

+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

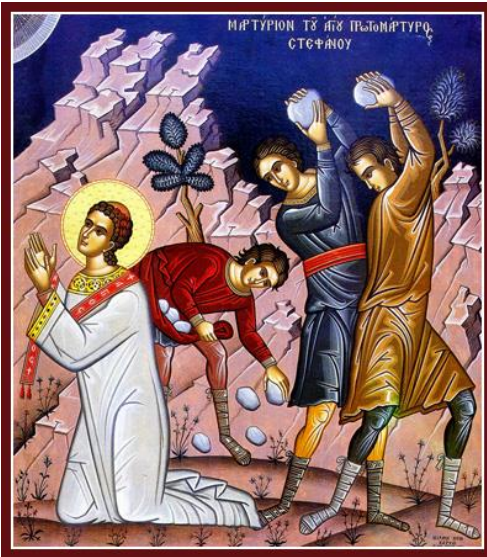
www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 02, 2026; TONE 8 / EOTHINON 9

RELICS TRANSLATION OF PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON

VENERABLE PHEMEINI THE WONDERWORKER OF CARPASIA IN CYPRUS;

BLESSED BASIL THE FOOL-FOR-CHRIST, WONDERWORKER OF MOSCOW



On August 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the recovery of the sacred relics of the holy Proto-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen. When the wicked Jews stoned Stephen to death, they left his body for the dogs to eat. After two nights Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and a secret follower of Christ, came and took his body to Caphargamala, and buried it in a cave. Eventually, Gamaliel's friend Nicodemus, his nephew Abibos and he were laid to rest in the same cave. The graves were forgotten, but in 415, in the time of Patriarch John of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to the Priest Lucian, in Caphargamala, and told him the exact location of the burial place. With the Patriarch's blessing, Lucian and others dug up the graves. A strong and fragrant odor from the relics of these saints

filled the cave. Stephen's relics were solemnly translated to Zion and there buried with ceremony, and the relics of the others were taken to a hill above the cave and laid to rest in a church there. Later, Stephen's healing relics were translated to Constantinople.

THE EPISTLE

Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.

God is known in Judaea; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (3:9-17)

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's husbandry, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise architect I laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. Let each one take heed how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; everyone's work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test each one's work of what sort it is. If anyone's work which was built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone corrupts the temple of God, God will corrupt him. For the temple of God is holy, whose temple you are.

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا، اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُوذَا. إِسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرُّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسَ. (9:3-17)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّا نَحْنُ عَامِلُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ، وَأَنْتُمْ حَرَبْتُمْ اللَّهَ وَبَنَاءَ اللَّهِ. أَنَا بِحَسَبِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الْمُعْطَاةِ لِي، كَبْنَاءٍ حَكِيمٍ وَصَعْتُ الْأَسَاسَ وَآخِرَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ. فَلْيَنْظُرْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَيْفَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ. إِذْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَضَعَ أَسَاسًا غَيْرَ الْمَوْضُوعِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ. فَإِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَبْنِي عَلَى هَذَا الْأَسَاسِ ذَهَبًا أَوْ فِضَّةً أَوْ حِجَارَةً ثَمِينَةً أَوْ خَشَبًا أَوْ حَشِيشًا أَوْ تَبْنًا. فَإِنَّ عَمَلَ كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ سَيَكُونُ بَيِّنًا، لِأَنَّ يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ سَيُظْهِرُهُ لِأَنَّهُ يُعْلَنُ بِالنَّارِ، وَسَتَمْتَحِنُ النَّارُ عَمَلَ كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مَا هُوَ. فَمَنْ بَقِيَ عَمَلُهُ الَّذِي بَنَاهُ عَلَى الْأَسَاسِ، فَسَيَنَالُ أَجْرَهُ. وَمَنْ احْتَرَقَ عَمَلُهُ، فَسَيُخَسِرُ، وَسَيُخْلَصُ هُوَ وَلَكِنْ كَمَنْ يَمُرُّ فِي النَّارِ. أَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّكُمْ هَيْكَلُ اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ رُوحَ اللَّهِ سَاكِنٌ فِيكُمْ؟ مَنْ يُفْسِدُ هَيْكَلَ اللَّهِ يُفْسِدُهُ اللَّهُ لِأَنَّ هَيْكَلَ اللَّهِ مُقَدَّسٌ، وَهُوَ أَنْتُمْ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (14:22-34)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، اضْطَرَّ يَسُوعُ تَلَامِيذَهُ أَنْ يَدْخُلُوا السَّفِينَةَ وَيَسْبِقُوهُ إِلَى الْعَبْرِ حَتَّى يَصْرِفَ الْجُمُوعَ. وَلَمَّا صَرَفَ الْجُمُوعَ، صَعِدَ وَخَذَهُ إِلَى الْجَبَلِ لِيُصَلِّيَ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ الْمَسَاءُ، كَانَ هُنَاكَ وَخَذَهُ. وَكَانَتِ السَّفِينَةُ فِي وَسْطِ الْبَحْرِ تَكْدُّهَا الْأَمْوَاجُ، لِأَنَّ الرِّيحَ كَانَتْ مُضَادَّةً لَهَا. وَعِنْدَ الْهَجْعَةِ الرَّابِعَةِ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ، مَضَى إِلَيْهِمْ مَاشِيًا عَلَى الْبَحْرِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى التَّلَامِيذُ مَاشِيًا عَلَى الْبَحْرِ، اضْطَرَبُوا وَقَالُوا: "إِنَّهُ خَيَالٌ"، وَمِنْ الْخَوْفِ صَرَخُوا. فَلِلْوَقْتِ كَلَّمَهُمْ يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: "تَقُوا، أَنَا هُوَ، لَا تَخَافُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ بُطْرُسُ قَائِلًا: "يَا رَبُّ، إِنْ كُنْتُ أَنْتَ هُوَ، فَمُرْنِي أَنْ آتِيَ إِلَيْكَ عَلَى الْمِيَاهِ." فَقَالَ: "تَعَالَ." فَنَزَلَ بُطْرُسُ مِنَ السَّفِينَةِ، وَمَشَى عَلَى الْمِيَاهِ آتِيًا إِلَى يَسُوعَ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى شِدَّةَ الرِّيحِ، خَافَ، وَإِذْ بَدَأَ يَغْرَقُ، صَاحَ قَائِلًا: "يَا رَبُّ نَجِّنِي!" وَلِلْوَقْتِ مَدَّ يَسُوعُ يَدَهُ وَأَمْسَكَ بِهِ، وَقَالَ لَهُ: "يَا قَلِيلَ الْإِيمَانِ، لِمَاذَا شَكَّكْتَ؟" وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ السَّفِينَةَ، سَكَنَتِ الرِّيحُ. فَجَاءَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا فِي السَّفِينَةِ وَسَجَدُوا لَهُ قَائِلِينَ: "بِالْحَقِيقَةِ أَنْتَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ." وَلَمَّا عَبَرُوا، جَاءُوا إِلَى أَرْضِ جَنَيْسَارَتِ.

