



+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
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 04, 2024

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 6; SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

& SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

THE HOLY SEVEN SLEEPING YOUTHS OF EPHEBUS; RECOVERY OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR EUDOKIA OF PERSIA

The Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus



On August 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Exacustodian, Jamblichus, Martinian, Dionysius, John and Constantine, who rose from the sleep of death.

The Roman Emperor Decius came to Ephesus in 250 and arranged a boisterous celebration in honor of the lifeless idols, as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers and sons of influential elders, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices and they earnestly prayed to the one true God to save the Christian people. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside Ephesus

called Celion and hid in a cave, which Decius commanded to be sealed. However, God, according to His far-reaching Providence, caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers, Theodore and Rufinus, secret Christians, built in that wall a copper sarcophagus with lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men and their martyric deaths. After 184 years, during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger, there was a great dispute about the resurrection. Emperor Theodosius prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to mankind. At that time of turmoil some shepherders of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, removed stone after stone from that cave. The youths then awakened from their sleep young and healthy. The news of this miracle was spread abroad on all sides so that even Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and with delight conversed with the youths. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the universal resurrection.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us, let each use them accordingly: whether prophecy, let him prophesy according to the proportion of the faith; or ministry, let him give himself to the ministry; or the teacher, to the teaching; or he who exhorts, in the exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with simplicity; he who presides, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

الرسالة.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ
خَلَّصْنِي يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية. (14-6:12)

يا إخوة، إذ لنا مواهبٌ مختلفةٌ باختلافِ النعمةِ المُعطاةِ لنا، فمن وُهبِ النبوءةِ فليَتَنَبَّأْ وفقاً للإيمان، ومن وُهبِ الخدمةِ فليُلازمِ الخدمةَ، والمُعَلِّمُ التَّعليمَ، والواعِظُ الوعظَ، والمتصدِّقُ البساطةَ، والمُدبِّرُ الاجتهادَ، والراحِمُ البشاشةَ. ولتكن المحبةُ بلا رياءٍ. كونوا ماقنينَ للشرِّ ومُلتصقينَ بالخيرِ. مُحِبِّينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا حُبًّا أَخَوِيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرِ مُتْكَاسِلِينَ فِي الاجتهادِ، حَارِّينَ بِالرُّوحِ، عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ فِي الرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الصَّيْقِ، مُوَظِّبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، مُؤَاسِينَ الْقَدِيسِينَ فِي احتياجاتِهِمْ، عَاكِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَاةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. باركوا الذين يَضْطَهِدُونَكُمْ، باركوا، وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتلميذِ الطاهر. (8-1:9)

في ذلك الزمان، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَارَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَإِذَا بِمُخْلَعٍ مُلقَى عَلَى سَرِيرِ قَدَمُوهُ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "ثِقْ يَا بَنِي، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنْ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ "هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ." فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ فَأَمْسْ؟ وَلَكِنْ لَكِي تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ "قُمْ، احْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَاذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ الْجُمُوعُ، تَعَجَّبُوا وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أُعْطِيَ النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

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.

Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration

Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration offered by Nick Nicola and family in memory of Gaby Nasar.



Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Thursday, August 1 st	The Dormition Fast begins.
Sunday, August 4 th	Blessing of grapes 🍇 after the Divine Liturgy.
Wednesday, August 7 th at 6:00pm	Paraklesis service for the Theotokos
Wednesday, August 14 th	Evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Dormition عيد رقاد العذراء
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Coffee Hours

August 4th	Kashou Family 10-year memorial lunch for Ibrahim Kashou.
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Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Daniel Romley, Henriette Hilal** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Daniel Scuiry**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Vivian Sruji**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Souhail Kawar**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Naim Nazzal**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nabil Wakileh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish in memory of Ibrahim Kashou (10 years). 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!



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- † 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 and Maron Juha

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Fellowship Hall News

Building Committee Update:

As you can see, the exterior of the fellowship hall is nearing completion. The doors and windows are in and exterior tiles are being applied. Inside the hall insulation is being installed and drywall is going up. Additionally, the preschool playground area is being mapped out and final designs for equipment are being determined. Final details for the hardscape from the new parking to the entrance of the hall is being finalized and will begin soon.

There is still much to be done on the interior before we complete the project such as the kitchen, restrooms, some lighting, and floor, wall and ceiling treatments, but we are nearing the point where building funds are being depleted. The parish council, building committee, contractor and fundraising committee are meeting to strategize next steps for the final fundraising push to complete the project. With God's help, we will be able to raise the funds to bring the building to completion soon.

Fundraising Committee Update:

The Fundraising Committee, along with the contractor, and the Building Committee will be meeting with the Parish Council to look at fundraising opportunities for completing the Fellowship Hall. We may soon be announcing the donors and the amount of their gifts to date. If you would like your gift to the Fellowship Hall to be anonymous, please let the Church Office know as soon as possible.

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Doors Installed!





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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
**HIS EMINENCE
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OF ZAHLE AND BAALBEK**



September 7th | **6:00 p.m.** | **\$60/ per person**

ST MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
16643 VANOWEN ST
VAN NUYS, CA 91406

**SEATING IS LIMITED,
PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 28!**

Dinner and Entertainment will be Provided

QUESTIONS? TEXT OR CALL:
RAMONA 661-433-9561
KH. MIRAY 786-346-9094
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KING TUT FESTIVAL

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Fri 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sat 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

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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 Fasheh	
Patron \$100,000-249,000	Rick and Sandra Dudum	Jack and Sylvia Dudum
Benefactor \$50,000 - 99,999	The McClintic Family Fuad and Nadia Sweiss	Joseph Sweis and Family
Provider \$25,000 - 49,999	Rocky and Nada Dudum Nick and Deena Farrah Anonymous	Dr. Jon and Larissa Geleris Stephen and Angela Kreta Elias and Samia Shaheen
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Partner \$5,000-9,999	Charles and Marilee Ajalat Leila Farradj Lynn and Usama Farradj Ibrahim Fasheh Health of the Freij Family	Fady and Joumana Najjar Ernest and Noha Shulze and Family Munah Terazi Daniel and Mona Thayer George Theodosy

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