



+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

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 6; FOREFEAST OF &

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

لِتَقْدِمَةَ عِيدِ الْمِيلَادِ وَلِلْأَحَدِ الَّذِي قَبْلَ عِيدِ الْمِيلَادِ (أَحَدِ النِّسْبَةِ)

VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA; MARTYR THEMISTOKLES OF MYRA IN LYCIA



On December 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia; and Martyr Themistokles of Myra in Lycia.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (11: 9-10، 32-40)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، بِالْإِيمَانِ نَزَلَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فِي أَرْضِ الْمِيعَادِ نُزُولُهُ فِي أَرْضٍ غَرِيبَةٍ، وَسَكَنَ فِي خِيَامٍ مَعَ اسْحَقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ الْوَارِثَيْنِ مَعَهُ لِلْمَوْعِدِ بَعَيْنِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ انْتَهَرَ الْمَدِينَةَ ذَاتِ الْأُسُسِ الَّتِي اللَّهُ صَانِعُهَا وَبَارِئُهَا. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضاً؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ، وَبَارَاقَ، وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَفْتَاخَ، وَدَاوُدَ، وَصَمُوئِيلَ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ. وَأَطْفَأُوا حِدَّةَ النَّارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَذِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَّاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَرَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ، وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أَمْوَاتَهُنَّ بِقِيَامَةٍ. وَغَدَّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيَخْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلَ. وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ، وَالْجُلْدَ، وَالْقَيْوَدَ أَيْضاً وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَذِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودٍ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍّ، وَهُمْ مُعَوِّزُونَ مُضَايِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ — وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقّاً لَهُمْ — وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ، وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ، وَكُھُوفِ الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُوداً لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَتَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئاً أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بِدُونِنَا.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (1:1-25)

كِتَابُ مِيلَادِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ دَاوُدَ ابْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. فَاِبْرَاهِيمُ وَلَدَ إِسْحَقَ، وَإِسْحَقُ وَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ، وَيَعْقُوبُ وَلَدَ يَهُوذَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ. وَيَهُوذَا وَلَدَ فَارَصَ وَزَارَحَ مِنْ تَامَارَ، وَفَارَصُ وَلَدَ حَصْرُونَ، وَحَصْرُونَ وَلَدَ أَرَامَ. وَأَرَامُ وَلَدَ عَمِينَادَابَ، وَعَمِينَادَابُ وَلَدَ نَحْشُونَ، وَنَحْشُونَ وَلَدَ سَلْمُونَ. وَسَلْمُونُ وَلَدَ بُوعَزَ مِنْ رَا حَابَ، وَبُوعَزُ وَلَدَ عُوبِيدَ مِنْ رَاعُوثَ، وَعُوبِيدُ وَلَدَ يَسَّى، وَيَسَّى وَلَدَ دَاوُدَ الْمَلِكِ. وَدَاوُدُ الْمَلِكُ وَلَدَ سُلَيْمَانَ مِنَ الْتِي كَانَتْ لِأُورِيَّا. وَسُلَيْمَانُ وَلَدَ رَحْبَعَامَ، وَرَحْبَعَامُ وَلَدَ أَبِيَّا، وَأَبِيَّا وَلَدَ آسَا. وَآسَا وَلَدَ يَوْشَافَاطَ، وَيَوْشَافَاطُ وَلَدَ يُورَامَ، وَيُورَامُ وَلَدَ عُزْرِيَا. وَعُزْرِيَا وَلَدَ

