



+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 925-257-2940

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

AUGUST 06

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Holy Transfiguration



On August 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the divine Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

This glorious event is recorded in the Gospels of Mark (9:2-13), Luke (9:28-36 in Orthros) and Matthew (17:1-9 in Liturgy). In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion and His glorious Resurrection. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples, the All-wise Savior wanted to show them His divine glory before His passion on the Holy Cross. (This is why we sing the *katavasiae* of the Holy Cross on this day.) For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and went out at night to Mount Tabor. The Lord took only three disciples on Tabor because the Lord did not want to leave the unworthy Judas alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Our Lord was transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly thoughts. Moses and Elijah appeared in order to destroy the erroneous thought of the Jews that the Christ is one of the prophets; that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mount Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God would serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Peter. (1:10-19)

Brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made surer. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

الرسالة

ما أعظم أعمالك يا رب، كلها بحكمة صنعت.

باركي يا نفسي للرب، أيها الرب إلهي لقد عظمت جدا.

فصل من رسالة القديس بطرس الرسول الثانية الجامعة.

يا إخوة، اجتهدوا أن تجعلوا دعوتكم وانتخابكم ثابتين. فإنكم إذا فعلتم ذلك لا تزلون أبداً، وهكذا تمنحون بسخاء أن تدخلوا ملكوت ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح الأبدى. لذلك لا أهمل تذكركم دائماً بهذه الأمور وإن كنتم عالمين بها وراسخين في الحق الحاضر. وأرى من الحق أنني ما دمت في هذا المسكن أنهضكم بالتذكير. فإني أعلم أن خلع مسكني قريب كما أعلن لي ربنا يسوع المسيح، وسأجتهد أن يكون لكم بعد خروجي تذكر هذه الأمور كل حين، لأننا لم ننبع خرافات مصنعة، إذ أعلمناكم قوة ربنا يسوع المسيح ومجيئه، بل كنا معاينين جلاله، لأنه أخذ من الله الآب الكرامة والمجد، إذ جاءه من المجد الفخيم صوت يقول: "هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت"، وقد سمعنا نحن هذا الصوت آتياً من السماء حين كنا معه في الجبل المقدس. وعندنا أثبت من ذلك، وهو كلام الأنبياء، الذي تحسنون إذا أصغيتهم إليه، كأنه مصباح يضيء في مكان مظلم، إلى أن ينفجر النهار، ويشرق كوكب الصبح في قلوبكم.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:1-9)

At that time, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if Thou wilt, I will make three booths here, one for Thee and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; hear Him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is risen from the dead."

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

في ذلك الزمان، أخذ يسوع بطرس ويعقوب ويوحنا أخاه فأصعدهم إلى جبل عال على انفراد وتجلّى قدامهم وأضاء وجهه كالشمس، وصارت ثيابه بيضاء كالنور. وإذا موسى وإيليا تراءيا لهم يخاطبانه فأجاب بطرس وقال لیسوع: "يا رب حسن أن نكون ههنا. وإن شئت فلنصنع ههنا ثلاث مظالٍ واحدة لك وواحدة لموسى وواحدة لإيليا". وفيما هو يتكلم إذا سحابة نيرة قد ظللتهم وصوت من السحابة يقول: "هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت فله اسمعوا". فلما سمع التلاميذ سقطوا على أوجهم وخافوا جداً فدنا يسوع إليهم ولمسهم قائلاً: "قوموا لا تخافوا". فرفعوا أعينهم فلم يروا أحداً إلا يسوع وحده وفيما هم نازلون من الجبل أوصاهم يسوع قائلاً: "لا تعلموا أحداً بالرؤيا، حتى يقوم ابن البشر من بين الأموات".

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.

Questions From Parishioners

Question: What is the purpose of the event being planned for August 27?

The event on Sunday, August 27 will give every parishioner of St. John Orthodox Church a great big, wonderful boost of energy and enthusiasm! Dreaming about a Fellowship Hall is something we have done for a long time. We thank God for leading us to this point of seeing the dream realized. At the same time, building is different than dreaming. Raising 2.5 million dollars is a big challenge. With everyone gathering on August 27, we can all see the construction progress and hear about the fund-raising progress. Please RSVP before August 15 and make plans to be with your fellow parishioners when we all get that rush of emotion everyone will feel when we stand together in the building that is taking shape at 501 Moraga Way. See the brochure in the Weekly Bulletin for all the details about August 27.

Parishioners serving on the construction and fundraising committees, as well as the Parish Council, are constantly monitoring both construction and fundraising progress. As these Q/A features in the Weekly Bulletin continue, additional details about construction and fundraising progress will be reported. Keep your questions coming to rnlm@aol.com about all aspects of this historic project in the life of our parish."

Parish Hall Fundraiser Revenues

We appreciate all of you making the effort to come to our fundraising events at The Kebab Shop and Rocco's. We had an amazing turnout and wonderful fellowship time. Your attendance and support have played an important role in our event's success.

Rocco's: \$350

The Kebab Shop: \$866.99

Total: \$1216.99

Monthly Lunches for the Fellowship Hall

The Ladies' Committee would like to revive our monthly sponsored lunches to help raise funds for the new fellowship hall! The idea is to have two families pick a date and together provide a meal to serve after Sunday liturgy. The Ladies' Committee will sponsor a lunch at the church on Father's Day, but would love to have volunteers lined up for the months following. Please contact Fadwa Samara with any questions or to sign up at 510.909.0119 or fvsamara@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Upcoming Events

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|----------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, August 9 | Paraklesis service at 6 pm |
| September 23-24 | Our annual St. John's Middle Eastern Festival! |

Coffee Hours

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| August 6 | the Kreta and Farrah families for the 40-day memorial of their uncle, Sol Ajalat, and in memory of Shafik Karadsheh, Fr. Joseph and Matushka Marie and Fr. Peter Kreta and for the good health of Darcy Stilstra. |
| August 13 | Luncheon by Samia Shaheen, Carole Syriani, and Joumana Najjar |
| September 3 | Siham Mitry and family in memory of Elaine Samara |

Memorial Services

Offered by Siham Mitry and family in memory of the handmaiden of God **Elaine Samara** and by the Kreta and Farrah families in memory of their uncle **Sol Ajalat**. May their memories be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Maron Juha**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Vivian Frangieh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Henriette Hilal**. Many years!
- † Ron and Nancy Nicola in memory of **Jane Nassief**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Ron and Ruth Jeha for the good health of **Michael Jeha**. 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!



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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum and David Evans

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



OUR FIRST

PARISH HALL

Party

SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 4PM-8PM

ON THE CEMENT FLOOR

ENJOY TIME WITH OUR COMMUNITY

OPEN WINE BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES,

LIGHT MUSIC, KIDS CRAFTS

*** SILENT AUCTION ***

PLEASE RSVP BY 8/15

TO RANIA KASHOU

415.722.0774

**\$50 DONATION
PER PERSON
KIDS ARE
FREE**