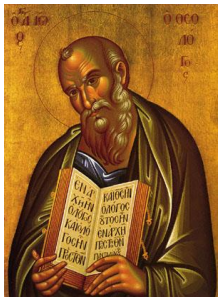

+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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 23, 2026; Tone 3 / Eothinon 1

Leave-taking of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Martyr Lupus, servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios;

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On August 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Martyr Lupus. He was the servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios. When Demetrios was beheaded by the Emperor Maximian, Lupus dipped the hem of his garment and his ring in the martyr's blood. Lupus worked many miracles and healings in Thessalonica with this garment and ring. The Emperor Maximian discovered this, and commanded that Lupus be tortured and killed. But the soldiers who drew their weapons on Lupus turned one on the other and wounded one another. Lupus prayed to God that He would somehow bring about his baptism before his death. On this, water suddenly poured down on the holy martyr from a cloud, and he thus received baptism. After harsh torture, Lupus was beheaded and entered into the heavenly Kingdom.

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THE EPISTLE

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Clap your hands, all ye nations.

The Reading from the First Epistle of

St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

رتّلوا لإلهِنَا رتّلوا.يا جميعَ الأمَمِ صفّقُوا بالأيادي.

فصلٌ مِنْ رسالةِ القدّيسِ بولُسَ الرسولِ الأولى إلى أهْلِ كورنثوس. (15:1-11)

يا إخوةُ، أُعَرِّفُكُمْ بالإنجيلِ الذي بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ وقَبِلْتُمُوهُ وأنتُمْ قائمونَ فيهِ وبِهِ أيضاً تَخْلُصُونَ، بِأَيِّ كَلامٍ بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ إنْ كُنْتُمْ تَذْكُرُون، إلاّ أنْ تَكُونوا قَدْ آمَنْتُمْ باطِلاً. فَإِنِّي قدْ سَلَّمْتُ إليكُمْ أولاً ما تَسَلَّمْتُهُ أنَّ المسيحَ ماتَ مِنْ أجْلِ خطايانا على ما في الكُتُبِ. وأَنَّهُ قُبِرَ وأَنَّهُ قد قامَ في اليومِ الثالثِ على ما في الكُتب. وأَنَّهُ تراءَى لصَفّا ثُمَّ الإثْنَيْ عَشَرَ. ثُمَّ تراءَى لأَكثَرَ مِنْ خمْسِ مئةِ أخٍ دُفْعَةً واحدَةً، أكثَرُهُمْ باقٍ إلى الآنَ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ قَدْ رَقَدُوا. ثُمَّ تَراءى لِيعقوبَ، ثُمّ لِجَميعِ الرُسُلِ. وآخِرَ الكُلِّ تراءَى لِي أنا أيضاً كأَنَّهُ لِلسِّقْطِ. لأنّي أنا أصغَرُ الرُسُلِ، وَلَسْتُ أَهْلاً لأنْ أُسمَّى رَسُولاً، لأنّي اضْطَهَدْتُ كنيسةَ اللهِ. ولكِنْ بنعمةِ اللهِ أَنا ما أَنا. ونِعْمَتُهُ المُعْطاةُ لِي لَمْ تَكُنْ باطِلَةً بَلْ تَعِبْتُ أكثَرَ مِنْ جميعِهِم. ولكِنْ لا أَنا بَلْ نعمةُ اللهِ التي معي. فَسَواءً كُنْتُ أَنا أَمْ أُولئِكَ هكذا نَكْرِزُ وهكذا آمَنْتُم.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to Him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

فَصْلٌ شَريفٌ مِنْ بِشارَةِ القِدّيسِ مَتّى الإنْجيلِيّ البَشيرِ والتِّلْميذِ الطاهِر. (19:16-26)

