



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 4

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

VENERABLE DANIEL THE STYLITE; LUKE THE NEW STYLITE OF CHALCEDON



The Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ

On December 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Venerable Fathers Daniel the Stylite; and Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

THE EPISTLE (For the Holy Forefathers)

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 Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

الرسالة

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى كُولُوسِيِّ .

فَأَمِيتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى .يا إِخْوَةٌ، مَتَى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تَظْهَرُونَ حِينَئِذٍ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى .الأَرْضِ: الرِّزَى، وَالنَّجَاسَةَ، وَالْهَوَى، وَالشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ، وَالطَّمَعِ الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةٌ وَتَنُّ أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً اطَّرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الْعَضْبَ، . وفي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكْتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ عَائِشِينَ فِيهَا .أَبْنَاءِ الْعِصْيَانِ وَلَا يُكَدِّبُ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ .وَالسَّخَطِ، وَالْخُبْتِ، وَالتَّجْدِيفِ، وَالْكَلامِ الْقَبِيحِ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا قَلْفٌ، . وَابْتَسُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ عَلَى صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ .أَعْمَالِهِ لَا بَرَبْرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ فِي الْجَمِيعِ .

THE GOSPEL (For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ .

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ . فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ . فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاحِدٌ فَوَاحِدٌ يَسْتَعْذِرُونَ . فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلاً، وَلَا بَدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفِينِي . وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرِبَهَا، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفِينِي . وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ . فَأَتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ . فَحِينَئِذٍ، غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعاً إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَعَ وَالْعُمِيَانَ وَالْعُرَجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا . فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ قُضِيَ مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضاً مَحَلٌّ . فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ: أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ وَاضْطَرِّزْهُمْ إِلَى الدُّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي . فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذُوقُ عَشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ . لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ .

"Love your Neighbor"- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

As we participate in Advent and come to the end of our first calendar year of the Love your Neighbor Campaign, we would like to thank everyone for their support of our local, Archdiocesan and international charities over this past year. This month, we will again be looking locally, and are asking your support for the families in need in our church county, especially during this wonderful holiday season.

December – Contra Costa Food Bank

Dear Parents and Sunday School Teachers,

I hope you are all well!

Please SAVE THE DATE. This year's Christmas Pageant which will take place on Sunday, December 18th and will mirror last year's program. **I will be asking all of the children (of reading age) to read 2-4 lines from the attached poem which is of similar style as "Twas the Night Before Christmas". This poem discusses our liturgical, personal, and spiritual preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ. After reading this poem, the children will sing the following Christmas carols:**

Oh Come all Ye Faithful: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3egGjeiWEA>

Silent Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjCOiH-kbs8>

Laylet Eid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyUhMBSsObE>

The lyrics are included on each video. **Please take time to listen to each song with your children so they can get familiar with the songs.**

Dress: Please plan to have the kids wear **red and white** so that they all match for pictures.

And finally, **please RSVP to this email if you will be at church on Sunday, December 18th for this event :)**

Thank you everyone!

Paula



Thank you for Making the Jolly Christmas Cars Event a Success!

Our second Jolly Christmas Cars event was a success. Thank you to all the participants who made this new tradition so much fun. It was very heartwarming seeing our parking lot being filled with so many decorated cars, pulling the community together, especially the little ones. God bless you and your family abundantly!

Everyone, please mark your calendars for next year, the first Sunday of December.

I'm open to any feedback to making it more successful and growing for years to come.

Thank you again!

Kindly,

Rania Kashou



Support St. John's Church through Amazon Smile

Just in time for your Christmas shopping!! Simply click on the link below and start shopping - Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of all eligible purchases to the church. Please share with family and friends. Thank you for your support!!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7045466>

Christmas Basket for December 18

Please bring your gourmet goodies this Sunday or cash \$\$\$. Rima Kashou will put it together. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 15th	Beginning of the Nativity fast/Advent
Sunday, December 11th	Ladies Meeting
Sunday, December 18th	Rose Bake Sale. Please let Denise know if you are planning to help and bake sweets.
Sunday, December 18th	Sunday school Christmas program
Saturday, December 24th	Nativity of Christ (Christmas) services: 4:00pm: Royal hour, Orthros/Matins 5:30pm: Divine Liturgy
Sunday, February 12th	One year memorial service for the servant of God Fred Gedeon. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

