

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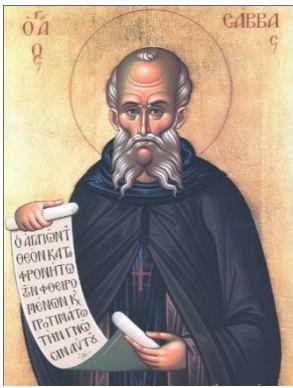
www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

**TONE 2 / EOTHINON 5; TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

MARTYRS MENAS, EUGRAPHOS & HERMOGENES OF ALEXANDRIA

VENERABLE THOMAS DEPHOURKINOS OF BITHYNIA



Righteous Father Saba the Sanctified (December 5th)

Saba was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life at age the age of eight and was under that master trainer of monastics and teacher of the desert, Euthymius the Great. Saba became the spiritual father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed archimandrite of the desert-dwellers there by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age, he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Saba reposed in 533 at age 94. Among all his good works, his greatest was the first Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typikon.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

الرسالة

قَوَّتِي وَتَسَبَّحْتِي الرَّبِّ. أَدَبًا أَدَّبَنِي الرَّبِّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ أَفَسُسِ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، تَقَوُّوا فِي الرَّبِّ وَفِي عِزَّةِ قُدْرَتِهِ. اَلْبَسُوا سِلَاحَ اللَّهِ الْكَامِلَ لِتَسْتَطِيعُوا أَنْ تَقِفُوا ضِدَّ مَكَايِدِ إِبْلِيسَ. فَإِنَّ مُصَارَعَتَنَا لَيْسَتْ ضِدَّ دَمٍ وَلَحْمٍ، بَلْ ضِدَّ الرَّئَاسَاتِ، ضِدَّ السَّلَاطِينِ، ضِدَّ وِلَاةِ الْعَالَمِ، عَالَمِ ظُلْمَةِ هَذَا الدَّهْرِ، ضِدَّ أَجْنَادِ الشَّرِّ الرُّوحِيَّةِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. فَلِذَلِكَ أَحْمِلُوا سِلَاحَ اللَّهِ الْكَامِلَ لِتَسْتَطِيعُوا الْمَقَاوِمَةَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الشَّرِيرِ، حَتَّى إِذَا تَمَّمْتُمْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ تَنْبُتُونَ. فَانْبُتُوا إِذَنْ مُمَنْطِقِينَ أَحْقَاءَكُمْ بِالْحَقِّ، وَلاِبْسِينَ دِرْعَ الْبِرِّ. وَانْعِلُوا أَقْدَامَكُمْ بِاسْتِعْدَادِ إِنْجِيلِ السَّلَامِ. وَاحْمِلُوا عِلَاوَةً عَلَى كُلِّ ذَلِكَ ثُرْسَ الْإِيمَانِ الَّذِي بِهِ تَقْدِرُونَ أَنْ تَطْفِنُوا جَمِيعَ سِهَامِ الشَّرِّيرِ الْمُتَهَبَةِ. وَاتَّخِذُوا خُوذةَ الْخِلَاصِ وَسَيْفَ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي هُوَ الْكَلِمَةُ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

في ذلك الزمان، كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجامع يوم السبت. وإذا بامرأة بها روح مريض منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية لا تستطيع أن تنصب البتة. فلما رآها يسوع، دعاها وقال لها: إنك مطلقاً من مرضك. ووضع يديه عليها، وفي الحال استقامت، ومجدت الله. فأجاب رئيس المجمع، وهو مغتاظ لإبراء يسوع في السبت، وقال للجمع: هي ستة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها. ففيها تاتون وتشتفون، لا في يوم السبت. فأجاب الرب وقال: يا مرأي! أليس كل واحد منكم يحل ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود وينطلق به فيسقيه؟ وهذه، وهي ابنة إبراهيم التي ربطها الشيطان منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تطلق من هذا الرباط يوم السبت؟ ولما قال هذا، خزي كل من كان يقاومه، وفرح الجمع بجميع الأمور المجيدة التي كانت تصدر منه.