يوثام، ويوثام ولد آحاز، وآحاز ولد حزقيّا. وحزقيّا ولد منسى، ومنسى ولد آمون، وآمون ولد يوشيا. ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل، يكنيا ولد شالتييل، وشالتييل ولد زربابل. وزربابل ولد أبيهود، وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم، وألياقيم ولد عازور. وعازور ولد صادوق، وصادوق ولد أقيم، وأقيم ولد أليهود. وأليهود ولد أليازار، وأليازار ولد متان، ومتان ولد يعقوب. ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي ولد منها يسوع، الذي يدعى المسيح. فكل الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً. أمّا مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا. لما حُطبت مريم أمه ليوسف، ووجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا حبلى من الروح القدس. وإذ كان يوسف رجلاً صديقاً، ولم يرد أن يشهرها، هم بتخليتها سراً. وفيما هو متفكر في ذلك، إذا بملاك الرب ظهر له في الحلم، قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم. فإن المولد فيها إنما هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع، فإنه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم. وكان هذا كله ليتم ما قيل من الرب بالنبي القائل: ها إن العذراء تحبل، وتلد ابناً، ويدعى عمانوئيل (الذي تفسيره الله معنا). فلما نهض يوسف من النوم، صنع كما أمره ملاك الرب. فأخذ امرأته. ولم يعرفها حتى ولدت ابنها البكر، وسماه يسوع.

Upcoming Events

December 24th	4 pm Orthros/Matins and 5 pm Nativity of Christ Divine Liturgy! قداس عيد الميلاد
February 7th, 2026	Crab Feed: This year we are proud to have our 44th Annual Crab Feed at our NEW St. John Hall. Saturday February 7th, 2026. Please SAVE THE DATE, and let us celebrate together to make it as successful as possible!

Coffee Hour

December 21st	Luis and Joan
December 28th	Sponsor Needed
January 4th	Samia and Elias Shaheen in memory of Samia's father, Badi بديع Ibrahim, (5 yrs). May his memory be eternal!

Thank You for Donating Towards the Bishops Chair and Chanter's Stand

The Bishop's chair has been donated by Raif and Sonia Rihani and family!

The chanter's stand is donated by George Theodosi and family!

Day Trip/Pilgrimage to Holy Assumption Monastery: Saturday, January 17th

[Holy Assumption Monastery](#) in Calistoga, 1519 Washington St., Calistoga

Approximate schedule

11am: Arrive and explore the grounds (the monastery has birds, cats, ducks, a koi pond and a wonderful bookstore)

12:15pm: 6th hour

12:45pm: lunch

1:30pm: children's activities

3:30: Wrap-up & group photo

4:00: Depart

Additionally, there will be a vigil at 5pm and anyone is welcome to stay, but the nuns recognize that with smaller children, it's much easier for families to get home on the earlier side. The monastery will be providing lunch. Donations to the monastery are welcome. Dress is modest. Please [RSVP here](#) so the sisters can make plans for lunch and the craft. If you can include the names of family members attending, along with the children's ages and if there are any food allergies or dietary restrictions that would be helpful. **Please RSVP ASAP by December 17th.**

I hope to see you there! Please let Irene know if you have any questions: Irene Guajardo: 925-413-3242, iyrini.nino@gmail.com

Dave & Buster's Campaign

Our Dave & Buster's campaign got extended so we can maximize on our return. We are currently at \$700.00
How it works:

1. Place an order using St. John link.
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!

Talent Night

After the holidays I'd like to put together a talent night for anyone who would like to participate. Pianists, instrumentalists, Singers, Dancers etc. I'd like to get an idea if we have any interest in "Putting on a show" in our new hall! Please call me and let me know what your talent is. It's important to share your talents in life, especially with our beloved St John family. All ages welcome. ❤️ Lynn Farradj 925-323-5746

Grand Opening

We are truly grateful to everyone who joined us for the grand opening of our community hall on St. Nicholas day. Your presence, prayers, and support turned this moment into a blessed celebration. May this hall always be a home for fellowship, community connection, your faith, generosity, and love are the foundation of everything we build. May God's grace fill this place and guide all who gather here.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

— Proverbs 19:17



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 Addas, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Sam Nassab, Sue Gideon, Rocky Dudum and Norma Khalil.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Hala (Sandra) Mitry.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Bradley Youakim.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of all **musicians in our church.** Many years!

† Rania Shuhaiber and family for the good health of **Mikhail Shuhaiber.** Many years!

† Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Families for the beloved memory of **Jim and Rose Romley, Sig Dietzmann, Ray, Gloria and Brad Zachariah.** May their memory be eternal!

