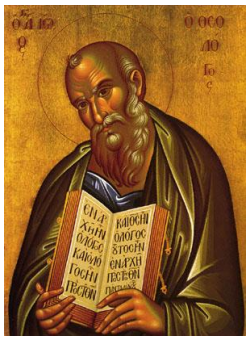


+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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 31, 2025

Placing of the Sash of the Theotokos in Halkoprateia & Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage

On August 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Placing of the Sash of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos in Constantinople's Halkoprateia district during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

At her Dormition, the Most Holy Mother of God left her Sash to the Apostle Thomas. This Sash was later taken to Constantinople and kept there in a sealed casket in the church of the Mother of God at Blachernae. This casket was never opened until the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise (886-912). Leo's wife, the Empress Zoë, was taken sick in soul and, as the result of a mysterious vision, desired that the Sash of the holy Theotokos be placed upon her. The Emperor asked the Patriarch, who opened the casket and found the Sash completely whole and undamaged by time. The Sash was taken out and placed upon the sick Empress, who immediately recovered. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, and then returned the venerable Sash back into the casket and resealed it.

On this day, we also commemorate our fathers among the saints Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople; and Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage.

THE EPISTLE

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

تُعَظِّمُ نَفسي الرَّبَّ، وتَبْتَهِجُ روحي باللهِ مُخَلِّصي،

لأَنَّهُ نَظَرَ إلى تَواضُعَ أَمَتِهِ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رسالةِ القديسِ بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين. (9:1–7)

القارئ: يا إخوةُ، إنَّ العهْدَ الأولَ كانَتْ لَهُ أيضاً فَرائِضُ العِبادَةِ والقُدْسُ العالَمِيُّ. لأَنَّهُ نُصِبَ المَسْكَنُ الأَوَّلُ الذي يُقالُ لَهُ القُدْسُ، وكانَتْ فيه المَنارَةُ والمائِدَةُ وخُبْزُ التَّقْدِمَة. وكانَ وَراءَ الحِجابِ الثاني، المَسْكَنُ الذي يُقالُ لَهُ قدْسُ الأَقْداس. وفيهِ مُسْتَوْقَدُ البَخورِ مِنَ الذَّهبِ وتابوتُ العَهْدِ المُغَشَّى بالذَهَبِ مِنْ كُلِّ جِهَةٍ، فيهِ قِسْطُ المَنِّ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ، وعَصا هارونَ التي أَفْرَخَتْ ولَوْحا العَهْدِ. ومِنْ فَوْقِهِ كاروبا المَجْدِ المُظَلِّلانِ الغِطاءَ. وليسَ هُنا مَقامُ الكَلامِ في ذلكَ تَفْصيلاً. وحيثُ كانَ ذلِكَ مُهَيَّأً هَكَذا، فالْكَهَنَةُ يَدْخُلونَ إلى المَسْكَنِ الأَوَّلِ كُلَّ حَينٍ فَيُتِمُّونَ الخِدْمَة. وأمّا الثاني، فإنَّما يَدْخُلُهُ رئيسُ الكَهَنَةِ وَحْدَهُ مَرَّةً في السَّنَةِ، ليسَ بِلا دَمٍ يُقَرِّبُهُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ وعَنْ جَهالاتِ الشَّعْب.

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 الإنْجيلِيِّ البَشيرِ والتِّلْميذِ الطاهِرِ. (19:16-26)

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 31st	Nick Nicola and Family will offer the 40 Day Service for the handmaiden of God Najat Nicola. May her memory be eternal!
Sunday, September 7th	Yowakeem and Kashou families 40 day memorial service for the handmaiden of God Aida Yowakeem. May her memory be eternal!
September 13	Vespers at 5:30
Sat-Sun, Sept. 20th-21st	St. John's annual Middle Eastern Food Festival

Coffee Hour

August 31	**Ladies of St. John in memory of Najat Nicola**
September 7	**Yowakeem and Kashou families in memory of Aida Yowakeem**