Coffee Hour

Sponsors Needed

Upcoming Events

Aug 5th	Evening Divine Liturgy at 6 pm Wednesday to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration عيد التجلي
Aug 9th	Grapes offered by the Nicola Family for the feast of the Transfiguration in memory of Metropolitan Phillip Saliba and Najat Nicola.
Aug 12th	Paraklises service for the Theotokos at 6 pm.
Aug 14th	Evening Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition عيد رقاد العذراء
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 **David Romley**. May his 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!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Maramis 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, 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

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!

Organizing Items in the Hall

We are beginning an important project to organize and improve the kitchen and storage areas in our hall. Our goal is to label all storage rooms, cabinets, shelves, and kitchen areas so that items can be easily returned to their proper place after use and the space can remain clean, organized, and well-maintained.

We will be starting this process on Thursday July 30th at 5pm. This project will happen in 2–3 phases, and we would greatly appreciate all volunteers willing to lend a hand. If you would like to help, please let Rania K, Rania K. or Joby know. Thank you in advance for your support as we work together to improve and maintain our shared space!

Festival Children's Debka Group

Our Annual Food Festival is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27, and we need your help to make it a success! We'd love to get the kids involved in a Debka group! This was a huge hit last year, and we're excited to bring it back. If your child is 5 years old or older and would like to participate, please contact Rania K. at (415) 722-0774.

Since its a short timeframe, these are the requirements:

- Must attend practice every Sunday beginning August 2 through Festival week (some exceptions maybe accommodated).
- Practices will be approximately 30 minutes each Sunday after coffee hour.
- Must be available both days of the festival. We anticipate two performances per day (schedule TBD).
- A black t-shirt must be provided during the first week of practice.

Please note that Rania K. is not a professional Debka instructor. If you have experience with Debka and are interested in helping coordinate or lead the group, we would greatly appreciate your assistance. Please contact Rania K. if you'd like to help. Let's make this year's Festival another memorable one! Calling all St. John Parish!!

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 Sunday August 16th 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

Festival Volunteers Needed

Our Annual Food Festival is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27, and we need your help to make it a success! Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or a full shift, every helping hand makes a difference. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside one another, build friendships, and support our church community. 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. Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or a full day, every helping hand makes a difference. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside one another, build friendships, and support our church community.

Please consider signing up using the link below:

<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!
The Festival Committee

“Love your Neighbor” A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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.

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

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

Save the date

★ AUGUST 15TH ★

St. John

DINNER DANCE

★ Under the stars ★



\$75.00
PER PERSON

★ KIDS 12 AND UNDER \$40.00 ★

★ 5:30 PM – Cocktails
(No Host Bar)

★ NO TICKET SALES AT DOOR

RSVP by August 2nd to
Evleen Salem (925) 788-6775 ★

Hope to
see you there!



SCAN TO RSVP!

THY Camp

A small group of us had the blessing of attending THY Camp last weekend. It was a beautiful experience where the kids built lasting friendships, participated in daily Vespers and Bible study to deepen their relationship with God, and enjoyed fun camp activities together. We're so grateful for the memories made, the faith strengthened, and experience.

