

+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 22, 2024

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 4; FOREFEAST OF &

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

GREAT-MARTYR ANASTASIA THE DELIVERER FROM POTIONS AND HER TEACHER THE MARTYR
CHRYSOGONOS



The Holy Genealogy of Christ

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.

الرسالة

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (11: 9-10؛ 32-40)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، بِالْإِيمَانِ نَزَلَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فِي أَرْضِ الْمِيعَادِ نُزُولَهُ فِي أَرْضِ غَرِيبَةٍ، وَسَكَنَ فِي خِيَامٍ مَعَ اسْحَقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ الْوَارِثَيْنِ مَعَهُ لِلْمَوْعِدِ بِعَيْنِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ انْتَتَرَ الْمَدِينَةَ ذَاتِ الْأُسُسِ الَّتِي اللَّهُ صَانِعُهَا وَبَارِئُهَا. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضًا؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ، وَبَارَاقَ، وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَفْنَاحَ، 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. وَعَدَّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلِ. وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهُزَّةَ، وَالْجُلْدَ، وَالْقَيْدَ أَيْضًا وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاخُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوِّزُونَ مُضَائِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ — وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا لَهُمْ — وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ، وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ، وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَتَنَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا 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.

الإنجيل

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

كِتَابُ مِيلَادِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ ابْنَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. فِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَوَلَدَ إِسْحَقَ، وَإِسْحَقُ وَوَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ، وَيَعْقُوبُ وَوَلَدَ يَهُوذَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ. وَيَهُوذَا وَوَلَدَ فَارِصَ، وَفَارِصُ مِنْ تَامَّارَ، وَفَارِصُ وَوَلَدَ حَضْرُونَ، وَحَضْرُونَ وَوَلَدَ أَرَامَ. وَأَرَامُ وَوَلَدَ عَمِينَادَابَ، وَعَمِينَادَابُ وَوَلَدَ نَحْشُونَ، وَنَحْشُونَ وَوَلَدَ سَلْمُونَ. وَسَلْمُونَ وَوَلَدَ بُوعَزَ مِنْ رَاخَابَ، وَبُوعَزُ وَوَلَدَ عُوبِيدَ مِنْ رَاعُوثَ، وَعُوبِيدُ وَوَلَدَ يَسَّى، وَيَسَّى وَوَلَدَ دَاوُدَ الْمَلِكِ. وَدَاوُدُ الْمَلِكُ وَوَلَدَ سُلَيْمَانَ مِنَ التِّي كَانَتْ لِأُورِيَّا. وَسُلَيْمَانُ وَوَلَدَ رَحْبَعَامَ، وَرَحْبَعَامُ وَوَلَدَ أَبِيَّا، وَأَبِيَّا وَوَلَدَ آسَا. وَآسَا وَوَلَدَ يَوْشَافَاطَ، وَيَوْشَافَاطُ وَوَلَدَ يُورَامَ، وَيُورَامُ وَوَلَدَ عُزِّيَا. وَعُزِّيَا وَوَلَدَ يُوْتَامَ، وَيُوْتَامُ وَوَلَدَ آحَازَ، وَآحَازُ وَوَلَدَ حَزَقِيَّا. وَحَزَقِيَّا وَوَلَدَ مَنَسَّى، وَمَنَسَّى وَوَلَدَ آمُونَ، وَآمُونَ وَوَلَدَ يَوْشِيَّا. وَيَوْشِيَّا وَوَلَدَ يَكُنْيَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ فِي جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ. وَمَنْ بَعْدَ جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ، يَكُنْيَا وَوَلَدَ شَالْتَيْلَ، وَشَالْتَيْلُ وَوَلَدَ زَرْبَابِلَ. وَزَرْبَابِلُ وَوَلَدَ أَبِيهُودَ، وَأَبِيهُودُ وَوَلَدَ الْيَاقِيمَ، وَالْيَاقِيمُ وَوَلَدَ عَازُورَ. وَعَازُورُ وَوَلَدَ صَادُوقَ، وَصَادُوقُ وَوَلَدَ أُخِيمَ، وَأُخِيمُ وَوَلَدَ الْيَهُودَ. وَالْيَهُودُ وَوَلَدَ الْعَازَارَ، وَالْعَازَارُ وَوَلَدَ مَتَّانَ، وَمَتَّانُ وَوَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ. وَيَعْقُوبُ وَوَلَدَ يَوْسُفَ رَجُلَ مَرِيَمَ التِّي وَوَلَدَ مِنْهَا يَسُوعُ، الَّذِي يُدْعَى الْمَسِيحَ. فَكُلُّ الْأَجْيَالِ مِنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَى دَاوُدَ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلًا، وَمَنْ دَاوُدَ إِلَى جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلًا. أَمَّا مَوْلُودُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ فَكَانَ هَكَذَا. لَمَّا خُطِبَتْ مَرِيَمُ أُمُّهُ لِيُوسُفَ، وَوُجِدَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَجْتَمِعَا حُبْلَى مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْسُفُ رَجُلًا صَدِيقًا، وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يُشْهَرَهَا، هَمَّ بِتَخْلِيَّتِهَا سِرًّا. وَفِيمَا هُوَ مُتَفَكِّرٌ فِي ذَلِكَ، إِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لَهُ فِي الْحُلْمِ، قَائِلًا: يَا يَوْسُفُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، لَا تَخَفْ أَنْ تَأْخُذَ امْرَأَتَكَ مَرِيَمَ. فَإِنَّ الْمَوْلُودَ فِيهَا إِنَّمَا هُوَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَسَتَلِدُ ابْنًا فَتَسْمِيهِ يَسُوعَ، فَإِنَّهُ هُوَ يُخَلِّصُ شَعْبَهُ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ. وَكَانَ هَذَا كُلُّهُ لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: هَا إِنَّ الْعَذْرَاءَ تَحْبُلُ، وَتَلِدُ ابْنًا، وَيُدْعَى عَمَّا نُؤْيِلُ (الَّذِي تَفْسِيرُهُ اللَّهُ مَعَنَا). فَلَمَّا نَهَضَ يَوْسُفُ مِنَ النَّوْمِ، صَنَعَ كَمَا أَمَرَهُ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ. فَأَخَذَ امْرَأَتَهُ. وَلَمْ يَعْرِفْهَا حَتَّى وَلَدَتْ ابْنَهَا الْبَكْرَ، وَسَمَّاهُ يَسُوعَ.