† Siham Mitry and family in memory **Donna Potter.** 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 Kavar, Mason Kavar, Jonathan Juha, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola



Poinsettia plants to adorn the Royal Doors in Loving Memory of: Nick Sr. And Helen Nicola offered by Nick Jr., Ron Nicola and Georgianna Rishwain and families

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

You could use this QR code for your donation





The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

November 14, 2025

Christ is in our Midst!

On behalf of *The Order Of Saint Ignatius of Antioch*, I would like to share with you the joy of this holy month, as we fast and pray in preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This coming year marks the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of The Order by Metropolitan Phillip of thrice blessed memory. It is hard to believe that 50 years have passed. 50 years of dedication, of faithful service, and of living our Christian faith, not only in words, but in deeds. But what has The Order truly accomplished over these years?

- ~ Is supporting our Clergy Retirement a worthy cause? Imagine a priest who has dedicated his entire life to his Church, embracing his parishioners in their happy and sad moments, yet finding himself in need during his retirement years.
- ~ Is supporting our Youth camps and Christian education a worthy cause? It would be difficult to envision a future in which our children grow up weak in their faith and unprepared to face the many challenges of modern life.
- ~ Is supporting charities and organizations like Project Mexico and IOCC a worthy cause? Think of a child going to bed hungry! How sad is that!
- ~ And when did helping those in need become a luxury that Christians could no longer afford? Special Olympics, missions and evangelism, parish development, and much more, have become the mission of our beloved Order Of Saint Ignatius of Antioch.

Why? Because the men and women wearing red ribbons among you this month have taken it upon themselves to make a difference. They have chosen to sacrifice so they can ensure a better life in their communities. They have committed themselves to helping every seminarian and young person in our Archdiocese fulfill their calling to become priests, devout Orthodox Christians, and spiritual leaders in their community.

Additionally, we have launched “**The Order in Action**” events, connecting our parishes with their surrounding communities through acts of charity.

The Order remains **humble**, and we welcome the small gift just as gratefully as the large one. We wear crosses with red ribbons to remember the blood of our martyrs and the depth of their sacrifice, and also to raise awareness, so that people may join us. How small our sacrifices seem in comparison, and yet, how profound their impact can be for those who receive our help.

For each member of The Order, it is not about the numbers, nor is it about the total amount of giving. It is about **GIVING** - The joy of giving with humility, love and compassion, and without expecting anything in return. Saint Ignatius states in his letters that he does not want to be called a Christian, but to actually **be** one.

Brothers and sisters, The Order is a **family**. A family within our Church family, rooted in our Orthodox tradition of living together, sharing, and caring for one another. We invite you to speak to members of The Order and to your priest, so that you may join our family and be united and blessed in our common cause.

In closing, on behalf of myself and all the members of The Order, we wish you a blessed Christmas celebration filled with peace, joy, and good health. May Jesus be born anew in our hearts.

Your brother in Christ,

Ramzi Khairallah, MD
North American Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch 140 Church Camp Trail Bolivar, PA 15923 Ph: (724) 238-3677, xt. 410



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Potluck

Come ready to play, laugh, and
enjoy some time together!

 **ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

SATURDAY JAN. 10TH
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Bring some games to play and
your favorite dish
St. John Banquet Hall



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DEANERY
ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

INVITES YOU AND YOUR SPOUSES
TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 18, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

\$60 PER PERSON

CAFE VITALE
987 FREMONT AVE. LOS ALTOS
HILLS, CA 94024

RSVP BY DEC 6TH

KH. JULIANNA YOUSSEF (CO-CHAIR FOR THE
ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF THE DIOCESE)
408-375-5539, JULIANNA3DS@GMAIL.COM

OR

CHURCH OFFICE:
OFFICE@ORTHODOXREDEEMER.ORG





An Invitation

"Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself."

