

+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 30, 2026 TONE 4 / EOTHINON 2; THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST & THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

ALEXANDER, PAUL THE NEW, AND JOHN, PATRIARCHS OF CONSTANTINOPLE



On August 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our fathers among the saints Alexander, Paul the New, and John, Patriarchs of Constantinople. Alexander took part in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, in place of the aged Patriarch Metrophanes, whom he then succeeded. When certain philosophers tried to dispute with him about faith, he said to one of them: "In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to remain silent!" The philosophers became dumb from that moment. Alexander died at the age of 98 in the year 340. Paul the New governed the Church for almost six years and renounced the throne to receive the Great Habit secretly, to repent of his sins when he first supported the iconoclasts. He was the predecessor of the great Tarasius and entered into rest in 784. John was nicknamed "Scholasticus" because he was originally a lawyer. He became Patriarch in 565. He wrote Canons which have been included in the Nomocanon. In his day, the Cherubic Hymn and the prayer "At Thy mystical supper" were introduced into the Liturgy. He departed this life peacefully and gave his soul to God in 577.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, how marvelous are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ما أعظم أعمالك يا ربُّ كُلِّها بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ.

بارِكِي يا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس. (16:13-24)

يا إِخْوَةُ، إِسْهَرُوا، أَثْبِتُوا عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ، كُونُوا رِجَالاً، تَشَدَّدُوا. وَلَتَكُنْ أُمُورُكُمْ كُلُّهَا بِالْمَحَبَّةِ. وَأَطْلُبْ إِلَيْكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ: تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ إِسْتِفَانَسَ وَفُرتَانَسَ وَأَكائِكُسَ هُمْ بَاكُورَةُ أَخَائِيَّةَ وَقَدْ خَصَّصُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ لخدمَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ. فَعَلَيْكُمْ، أَنْ تَخْضَعُوا أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا لِمِثْلِ هَؤُلَاءِ وَلِكُلِّ مَنْ يِعَاوُنُ وَيَتَعَبُ. إِنِّي فَرِحَ بِحُضُورِ إِسْتِفَانَسَ وَفُرتَانَسَ وَأَخَائِكُوسَ فَقَدْ قَامُوا مَقَامَكُمْ فِي غِيَابِكُمْ، فَأَرَاخُوا رُوحِي وَأَرْوَا حَكْمَ. فَقَدِّرُوا أُمَثَالَهُمْ. تُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكُمْ كَنَائِسُ آسِيَّةَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الرَّبِّ كَثِيرًا أَكِيلاً وَبِرِسْكَالَةَ وَالْكَنِيسَةُ الَّتِي فِي بَيْتِهِمَا. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعُ الْإِخْوَةِ. سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. السَّلَامُ بِيَدِي أَنَا بُولُسَ. إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ لَا يُحِبُّ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ فَلْيَكُنْ مَفْرُوزًا. مَارَانَ أَثَا. نِعْمَةُ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مَعَكُمْ. مَحَبَّتِي لَكُمْ جَمِيعًا فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. آمِينَ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (21:33-43)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ رَبُّ بَيْتٍ غَرَسَ كَرْمًا وَحَوَّطَهُ بِسِيَاجٍ، وَحَفَرَ فِيهِ مَعْصَرَةً، وَبَنَى بُرْجًا، وَسَلَّمَهُ إِلَى عَمَلَةٍ وَسَافِرٍ. فَلَمَّا قَرَبَ أَوَانُ الثَّمَرِ، أَرْسَلَ عَبِيدَهُ إِلَى الْعَمَلَةِ لِيَأْخُذُوا ثَمَرَهُ * فَأَخَذَ الْعَمَلَةُ عَبِيدَهُ، وَجَلَدُوا بَعْضًا، وَقَتَلُوا بَعْضًا، وَرَجَمُوا بَعْضًا. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبِيدًا آخَرِينَ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ، فَصَنَعُوا بِهِمْ كَذَلِكَ. وَفِي الْآخِرِ، أَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِمْ ابْنَهُ قَائِلًا: "سَيَهَابُونَ ابْنِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى الْعَمَلَةُ الْإِبْنَ قَالُوا فِيمَا بَيْنَهُمْ "هَذَا هُوَ الْوَارِثُ. هَلُمَّ نَقْتُلْهُ وَنَسْتَوْلِي عَلَى مِيرَاثِهِ." فَأَخَذُوهُ وَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجَ الْكَرَمِ وَقَتَلُوهُ. فَمَتَى جَاءَ رَبُّ الْكَرَمِ مَاذَا يَفْعَلُ بِأُولَئِكَ الْعَمَلَةِ؟ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: إِنَّهُ يُهْلِكُ أُولَئِكَ الْأَرْدِيَاءَ أَرْدَاءً هَلَاكٍ، وَيُسَلِّمُ الْكَرَمَ إِلَى عَمَلَةٍ آخَرِينَ يُؤْثِرُونَ لَهُ الثَّمَرَ فِي أَوَانِهِ. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: أَمَّا قَرَأْتُمْ قَطُّ فِي الْكُتُبِ إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ الَّذِي رَدَّلَهُ الْبَنَاءُونَ هُوَ صَارَ رَأْسًا لِلزَّوَايَةِ. مِنْ قَبْلِ الرَّبِّ كَانَ ذَلِكَ وَهُوَ عَجِيبٌ فِي أَعْيُنِنَا؟

Coffee Hour

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

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!
- † 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!
- † Afaf Wahbeh in memory of **Seliman Manusour**. 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

† Elevation of the Cross:



Flowers donated in loving memory of Stephen and Pauline Belevich, by Nick Nicola Jr. and Family

=====

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The start of Sunday School is approaching quickly! To prepare for this new year, please take a moment to register your child(ren) for this year asap [using this link](#) to our google form.

Upcoming Important Dates:

THIS Sunday, August 30th: Sunday School Kick Off following coffee hour at Moraga Commons. Bring a picnic blanket and your favorite Sunday school memory to share.

Sunday, September 6th: First Day of Sunday School. Children and teachers line up first and then proceed to assigned classrooms following communion.

Youth Group Events at St. Innocent in Pleasanton:

August 30th:

- Teens - Potluck and activities
- Middles (1st through 6th grade) - Potluck, Bible study, and activities

September 12th: Teens - Minigolf before Vespers

Men's Fellowship 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 Chairman

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.

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.

=====

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

=====

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

ORTHODOX *Thanksgiving* KIDS AND TEENS RETREAT

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.

— Psalm 107:1



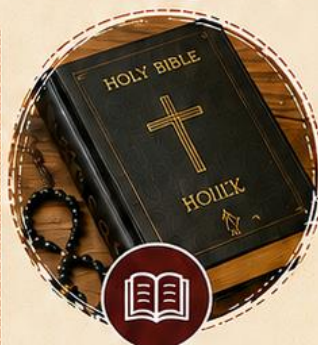
SUNDAY, NOV 15
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM



A fun and faith-filled afternoon for
kids and teens and their families to grow
closer to Christ and give thanks together!



WE WILL BE
MAKING
Holy Bread



BIBLE
STUDY



TEAM
BUILDING



DINNER
will be
PROVIDED

SUGGEST
\$40
DONATION 
per family

RSVP BY NOV. 1
— TO —
Rania Kashou
or
Irene Guajardo 

DONATIONS AND
VOLUNTEERS
ARE WELCOMED!



FAITH. FELLOWSHIP. THANKSGIVING.
Come grow in Christ and gratitude together! 