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.

Poinsetta Flowers for Christams



Poinsetta Plants to adorn the Royal Doors during this holy season in loving memory of Nick Sr. and Helen Nicola offered by Georgianna and Raymond Rishwan, Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola, Ronald and Nancy Nicola, and families. Never forgotten, you live in each of us.



Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Tuesday, December 24 th	3:30pm ninth hour, 4 pm Orthros/Matins and 5 pm Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ

Coffee Hours

December 15 th	Rose's Bake Sale – No Coffee Hour
March 2 nd	In memory of Sal Freij (20 yr.) 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, Henriette Hilal, George Wahbeh** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † Rocky and Nada Dudum for the good health of **Sandy Dudum Bennett**. Many years!
- † Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Family in beloved memory of **Jimi and Rose Romley, Ray, Gloria,** and **Brad Zachariah** and **Sig Dietzmann**. May their memory be eternal!
- † Noha Shultze in memory of her mother **Mary Batruni** (20 years). 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, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Building Committee Update:

We are excited to announce that the parish has overwhelmingly (88 voted yes and 19 voted No) supported an additional \$1 million on our loan to support completing the church hall. We are submitting a letter to the archdiocese for the blessing of the Metropolitan to proceed. The Building Committee will be working closely with the contractor to ensure we can use these funds purposefully to bring us to our occupancy permit for the hall. While this will require some value engineering, and potentially deferments of some items, we can assure you that the building will be built to design specs and a building of which we can all be proud.

As you can see from the photos, work has started on installing the hand rails on the steps, and we are working with several parishioners who have expertise in finalizing the equipment needs and procuring such equipment for the kitchen.

Things should start picking up the pace now and we will do our best to keep you all informed of our progress. But please join us for services and see me afterwards for a look into the building and with any questions or recommendations you may have.

Steve Kreta, Building Committee Chair



Join us to pray, march,
& fellowship together
at the Walk for Life!



MARCH WITH US

for the

2025 Orthodox Gathering

of the

WALK for LIFE

**Saturday, January 25
12:00 PM**

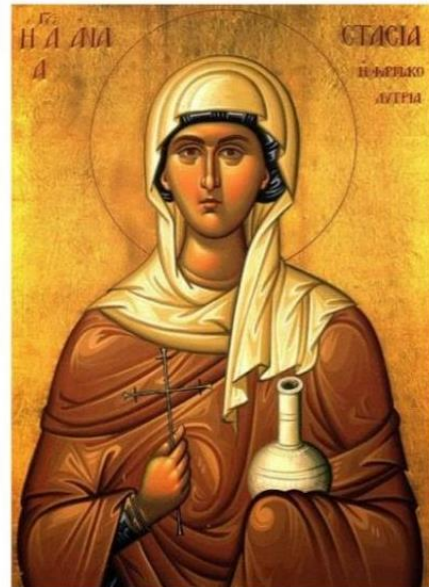
**Civic Center Plaza,
San Francisco, CA**
Corner of Polk Street &
Grove Street



for details go to oclife.org/walk

St. Anastasia's Fellowship

**A 12-Step Fellowship for Orthodox Christians seeking
recovery from alcoholism and addiction in its many forms**



Every Sunday @ 7pm

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

**501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563**

Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848

St. Anastasia Fellowship Presentation

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity, Father Nikolas Delaveris will present his St. Anastasia model of Orthodox recovery. This uniquely Orthodox approach to addressing addiction has been successfully implemented on the East Coast. Anyone who struggles with addiction, supports persons with addiction, has been in a recovery program, or who simply wants to learn more about this subject is invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place in the lower level of the church. Obviously, the hope is that this meeting might generate interest in establishing similar groups in the Bay Area.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2024

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

Love swings back and forth between hope and hurt. The Father in heaven had high hopes for His Son on earth to rescue His creation for Him, returning it to its original meaning and destiny. The Little One who lay in a manger outside the comfort and crowd of the Inn, as baby and from then on to the Cross, from cradle to Cross, would, in the deepest sense, always be alone, on His own, and never at home anywhere. This prophet was not welcome in the town He grew up in. Therefore, He wandered as a homeless person. The Father would feel the hurt of this homelessness and hear the Blessed One say He had nowhere to lay His head.

I had thought there were two dramatic moments in Christ's life when He truly could rest and lay His head down in peace; one is when He was born and His mother held Him, the other was in the quiet tomb while the crowds were gone and the noise of darkness stopped. He rose from the sleep of death, folded His cloth pillow neatly, and left resurrected and triumphant.

Christmas has me pray for and hurt for all of the little ones now, outside the comfort of warm homes, away in the wilderness of foreign places, traveling in the night to Egypt, far from the Bethlehem of their birth. The Father hurts for them who are made in the image of His son and so are made for Him.

Let us give them a home somewhere and show them there is love in every city, in the City of Peace.

Christ changed the hurt of the Cross into the help of the Father through His obedience, as a good Son always is, for the hope of us all. He saved us to become saviors, even when it hurts.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Los Angeles
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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