Love Your Neighbor

December – Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need. We distribute food directly to low-income people at community sites and make food available for other nonprofit organizations serving the ill, needy and infants.

Donors Needed

Donors are needed for 7 Red Orarions / Belts for the Altar boy's robes to be worn during Christmas Advent. \$110 each. Total \$770. God bless you all!



Thank you!

Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation at our 3rd annual Jolly Christmas Cars event! Everyone's presences helped make it a memorable experience. The parking lot was filled with bright smiles, joy, and creativeness.

In addition, we collectively raised \$171 for PCRFF 'Palestine Children Relief Fund'.

St. John's Family Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 9th at 6:00pm, immediately following the Sons of Antioch Nativity

Concert.

Please join us for a Lenten Meal and fellowship in the church hall. Your generous donations will be accepted to aid the children of Gaza through the Middle East Children's Alliance MECA. Questions?...see Rula Adranly or Suzanne Taovil. Let us all pray for peace!



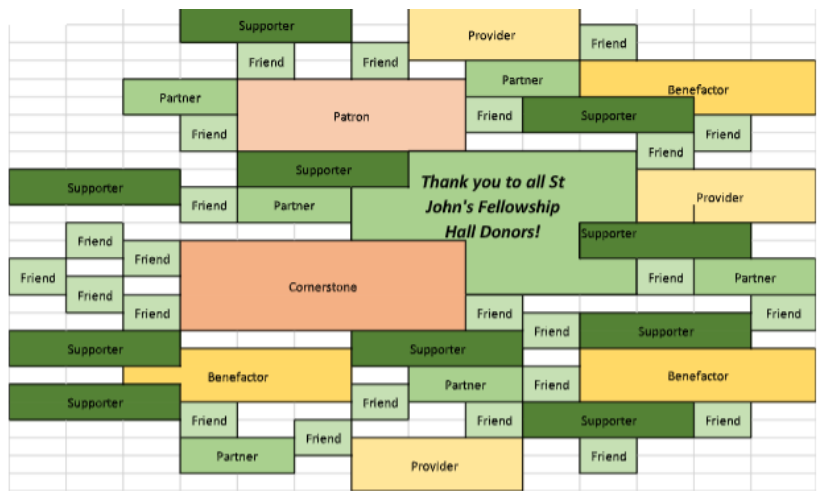
Fellowship Hall Updates

Question- As we approach the end of the year, how are we doing with fundraising for the Fellowship Hall?

Answer- Since the beginning of our current campaign, we have raised from contributions and pledges \$550,000 or 22% of our goal of \$2,500,000. Events such as eating at Rocco’s, Ikaros, and Jack’s, as well as fundraising luncheons after church go directly into the building fund and are included in this total. Church sponsored events such as the crab feed and festival go into the church operating fund, and any surplus at the end of the year as well as preschool surplus goes directly into the building fund. Putting this into the big picture, when added to the initial building fund amounts as well as the loan, and budget surplus amounts, we have more than \$5,200,000 toward our overall goal to complete our \$7,000,000 building and campus.

Donor recognition- 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. Cumulative donations to the initial \$2 Million in the building fund will be recognized, 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.

Amount	Recognition Level	Number of Donors
1,000,000	Founder	
500,000	Cornerstone	1
250,000	Pillar	
100,000	Patron	1
50,000	Benefactor	3
25,000	Provider	3
10,000	Supporter	11
5,000	Partner	6
1,000	Friend	25



While we have not determined the final design for the donor wall, this is one idea of what it might look like using the numbers of donors we have so far. We thank all of you and look forward to more donors coming forward to helping to fulfil our dreams of this fellowship hall.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 9th	Evening Byzantine Chanting امسية ترتيل بيزنطي by Sons of Antioch
Sunday, December 17th	Rose’s Christmas Bake Sale
Sunday, December 24th	4 pm Orthros/Matins and 5 pm Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ
Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting

