



# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

Dn. Nicholas Adranly

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022**

**TONE 2 / EOTHINON 5**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)**

MARTYRS SEBASTIAN AND ZOE OF ROME, AND THOSE WITH THEM

## Sunday of the Holy Genealogy



On December 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them.

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 (For the Sunday before the Nativity)

*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.

## الرسالة

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

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ .

يَا إِخْوَةٌ، بِالْإِيمَانِ نَزَلَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فِي أَرْضِ الْمِعَادِ نُزُولَهُ فِي أَرْضِ غَرِيبَةٍ، وَسَكَنَ فِي خِيَامٍ مَعَ اسْحَقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ الْوَارِثَيْنِ مَعَهُ لِلْمُوعِدِ بَعِيْنِهِ . لِأَنَّهُ انْتَتَرَ الْمَدِينَةَ ذَاتِ الْأُسُسِ الَّتِي اللَّهُ صَانِعُهَا وَبَارِئُهَا . وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضًا؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ، وَبَارَاقَ، وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَقْتَاخَ، وَدَاوَدَ، وَصَمُوئِيلَ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ . وَأَطْفَأُوا حِدَّةَ النَّارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَرَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ، وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أَمْوَاتَهُنَّ بِقِيَامَةٍ . وَعُدَّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلِ . وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزَةَ، وَالْجِلْدَ، وَالْقَيْوَدَ أَيْضًا وَالسَّجْنَ . وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوِّزُونَ مُضَايِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ — وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا لَهُمْ — وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ، وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ، وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ . فَهَوْلَاءَ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَتَنَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بَدُونِنَا .

### **THE GOSPEL (For the Sunday before the Nativity: "The Genealogy")**

**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.





**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!

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** - Saturday, 1/14/23 5:00 pm

Let's get together for a casual evening of good food, games and fellowship. All are welcome!! Please bring a dish to share and a fun game you would like to play. We'll eat together in the church hall then gather for games - younger kids in the classrooms, Teens in the teen room, etc.

Please see Rula Adranly to sign up or email at [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net) so we can have an idea of how many to expect. We hope this will be the start of a new tradition at St. John's.



**Upcoming Events**

<b>Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Rose Bake Sale. Please let Denise know if you are planning to help and bake sweets.
<b>Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday school Christmas program
<b>Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Nativity of Christ (Christmas) services: 4:00pm: Royal hour, Orthros/Matins 5:30pm: Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00pm Family Fun Night for adults, teens and kids to share a potluck meal, play games and more.
<b>Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	One year memorial service for the servant of God Fred Gedeon. May his memory be eternal!

**Coffee Hours**

<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee hour for December 18 is offered by Nawal Khalil in memory of her father Saliba Atallah and for the good health of the Khalil and the Atallah families. The holy bread is offered by Samia Shahin.
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	New Year's Day 2023

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † 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 the **members of the Order of St. Ignatius**. Many years!
- † The 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!
- † Nawal Atallah and Samia Shahin for the good health of **Faris Randy Nawal Atallah, Khalil, Issa, Shahin, Awad families**. Many years!  
Also, in memory of **Saliba, Hilwa, Bahia, Charlie Randa, Nasser, Mark Karim, Suheila, Jamileh Musadeh**. May their 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 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**  
**501 Moraga Way**  
**Orinda, CA 94563**





**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)**

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*\*Guest speaker TBA\**

*\*Optional Snowboarding  
and Skiing\**

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

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

Link to Sign up in Instagram  
Bio!



## The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
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December 12, 2022

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox Faith, we are called to focus on our words, deeds, and thoughts. We prepare, in joyful anticipation, for the Greatest Gift of all ... the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this time of year, we all reflect on the blessings we have received and are thankful to God that He has blessed us according to His endless grace, mercy, and love. As the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch Governing Council, we are thankful for all of you that selflessly and unconditionally give to support the ministry of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch. You help us change the lives of countless people we will never come to know personally.

For almost 50 years, you, and those before you made a conscious decision to put the needs of others ahead of your own. During the uncertainty and fear of a global pandemic, The Order prepared for an estimated 25% to 30% reduction in member gifts during 2020 and 2021. However, your gifts during that time represented a "True Act of Faith" and The Order realized less than a 3% fall in member gifts. Because of you, children were able to attend camp throughout North America. Retired clergy and their wives continued to receive the financial assistance they depend on during their golden years. Mission parishes throughout North America, were able to worship and share the Orthodox Faith. Our youth were able to remain connected and provide love and support for one another even without being in each other's physical presence. Your "Act of Faith" made this possible.