December 11th	Carol and Samir Syriani
December 25th	Christmas

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Souhila Swies**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nadia Frangieh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fr. Andrew Andrews, Andrew Thayer, Andrew Freij, Andre Jildeh** and all who are named after St. Andrew the apostle on his feast day. Many years!
- † Mariam Munayer and family in memory of **Khalil Munayer** (12 yr.). May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew). 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 Swiess, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin



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- † Poinsettias to adorn the Royal Doors in loving memory of **Nick Sr. and Helen Nicola** by Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain, Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Ronald and Nancy Nicola and families

St. John Orthodox Church
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**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: PV013/2022

December 11, 2022

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

On this holy Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ, I send warm greetings to you from His Beatitude Patriarch John X, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, father of fathers and shepherd of shepherds, in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today we gratefully recognize all our dedicated and faithful church musicians and take a moment to reflect on their essential contribution to our church life. The beauty and sweetness of their music carry our hearts beyond mundane preoccupations to the contemplation of heavenly and eternal truths. The spirit and strength of their singing fill us with zeal for God and boldness in seeking His Kingdom.

It is written in the Psalms, "Blessed is the people who know the festal shout. O Lord, they will walk in the light of Thy countenance and will exult in Thy name all day long and will be lifted up by Thy righteousness" (88:16–17). The hymns sung by our choirs and chanters are not merely pleasant tunes but festal shouts of courage and victory. As these hymns fill our hearts and our lives, they inspire us to live boldly for God in each moment, proclaiming our loyalty to Him without embarrassment and being led by Him into a life of holiness.

On this Musician Appreciation Sunday, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Marcena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music for their tireless efforts in support of this holy ministry. And we 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—in the name of His Beatitude Patriarch John X and on my behalf—a blessed remainder of the fast and a joyous Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

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

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YAM

**Winter
Retreat
~2023~**

Big Bear, CA



**MLK Weekend
Jan 13-16th!**

**Early Bird: \$225
(Register by Dec. 3)**

Guest speaker TBA

**Optional Snowboarding
and Skiing**

*~Housing, Food,
Drink, etc.
included!!!~*

**Lift tickets and
rentals are available
for purchase!**

**Link to Sign up in Instagram
Bio!**

Holy Father Nicholas, pray for us!



"The fruit of thy valiant deeds hath illumined the hearts of the faithful, O venerable father. For who, hearing of thy boundless humility, hath not marvelled at thy patience, thy solicitude toward the poor, thy consolation of the sorrowful? Thou hast taught all in godly manner, O holy hierarch Nicholas, and hast now been crowned with a never-fading wreath. Pray thou in behalf of our souls."

[Donate Now](#)

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Why is St. Nicholas so special to us?

The miracles of St. Nicholas around the world and throughout the centuries are too numerous to be counted; he is certainly one of the most beloved and powerful intercessors in the choir of the saints. Here at Holy Assumption Monastery, we cherish him as a special protector of the community: his self-renewing icon draws many pilgrims to the saint, in order to ask his prayers. We sing his Akathist hymn every Thursday; we give thanks for his guidance and inspiration.

We ask for the blessing of St. Nicholas in building the new house dedicated to him at the monastery; but with even more fervor do we ask his blessing upon the spiritual growth of our community, and on all who turn to him in temptations and with a desire to deepen their love of God.

Every donation made toward St. Nicholas House as part of our Giving Tuesday/Year-End campaign will be doubled, up to \$100,000!

We need your help to meet this \$100,000 target, the biggest campaign challenge we've ever had. Please make a donation, keep us in your prayers, and share our campaign with others.

- The new St. Nicholas House will provide new living quarters for the sisterhood, and will be handicap-accessible
- The upstairs workspace will provide essential room for basic tasks and monastery projects
- The use of the new space will allow other monastery buildings to be utilized with greater effectiveness

Amazing work has been done over the years to renovate and renew Holy Assumption – the oldest Orthodox women's monastery in the United States. The new St. Nicholas House is not merely for the sisters who are here now, but invests in the future of the monastery: providing a healthy, sustainable environment that will allow prayer and hospitality to continue here for many years to come.

Your contribution is a part of that legacy, especially now, when the \$100k we raise will become \$200k for the new house!