِ. فَهَكَذَا أَبِي السَّمَاوِيُّ يَصْنَعُ بِكُمْ إِنْ لَمْ تَتْرَكُوا مِنْ قُلُوبِكُمْ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ لِأَخِيهِ زَلَّاتِهِ.

Coffee Hour

Aug 16th	Fadi and Ghada Nino in memory of Miramize Nino
Aug 23rd	Sam and Carol Syriani for their good health
Aug 30th	In Memory of Sister Mary Shaheen Bikhozi
Sept 20th	Khalil Mounzer in memory of Carlos Suarez
Sept 27th	Festival!

Upcoming Events

Aug 1st-14th	Dormition Fast. Have a blessed fast.
Aug 12th	Paraklises service for the Theotokos at 6 pm.
Aug 15th	Morning Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition عيد رقاد العذراء
Aug 16th	One-week memorial service for the handmaid of God Maramize Nino. May her memory be eternal!
Sept 20th	40 days memorial service offered by Khalil Mounzer in memory of his friend Carlos Suarez. May his memory be eternal!
1st and 3rd Sundays	St. Anastasia's Fellowship for those struggling with substance abuse. 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. 6pm meeting; 7pm Readers Paraklesis at St. John's. Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sandy Dudum, George Messih, George Adranly, Fred Addes, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Rocky Dudum** and **Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † Thayer and Messih families in memory of **Carmen Mallouk**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Jean Harb**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Violet Jaber**. Many years!
- † The Nino family in memory of **Maramize Nino**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Khalil Mounzer in memory of **Carlos Suarez**. May his memory be eternal!

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

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Announcements



Processional Banner Donors Needed

Thank you to Ramsey and Kian Kawar and family on donating one of the processional Banners.
God bless you!

We still need another donor for the second one.

Love your Neighbor: August – Orthodox Christian Missions Center – OCMC

As the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States it is OCMC's mission to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church.

Donations for Heritage Booth at Festival

During the past few Festivals, there were multiple inquiries about purchasing used Middle Eastern items/ souvenirs at the Heritage Booth. We would like to gather unwanted items from our parish. If you have anything to donate, please contact Dn. Nicholas Adranly at 510-207-1796 for more information.

Palestine Heritage Night Tickets

We are excited to share a special opportunity for our community! The Palestinian American Coalition of San Francisco (PAC-SF) and other community members have been working with the San Francisco Giants to establish an official Palestine Heritage Night at the ballpark beginning with the 2027 season. To make this happen, we need to demonstrate the strength and support of our community. As a proof of concept, we've organized a **Palestine group outing to a Giants game**, and we're asking everyone to join us. Our goal is simple: fill the ballpark with Palestinians, our families, friends, and allies.

Friday August 14th, 7:15PM Giants Vs. Rockies & followed by a fantastic drone show.

By purchasing your tickets through the link below, you will:

- 1) Support PAC-SF, as a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to our organization.
- 2) Help show the Giants that our community is engaged and deserves an annual Palestine Heritage Night.
- 3) Enjoy a great day at the ballpark with family and friends.

Purchase your tickets here: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Pacsf2>

Please share this link with your family, friends, coworkers, and anyone who supports our community. The more tickets we sell, the stronger our case for making Palestine Heritage Night an annual tradition with the San Francisco Giants. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the game!

Thanks for Organizing the Kitchen!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the kitchen! Your time and effort are truly appreciated. Just wow!! The kitchen will now be labeled so that everything has a designated place. After using an item, please return it to its proper category to help keep the kitchen clean, organized, and easy for everyone to use. Please also remember to take any personal items home after each use. Since the kitchen is shared by many groups for various events, this will help keep the space organized and available for everyone. Thank you for helping us maintain our shared space!

Festival Volunteers Needed

Our Annual Food Festival is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27! Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or a full shift, every helping hand makes a difference. The more hands we have, the lighter the work—and the more enjoyable the weekend will be! There are **500+ volunteer slots** for the weekend. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside one another, build friendships, and support our church community. Please consider signing up using the link:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/60B0C4FA8A729A0F94-64807921-copy?useFullSite=false>

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to serve. We can't wait to see everyone there! God bless you all!

Talent Show 2027

Calling all Talent Show participants for our 2027 Talent Show on Saturday, March 6, in our hall. A rehearsal will be Saturday February 27. Please add this to your calendars! Last year's show was an amazing success you won't want to miss it!! Please contact Lynn Farradj if you want to be in it. 925-323-5746

By Lynn Farradj: Memorial Wheat Tutorial

Several people have asked me to teach them how to make the memorial wheat, so if you would like to learn please join me on the revised date: Sunday **September 6th** after Liturgy in the hall. We will go through every step. Please give me a call if you would like to learn so I know how many to prepare for. Lynn Farradj - 925-323-5746

🌲 Save the Date! 🌲

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. More info to follow.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FESTIVAL PREP WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at 9:30 AM in our new kitchen!

August 1st — Sfeiha & Zatar Pies	September 12th Knafeh & Date Mamoul
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Please sign up for **any or all** workshops with Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net or 510-508-0929

We're accepting pre-orders for grape leaves - will be available at the festival on September 25th & 26th or as early as June 27th. Delicious for your family to enjoy, for summer parties, graduations and more!!

- Large Tray - (approximately 180 leaves) \$200	- Small Tray - (approximately 90 leaves) \$100
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Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil

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Advertisement Form for 2026 Festival Ad Book
32nd Annual Middle Eastern Festival
Sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Festival Location: St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Grounds,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Dates: Saturday, September 26th & Sunday, September 27th

Advertiser: _____
Contact: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Advertisement (circle one)

Premium Page AD	Full Page AD	1/2 Page AD	1/4 Page AD
\$500 Plus	\$250	\$130	\$75

Note: If you wish to include a logo or special typeface, it's best to email it.

The 2026 Middle Eastern Festival will feature the finest Middle Eastern entertainment, delicious food, exotic desserts, live music, folk dancing, bazaar, Middle Eastern heritage exhibits, children's games & activities, and more.

The Festival Book, given to attendees, will include advertisements from local businesses and community supporters;

On behalf of the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church and members of the 2026 Festival Committee, we thank you for your support.

Checks payable to St. John Church Festival.
Earmark 2026 Festival Mail to:

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Office,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA
Email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



MUSIC



FOOD



CULTURE

CELEBRATING
32
YEARS

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

501 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CA

SAT 11AM - 8PM | SUN NOON - 7PM

FREE ADMISSION