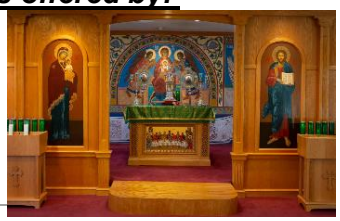
Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum, George Messieh, Bennett, Fairouz Freij, George Adranly, Fred Addas, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka.** and **Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Najat Nicola**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Aida Youakeem.** May her Memory be Eternal!
- † Siham Mitry in memory of her daughter **Donna Potter**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Farradj and Toubassy family in memory of **Samira Baroudi**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Messih**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Steven Thayer.** Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rocky Dudum**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Cawog**. 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

Krispy Kreme Fundraising Campaign

Another exciting fundraiser! Campaign is good until December 31.
How it works!
1. Order place an order using the link or QR code.
https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/60225-st-john-church-krispy-kreme-digital-dozens
2. Support 50% of each Original Glazed Dozen you order is donated back to the organization.
3. EnjoyVisit your local Krispy Kreme to pick up your Original Glazed Dozens

Sunday School Sign-up

Sign up your kids for Sunday school in person on Sunday August 24th. We are in need of Sunday school teacher subs. Please reach out to Irene Guajardo iyrini.nino@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Dave & Buster's Fundraising Campaign

We have something new and exciting!!
Dave & Buster's fundraising campaign will begin NOW until December 31, 2025. Get Your Power Cards through St. John link.
1. Place an order using St. John fundraising link. Here is the link:
https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/59958-st-john-church-dave-busters-fundraising-campaigns?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=o_offers_day_1
And/or ask: Rania Kashou
2. 50% of each Dave & Buster's Power Card purchased is donated back to the organization.
3. Visit any Dave & Buster's location to pick up your Power Card and start playing!
Awesome gift for kids, grand kids, parents, even yourself. Who doesn't like to play??
This link can be forwarded to friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, businesses, anyone!!

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

---

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

You could use this QR code for your donation

ST. JOHN MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL – 2025 PRE-ORDER FORM

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Spinach Pies (baker's dozen)	$ 60.00		
Cheese Pies (baker's dozen)	$ 60.00		
Meat Pies (baker's dozen)	$ 60.00		
Grape Leaves – 1 large tray (approx. 180 leaves)	$200.00		
Grape Leaves – 1 small tray (approx. 90 leaves)	$100.00		
Name: Date Paid:			
ORDERS DUE TO RULA ADRANLY 8/17/25 rulaadranly@comcast.net			

Advertisement Form for 2025 Festival Ad Book

31st 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 20th & Sunday, September 21st

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	$125	$75

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

The 2025 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 2025 Festival Committee, we thank you for your support.

Checks payable to St. John Church Festival Mail to:

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Kick off Gathering
SEPTEMBER 7TH
AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL
PACK A PICNIC, CHAIRS AND ANY OTHER PARK NEEDS
@MORAGA COMMONS
ENJOY SOME TIME WITH OTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSMATES

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CAMPUS MINISTRY

August 11, 2025

Double Your Impact for College Students — $65,000 Match Available! OCF Back-to-School Campaign

Dear Ladies of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West,

Greetings in Christ!

It's back-to-school time, and thousands of Orthodox college students are heading to campus. With chapters on over 200 campuses and a growing national footprint, OCF helps students stay close to Christ and the Church throughout their college years.

At the heart of this movement is the growing Campus Missionary Initiative where full-time OCF staff are serving directly on college campuses at Texas A&M, Arizona State University, and Georgia Tech/Emory in Atlanta. Alongside vibrant regional retreats, leadership training, and national gatherings like College Conference and Real Break, OCF offers college students an invitation to thrive.

To keep these life-changing experiences affordable and accessible to all, OCF relies on the generosity of donors like you. Last year, your support helped subsidize over $100,000 in student programming costs.

Will your local parish chapter consider and offer a gift towards this year's Back to School campaign? Any amount is appreciated, and your donation will go twice as far thanks to a generous $65,000 matching opportunity, doubling the impact of every dollar given!