Coffee Hours

December 10th	Eddie and Dina Saliba and baby Layla. Also, falafel luncheon will be offered by Abla Souri and family and Salim Munakash and family for the good health of her family and in memory of her loved ones. Donations to St. John’s appreciated.
December 17th	Sponsor Needed
December 24th	Rihani family in memory of Victor Rihani. May his memory be eternal!
December 31st	Sponsor Needed
January 7th	Luncheon
January 14th	Jill Norgaard, Jordis Fasheh, Margaret Mas and Rula Adranly in memory of Dwight Underhill. May his memory be eternal!

Memorial Services

Sunday, January 14th: One year memorial for the servant of God Dwight Underhill. May his memory be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Haseeb Keileh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Ghassan** and **Vivian Sruji**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Elias Freij**. Many years!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of **Jack Samara**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Leila Adranly and family in memory of **Eva Al Amash**. 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!

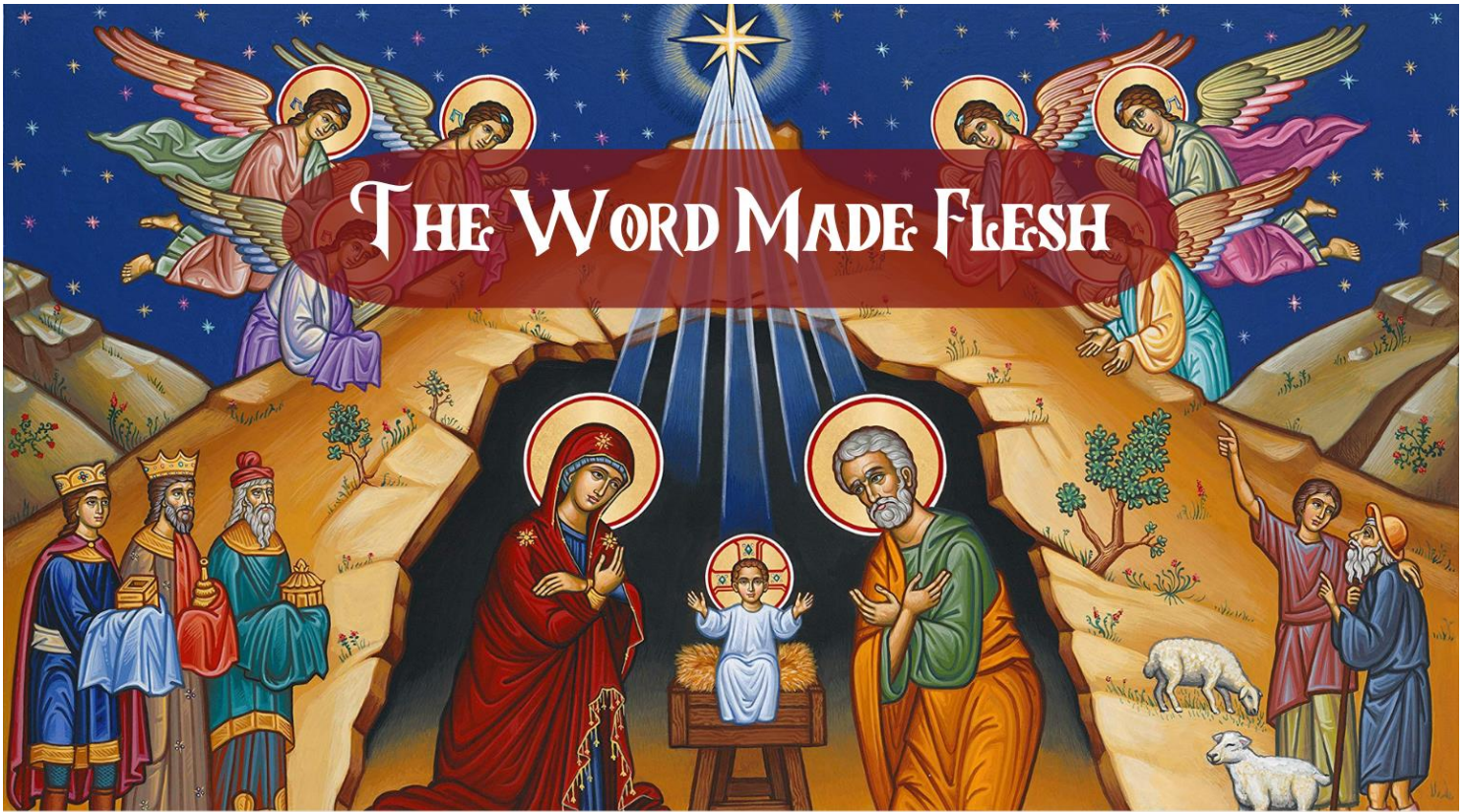


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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum, David Evans, Evan Kawar, Mason Kawar, Jonathan Juha and Maron Juha

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

You could use this QR code for your donation





A Byzantine Nativity
Concert Series by the
SONS OF ANTIOCH
Byzantine Choir



SONS OF ANTIOCH
Byzantine Choir

Ο ἁ γ ῆ ρ α φ α ε λ

Dec 8th at 6 pm

St. Nicholas
Antiochian Orthodox Church
San Francisco, CA

Dec 9th at 5 pm

St. John the Evangelist
Antiochian Orthodox Church
Orinda, CA

Dec 10th at 1 pm

Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian
Orthodox Church
West Sacramento, CA



Mendocino Farms

EAT HAPPY. GIVE BACK.



FUNDRAISER FOR

St John's Orthodox Church

January 18, 2024 | 2PM - close

1895 Ygnacio Valley Rd #28, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Order online for pickup or delivery using the promo code or show this flyer in restaurant, and we'll donate **20%** back to your cause.

promo code:

GIVEBACK