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

The Ribbon & The Cross Is An Invitation To Become Part Of A Ministry

An Invitation Not Recognition

When you become part of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you become part of a ministry. The Order is not a club that you join. It is not a secular status symbol for recognition. The Cross and the Ribbon that Order supporters wear is an invitation to become part of a ministry. It serves as an invitation to share with one another in the greatness of Christ by giving in a manner that is unconditional and quiet. Supporting the Order's projects, Archdiocese Departments and numerous programs as one group, with Christ in our minds and hearts, should be how we *invite* the world to become part the Order's ministry.

Initiate the Questions of What? & How?

When those supporting the Order wear their ribbon and cross, it is meant to initiate others to inquire about the Order and how they can help strengthen its ministry. When people see the red ribbon and Cross that we wear, it helps begin the conversation to share what the Order does and provide the initial welcome to help expand its ministry. It provides an opportunity to ask, "What does the Order do and how can I help?"

The Order Provides A Lesson In Giving

When you give to the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you are giving in a way we are all called to give ... unconditionally. Your gift is not individually recognized. You are not able to designate your gift to a specific need you select. You are giving without recognition, without conditions, without direct gratitude of the Order's recipients. This is the manner in which a "true gift" is made. A gift made in the way Christ directs us.

The Order Teaches Us How To Give

... the Order is teaching us how to share, the Order is teaching us how to give, the Order is teaching us how to sacrifice, and how to reach out for Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. This is the miracle of The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch."

- His Eminence Metropolitan Philip of thrice blessed memory, Founder of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

The Order of St. Ignatius Of Antioch | 140 Church Camp Trail | Bolivar, PA 15923 | Email: theorder@antiochian.org | Ph: (724) 238-3677, xt 410

Selfless

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Founder of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Your gift is selfless. You help support the Order's ministry without recognition or conditions. There are no banquets, plaques or special awards given in your honor. Your gift is given unconditionally to support the Orthodox Faith in North America, the Spiritual strengthening of our youth and to care for our beloved clergy in their Golden years.

\$98.22	Administrative Expense
\$294.64	Youth Programs & Camp Scholarships
\$15.04	Project Mexico
\$15.04	IOCC
\$21.32	Projects & Grants
\$7.52	SOYO Special Olympics
\$6.40	Clergy Symposium & Convention Support
\$15.49	Seminarian Assistance
\$116.54	Archdiocese Departments
\$18.80	Parish Development & Missions
\$97.75	Missions & Evangelism
\$15.03	Archdiocese House of Studies
\$75.19	Internet Ministry
\$203.02	Retired Clergy Fund

How Your Annual Gift Is Allocated

Based On A \$1,000 Knight &/or Dame
Commander Level Annual Gift

61.41%

Of Annual Order Gifts

29.46%

Youth Programs & Camp Scholarships

20.30%

Retired Clergy Fund

11.65%

Missions & Evangelism & Parish Development

*Only 9.82% In Administrative Expense

**Based On Fiscal Year 2024



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Help the Church Send More Missionaries!

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Evangelism Committee invites you to join the Bay Area Walk4Missions at 1:30pm on March 15th 2026.

We will be meeting at 999 Brotherhood Way in San Francisco.

Christ's disciples walked thousands of miles to bring the good news to people around the world. The Trek4Mission is being held to raise awareness and support for Orthodox missionaries and the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. We plan to walk **"the measured mile trail"** around Lake Merced, and are asking other communities, and their youth groups to join with us. Mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us for the Divine Liturgy, Procession of the Holy Cross and a hosted lunch with a presentation on Missions before the Walk begins around 1:30. **Signing up is easy!**

1. **Go to** the Trek website using the info below
2. **Click** the START OR JOIN A TEAM BUTTON
3. **Find** the Bay Area Walk for Missions team
4. **Create** an account or **Login** and join!
5. **Enjoy** the fun, fellowship and prayer!



LET'S GET WALKING

www.ocmc.org/Trek4Missions





Dave & Buster's Power Cards to Support St. John Church



50% Donated Back



December 31



<https://grouprai.se/davebusters59958s>

Silent Hands

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

I am struck by the silence in which You entered our wretched world, my sweet Jesus.