A donation check may be mailed to the address below, or an online donation may be offered here.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Together, we're keeping students anchored in the Faith during their college years.

In His Service,

Dn. Marek Simon
Executive Director

50 Goddard Ave, Brookline, MA 02445 (617) 850-1227 ocf.net

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL

MUSIC

FOOD

CULTURE

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21

501 MORAGA WAY ORINDA, CA

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

FREE ADMISSION

Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Redeemer

PRESENTS

Our 42nd Annual

Mediterranean Food Festival

September 6th | 1pm - 9pm

September 7th | 12pm - 8pm

Get ready for two unforgettable days of fun, delicious food, family entertainment, music, culture, dancing, crafts, church tours, kids' zone, and more!

380 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos Hills, CA

*** FREE ADMISSION BEFORE 3PM ***

Don't miss the raffle! (Tickets - 1 for $20, 3 for $50, 7 for $100)

1st = $1,000 Cash | 2nd = $500 Cash | 3rd = 75" 4K TV | 4th = 49ers Tickets (2)

...and more great prizes!

PARKING AND SHUTTLE AVAILABLE AT
BRIDGES COMMUNITY CHURCH | 625 MAGDALENA AVE.

For the latest festival updates, go to facebook.com/orthodoxredeemer or call 650.941.1570

Building Committee Update

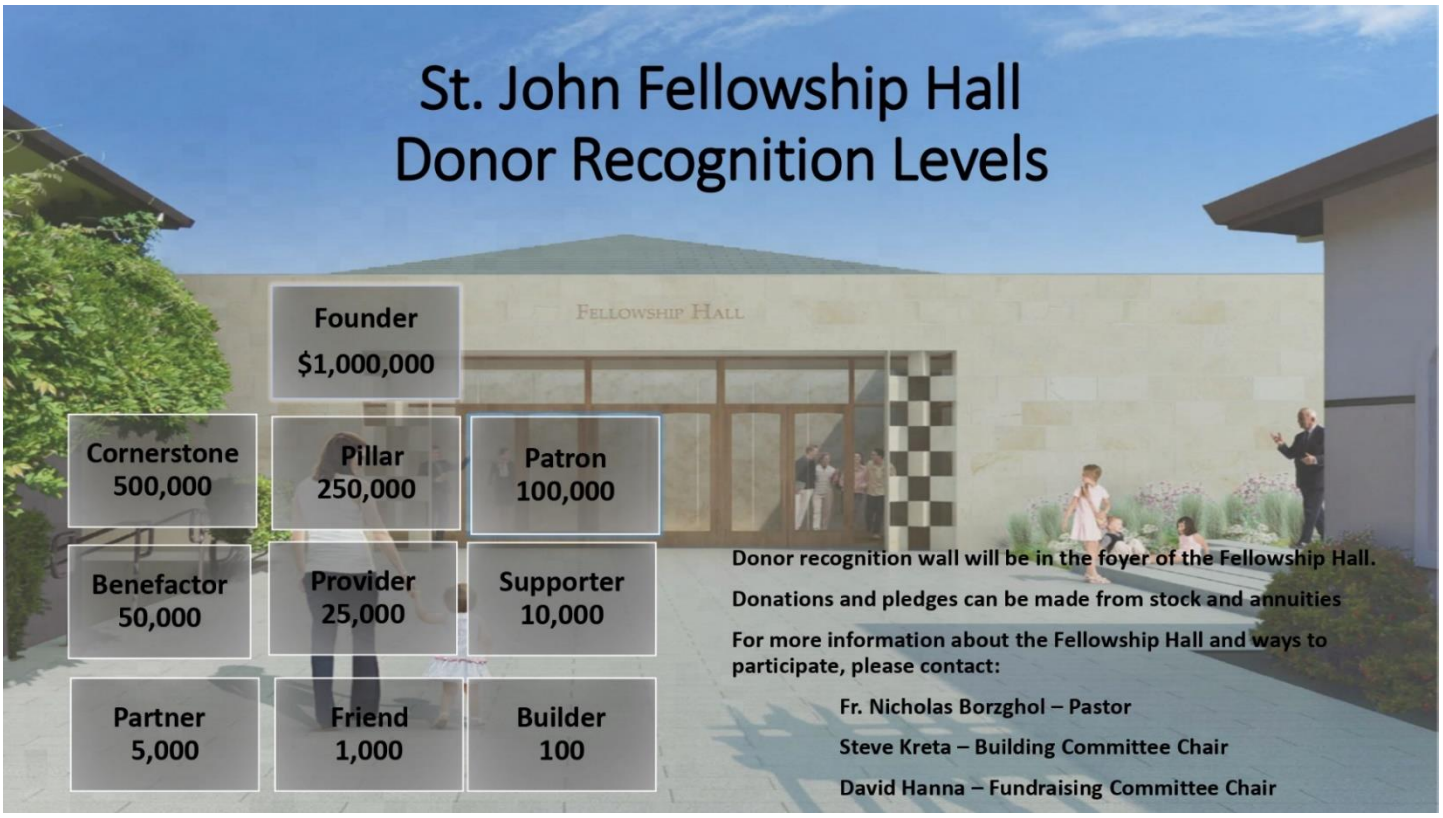
Building Committee Update – August 12, 2025