Discounts, coupons or offers are not valid during the fundraiser. For orders to count towards fundraiser, supporters must show flyer at register or enter code at checkout for online orders at order.mendocinofarms.com. Gift cards, catering, and 3rd party delivery orders are not eligible. Tax, tip, and delivery fee will not be included in donation. \$250 minimum event net sales required to receive any donation. All orders must be placed for pickup between 2PM - close on event date.

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST
THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Winter Retreat

January 12-15, 2024

@ Camp St Nicholas ~ Frazier Park, CA

Building Relationships through Christ

Keynote Speakers:

Rev Fr George & Kh Miray Katrib

Early Bird Registration (ends 11/28) ~ \$225

General Registration (ends 12/29) ~ \$260



register with
QR Code



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 462/2023

December 10, 2023

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Today we gratefully recognize all our dedicated and faithful church musicians, who lead us in singing God's praises, filling our hearts and minds with angelic melodies.

In last Sunday's Epistle, we heard this admonition from St. Paul: "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (Eph. 5:19). There is a hollow and disappointing camaraderie found in drinking parties, where people are filled with alcohol and belt out unprofitable songs. However, true joy and brotherhood come from being filled with the Holy Spirit and singing holy songs together with all our heart. Such spiritual fellowship brings us closer to God and creates edifying bonds with one another. Unlike intoxication and carousing, it truly lightens our spiritual burdens, bringing us joy and peace that will not disappoint. This is the blessing and ministry of sacred music within our archdiocese.

On this Musician Appreciation Sunday, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music, for their tireless efforts in support of this holy ministry. We also gratefully honor the dedication of all the choir directors, chanters, and choir members in parishes throughout the archdiocese, who faithfully present their time and talents, week after week, as priceless gifts to Christ and His Church.

Wishing you and your families a blessed remainder of the fast and a joyous Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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