You came to us, my Lord, with awe-filled humility. You did not appear in glory and splendor. You turned toward us with a veiled majesty and stillness. You were born in the flesh on a quiet night, in a desolate place where no people dwell. And a great multitude of men was not present at Your birth.

You wished to tell a few shepherds who, in the stillness of the night, were beginning to rest from the day's toil. You sent Your angels to announce to them, with great joy, "Unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And You encouraged them with a multitude of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Did You choose them alone, above all others, because You knew that the simplicity of their lives would grant them the ability to discern Your divinity, and consequently, to accept Your message of salvation?

You said with Your silence, O Christ, that noise does not produce life, and that being satisfied with appearances increases problems, and does not solve them.

+++

Silence was not only at Your birth, but You willed it to be Your constant companion throughout the years You spent among us. Did You not conceal your Messianic mystery, choosing to reveal it only on the Cross?

And in performing miracles, did you not ask those whom You healed not to spread the news of their healing, but to simply thank God?

You asked no thanks from anyone. You sought neither praise nor glorification.

Even Your glorious Resurrection, O Lord, was accomplished in silence. It was not accompanied by clamor or noise. There was an earthquake, yet no one felt it. We learned of Your Rising from the women who brought spices, who found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

And Mary Magdalene did not recognize you until you called her by name, for she mistook You for the gardener!

Silence, my Lord, is a language understood only by those freed from the noise of their passions. It is the language of the age to come, as your saint, Isaac the Syrian, said.

+++

You deign to lower Yourself, though You are the Most High Lord. You become humble, though You are the Almighty God. You take on flesh and blood, though You are the Holy of Holies!

You become poor so that we may become rich. You empty Yourself so that we may be filled. You die so that we may live. You distribute Yourself to us so that we may be nourished.

And because You alone are the Compassionate One, You saved us without fanfare. Yes, O Christ, for compassion is born of a full heart, and the full heart needs no adornment.

If we were truly captivated by You, we would no longer seek life from anyone else, our very beings would be filled with Your presence, and we would never again drink water that does not quench our thirst.

If we were to prostrate ourselves at Your feet this feast day to behold Your unique beauty, then the “good portion” would be ours.

+++

You saw us floundering in pain and misery, so You pitched Your tent in our neighborhood, and it remains there, to open for us the door to true life.

You came to us in absolute simplicity to tell us, through action and not just words, that You are all we need.

You taught us, from your humble manger, that we cannot find You unless our souls are emptied of all worldly glory. How can we know Your worth unless we experience that “money is ashamed to be gathered in the presence of your poverty?”

Strengthen us so that we do not run from confronting ourselves, but rather that we may present ourselves to You as we are, so that Your silence may purify us, and we may join Your angels in praise.

Strengthen us so that we do not flee to what makes us forget our reality, but rather face it armed with Your gentle strength, so that we may find the security we lack and yearn for at the same time.

Be with us, O Almighty and Compassionate Jesus, so that we may not throw ourselves into the noise of the flesh, or money, or pride, or any of the deceptive noises of this world.

+++

You neither argued nor disputed nor engaged in debates to prove that You are the truth. You simply said, "I am the truth, I am the way, I am the life." And those who believed You discovered the truth of what You said. As for us, Your followers, it is ours to take refuge in the shadow of Your humility, confident in Your power at work within us.

+++

Teach us, O Lord, on this day of Your birth, to kneel and be silent, so that we may be filled with You.

Teach us, O Lord, to gaze upon Your manifest poverty, so that we may cast off our deadly desires and taste the joy of liberation from enslavement to them.

Grant, O Lord, our hearts a tranquility that makes them independent of the allurements of this world, so that they may find true peace.

We yearn for peace on this feast day. O Lord, guide our steps to Your true path, so that when we experience Your peace, we may, by Your grace, share it in deed, not just in word.

The shepherds bowed down to You, possessing nothing but their need for You. O Lord, help us to cast aside to whatever we cling when we come to You.

Grant us the courage, O Jesus, to accept that we cannot truly open our hearts to You unless we come to You with empty hands.