Can't you almost feel it!? We are getting so close. This week and next we will see some final installations of kitchen equipment, some tree planting, landscaping and installation, followed by several more fire, County and City inspections. If all goes as planned, we should have an occupancy permit by the end of August. Just in time to prepare for the festival.

On behalf of the entire Building Committee, I personally want to thank you all for your opinions, offerings, donations, prayers and especially words of encouragement. We expect to have an official "opening" of the hall as soon as we can, and we look forward to recognizing the many parishioners who have gone above and beyond to bring us to this point.

Steve Kreta

Building Committee Chair



Dave & Busters Campaign

This past Sunday a group of us went joined an outting that raised $390.00 and that's just a start. Everyone's participation is a true reflection of God's love at work, and together we are building something greater for His glory. Dave & Busters campaign is good until the end of the year. Please stay tuned for another outting.

Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens to Support

St. John Church

grouprai.se/krispykreme60225o

$15 per order

50% donated back

St John Fellowship Hall Donor Recognition

The St John Fellowship Hall Building and Fundraising Committees along with the Parish Council would like to thank and recognize those donors who have given over the years to the Building Fund. The contributions shown below include cumulative donations to the initial $2 Million in the building fund at the start of construction, in addition to those donations to the current fundraising effort. Please note that our very generous Cornerstone Donor, as well as several of the Partner and Friend level donors have donated prior to the beginning of our current campaign. All donors will be recognized on a plaque or donor wall feature located in the reception area (foyer) of the hall at the levels shown below. If you would like your contribution recognized in another way, or if you have questions regarding your donation level, please contact the church office.

Recognition level	**Names of Donors**	
Cornerstone $500,000 +	Hanada I. Fasheh	
Patron $100,000-249,000	Rick and Sandra Dudum Jack and Sylvia Dudum	Jason and Lena Dudum Fuad and Nadia Sweiss
Benefactor $50,000 - 99,999	Keith Dudum Joseph Sweis and Family	The McClintic Family
Provider $25,000 - 49,999	Sami and Kathy Adranly James and Denise Dudum Rocky and Nada Dudum Nick and Deena Farrah	Jon and Larissa Geleris Stephen and Angela Kreta Elias and Samia Shaheen
Supporter $10,000-24,999	Dn. Nicolas and Rula Adranly George and Samar Adranly ADOBE – matching gift for Hanna Family Anonymous Dominick and Joby Aranda George and Freida Cawog Nick and Deena Farrah Ibrahim Fasheh Jordis Fasheh Lisa and David Hanna and Family Phillip and Gina Jaber	Jawad and Violet Jaber Ron and Ruth Jeha, in Memory of Michael Elias Jeha Sam Khoury Ron and Nancy Nicola Fady and Joumana Najjar Orthodox Vision Foundation The Potts Family Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain Raif and Sonia Rihani and Family Eddie and Evleen Salem Ernest and Noha Shulze and Family Daniel and Mona Thayer Ramsay Zacharia