في ذلِكَ الزمانِ، دَنَا إلى يسوعَ شابٌ وَجَثا لَهُ قائِلاً: أيُّها الْمُعَلِّمُ الصَّالِحُ، ماذا أعملُ مِنَ الصلاحِ لِتَكونَ لِي الحياةُ الأبديَّة؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: لِماذا تَدْعُونِي صالِحاً؟ وَمَا صالِحٌ إلاَّ واحِدٌ وهُوَ الله. ولكِنْ إنْ كُنْتَ تُريدَ أنْ تَدْخُلَ الحياةَ، فاحفَظِ الوَصَايا. فقالَ لَهُ: أيةُ وَصَايا؟ قالَ يسوعُ: لا تَقْتُلْ، لا تَزْنِ، لا تَسْرِقْ، لا تَشْهَدْ بالزورِ. أكْرِمْ أَباكَ وأُمَكَ، أَحْبِبْ قريبَكَ كَنَفْسِكَ. قالَ لَهُ الشابُّ: كُلُّ هذا قَدْ حَفِظْتُهُ مُنْذُ صِبايَ، فَمَاذا يَنْقُصُنِي بَعْدُ؟ قالَ لَهُ يسوعُ: إنْ كُنْتَ تُريدَ أنْ تَكُونَ كامِلاً، فاذْهَبْ وَبِعْ كُلَّ شيءٍ لَكَ وأَعْطِهِ لِلْمَساكينَ، فيكونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ في السماءِ. وتَعَالَ اتْبَعْنِي. فَلَّما سَمِعَ الشابُّ هذا الكلام، مَضَى حزيناً لأَنَّهُ كانَ ذا مالٍ كثيرٍ. فقالَ يسوعُ لِتَلاميذِهِ: الحقَّ أقولُ لَكُمْ إنَّهُ يَعْسُرُ على الغَنِيّ أنْ يَدْخُلَ ملكوتَ السماواتِ. وأَيضاً أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إنَّ مُرورَ الجمَلِ منْ ثَقْبِ الإبرةِ لأسهَلُ مِنْ دُخُولِ غَنِيٍّ ملكوتَ السماوات. فَلَمّا سَمِعَ تلاميذُهُ بُهِتُوا جِدّاً وقالُوا "مَنْ يَسْتطيعُ إذنْ أَنْ يَخْلُص؟" فَنَظَرَ يسوعُ إِلَيْهِمْ وقالَ لَهُم: أمّا عِنْدَ الناسِ فلا يُسْتَطَاعُ هذا، وأَمّا عندَ اللهِ فَكُلُّ شَيءٍ مُسْتَطاع.

Coffee Hour

Aug 22nd	Saturday Vespers at 4:00 pm.
Aug 23rd	Sam and Carol Syriani for their good health
Aug 30th	In memory of Mary Shaheen Bikhazi, sister of Elias Shaheen
Sept 20th	Khalil Mounzer in memory of Carlos Suarez
Sept 27th	Festival!

Upcoming Events

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!

† Siham Mitry in memory of her daughter **Donna Potter** on the occasion of her birthday. May her 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 for donating the first processional banner.

Thank you to the Ghantous family for donating the second processional banner.

God bless you!

Men's Club Dinner Meeting—Ladies Welcome!

The Men's Club warmly invites you to join us for our upcoming monthly dinner meeting. We are excited to come together for an evening of good food, fellowship, and community. All ladies who would like to attend are very welcome!

Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Church Fellowship Hall
- **Donation:** $25 per person (dinner is sponsored by one of our members, and all donations support our treasury and church programs)

Important RSVP Deadline: To help us ensure an accurate headcount for dinner, please **RSVP by Thursday August 27** by contacting me 925/980-4441. We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening with you!

God Bless, Jim Dudum, St. John's Men's Club President

IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

Sunday November 1. This year, our parish is hosting the 34th annual IOCC Food & Wine Tour, one of IOCC's biggest fundraising events of the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Larissa Geleris by email lkgeleris@gmail.com or text 925-323-4924

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.

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! 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**

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

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

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

Hosted by St. John the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church
& the IOCC Metropolitan Committee of Northern California

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

VESPERS: 4:00 P.M. • DINNER: 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Come experience a tasting menu & wine pours from around the world and learn about IOCC's latest humanitarian work

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL
501 Moraga Way | Orinda, CA 94563

Tickets:	$60	through Oct. 15, includes food and unlimited wine pours
	$70	after Oct. 15, includes food and wine
	$50	includes food only
	$35	student ticket
	$25	children 6–12 *(free 5 and under)*

Tickets and sponsorships at **iocc.org/bayarea**

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