For the past 5 fiscal years from 2017 through 2021, the impact of your gift to the Order has been felt by countless people and in many ways. During that time, \$1,456,173 was given to support our active and retired clergy as well as married seminarians. You helped provide \$1,607,562 for the youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese (including camp scholarships which were reduced in 2020 and 2021 due to fewer campers for safety protocols). \$1,253,691 was provided to support programs and departments for the development & growth of the Antiochian Archdiocese. You also helped give \$301,140 toward various outreach organizations. The annual financial commitments of The Order have always been and will always be strictly-focused on the long-standing needs of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese as well as grant-eligible organizations based on guidelines and by-laws of the Governing Council and for no other purpose. We are also thankful to share that only 7.7% and 7.2% of total income went to administrative expense in FY 2021 and the past 5 fiscal years respectively.

Clergy	\$1,456,173	Archdiocese Youth	\$1,607,562
Retired Clergy Allowance	\$1,327,500	Summer Camp Scholarships	\$680,487
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$62,145	Youth Ministry	\$590,000
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$66,528	SOYO Special Olympics	\$16,000
<b>Archdiocese Development &amp; Growth</b>	<b>\$1,253,691</b>	SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$65,328
Department of Missions & Evangelism	\$639,147	Christian Education	\$196,647
Parish Development & Mission Grants	\$122,897	College Conference	\$59,100
Internet Ministry	\$491,647		
<b>Other Grants</b>	<b>\$301,140</b>		
Project Mexico	\$40,000		
IOCC	\$70,000		
Syrian Relief	\$55,000		
Other Archdiocese Projects & Grant Requests	\$136,140		

Figures in the table represent only a **portion** of the expenses for the last 5 Fiscal Years ending in 2021.

So, as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years, encourage your family and friends to become a part of the Order, or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

*"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."*

In His service,

Roger J. David  
North American Chairperson, The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

# Gratitude

The Order of St. Ignatius Supports  
The Retired Clergy Allowance

... you help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. You express your gratitude to your beloved priest, faithful counselor and comforting friend who's been with you during your times of need, joy and sorrow.

## We Need Your Help To Do More ...

We are so thankful for the unconditional gifts from the members of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch for over 46 years. Since the **Order's inception in 1976**, Order members have provided over \$45 million in annual and one-time gifts to support the many essential departments, projects and charitable gifts of the Antiochian Archdiocese. We want to do more. As our Archdiocese has grown exponentially since 1976, the needs of the Archdiocese and its people have as well. We need to increase the Order's current \$270,000 annual contribution toward The Retired Clergy Allowance to support our retired clergy and their wives. It is essential to expand our programs for the youth to help strengthen their Faith as they make their way in this secular world. Those necessary programs will require more than the current estimated \$380,000 annual budgeted amount. These are only two of the sizeable annual needs of the Archdiocese that depend on your support as a member of the Order. See how you may help us do more ...

\$500 or \$1,000 In 2022 Just  
Doesn't Go AS FAR AS It Did In 1976

It takes  
\$1,557 today  
to maintain  
the purchasing power of  
\$500 in 1976

It takes  
\$3,114 today  
to maintain  
the purchasing power of  
\$1,000 in 1976



NOTE: Calculations are based on a 2.5% inflation rate over a 46 year period and are for illustrative purposes only.



The Order of  
Saint Ignatius  
of Antioch

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- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

### Annual Gift Increase

Increase your gift of  
\$500/yr. or \$41.67/mth  
as a Knight or Dame

to  
\$1,000/yr. or \$83.33/mth  
as a Knight or Dame Commander

### Life & Metropolitan Upgrade

The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program

You can upgrade to Life Member or  
Metropolitan Member for a gift of  
\$10,000 or \$20,000

paid over a 2-year or 3-year period.  
See reverse side for details and requirements



## How You Can Support the Ministry Of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

We are not merely to call ourselves Christians;  
we are asked to be Christians through our deeds.  
- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

### Your Unconditional Gift Changes People's Lives

#### **Knight & Dame**

- \$500 Annually
- \$41.67 Monthly
- \$1.37 Daily

#### **Junior Knight & Dame**

- Ages 18-26 Only
- \$300 Annually
  - \$25 Monthly
  - \$0.82 Daily
  - At age 27, converts to Knight or Dame

#### **Knight Commander Dame Commander**

- \$1,000 Annually
- \$83.33 Monthly
- \$2.73 Daily

#### **Life**

- \$15,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$5,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Life Upgrade\*

#### **Metropolitan**

- \$30,000 Total Gift
- 100% Lump Sum or \$10,000 Over 3 Consecutive Years
- Metropolitan Upgrade\*\*

**Life and Metropolitan** gifts are invested in an endowment and only the earnings are spent each year making it a gift that will live on into perpetuity.

**\*Life Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Life Member for \$10,000 paid over a two-year period.

**\*\*Metropolitan Upgrade:** The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program: Any Knight/Dame, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members); or any Commander, who has been a member for more than 10 years (active/good Standing members) can upgrade to Metropolitan Member for \$20,000 paid over a three-year period. Life members who have fulfilled their initial Life member gift may upgrade to the Metropolitan level for \$10,000 paid over a 2-year period.



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- Saint Ignatius of Antioch