Partner
$5,000-9,999

Anonymous
Charles and Marilee Ajalat
Miranda Halaby
Sandy Hodges
John and Sylvia Jaber
Leila Farradj
Lynn and Usama Farradj
Issam and Rania Freij
Salem and Antoinette Mufarreh
Darrin Rishwain
George Theodosy
Suzanne & Nabil Taovil
In Memory of Najat Nicola,
Ghada, Nassif and Yasmina Malouf

Friend
$1,000-4,999

Saleem & Samya Abudawood
Jack Ajluni
Anonymous
Richard and Joyce Ayoob
Anthony and Kimberly Bailey
Sandy Bennett
William and Judith Bosl
Fr. Nicholas Borzghol
Challenger Enterprises
Dana Dietzmann
Daryl and Katherine Dudum
J.D. and Jessie Dudum
F&M Bank
Fadi and Rana Feghali
Alex and Helen Ghantous
Khalil and Leila Hakeem
Ronald Issac
JDO Dakota Ventures
Mary Karadsheh
Maha Kury-Peterson
Brandon Laidlaw
Lieman Properties
Azmie and Melanie Madanat
Chris and Eva Malki
Margaret Mas
Fred and Tania Milkie
Siham Mitry
Myers Restaurant Supply
George Najjar
Samer & Maram Nassar
Sam & Nelly Nassif
Dn George and Jane Nassief
Ramzi and Marina Nassoura
Ziad & Charlene Nassoura
Naim and Helen Nazzal
Susan Nazzal
Nicholas Luengo Construction
Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Family
Antone Nino
Fawda Samara
Jeanne Shikany
Samir and Caroline Syriani
Sami and Alia Sahouria
Andrew Thayer
Steven Thayer
The Kebab Shop Restaurant
John and Jan Theodosy
Samir and Abla Toubassy
In Memory of Dwight Underhill
Robert and Katrina Waddell
George and Afaf Wahbeh
Kamal and Samar Wahbe
Nabil and Souhila Wakileh
William Wood Architects
Hala Yowakeem
Samir and Nadia Zeidan

Builder
$100-999

George E. Adranly
Felice and Eric Ajluni
Howard & Marilyn Ashcraft
Eman Baalbaki
Tania & Daniel Bajada
Randy and Barbara Bray
Ken Bullock Ins & Fin Services
Robert and Renee Crawford
Mary Cubeisy
Dn. John and Irena Dibs
Herb & Tania DeGroot
Tony Dudum
Fuad and Mary Farradj
Naim & Nadia Frangieh
John & Dina Freij
Fairouz Freij
Fred and Sue Gedeon
Sandra Gedeon
Benjamin and Ashley Geleris
Zzane & Irene Guajardo
Julianna Greensides
Bahij & Yardena Hanhan
Raymond Hilal
Mounir and Muna Hobaika
Angela Husary
Jack's Restaurant
Carol Jeha
Samir Juha
Andreas Kamlot
David Kashou
Rania Kashou
Rima Kashou
Sandy Kashou
Norma Khalil
Elia Khalilieh
Elizabeth Kreta
Mary Lodge
William and Mary Massarweh
Daniel & Amy McLellan
Mendocino Farms Restaurant
Paul and Arwa Mogannam
Alan & Dale Morgan
Khalil Mounzer
Ibrahim Munayer
Marwan Mukhar
William and Jida Nasser
Maureen Nelson
Mark Nicola
Michelle Nicola
Pacer Physical Therapy
Jacob Ritter
Alexis Robbins
Rocco's Restaurant & Pizza
Neezar Samara
Wanda and Leonard Sarkissian
See’s Candies
Jabra & Rania Shuheiber
Marie Simon
Matthew Simon
Summit Landscape Development
Christina Tast
Sami Tawasha
Christina Thabit
TP Wolf
Khalil Yowakeem
Sam & Nevine Yowakim

Rev: Aug 18, 2025