

+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

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, California 925-257-2940

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7

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

WHICH FALLS ON PARAMON (EVE) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST

VENERABLE MARTYR EUGENIA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER

Sunday of the Holy Genealogy



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 عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، بِالْإِيمَانِ نَزَلَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فِي أَرْضِ المِيعَادِ نُزُولَهُ فِي أَرْضِ غَرِيبَةٍ، وَسَكَنَ فِي خِيَامٍ مَعَ اسْحَقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ الْوَارِثِينَ مَعَهُ لِلْمَوْعِدِ بَعَيْنِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ انْتَهَرَ المَدِينَةَ ذَاتِ الأُسُسِ الَّتِي اللهُ صَانِعُهَا وَبَارِئُهَا. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضاً؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنَّ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ، وَبَارَاقَ، وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَفْتَاخَ، وَدَاوُدَ، وَصَمُوئِيلَ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا المَمَالِكَ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا المَوَاعِدَ، وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهَ الأَسْوَدِ. وَأَطْفَأُوا حِدَّةَ النَارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حِدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَاءَ فِي الحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَرَاتِ الأَجَانِبِ، وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أُمَوَاتَهُنَّ بِقِيَامَةٍ. وَعُدَّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الأَعْضَاءِ وَالصَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلِ. وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الهُزْنَ، وَالجَلْدَ، وَالثَّقِيلَةَ أَيْضاً وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحِدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمِعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوَّزُونَ مُضَايِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ — وَلَمْ يَكُنِ العَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا لَهُمْ — وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي البَرَارِيِّ، وَالجِبَالِ، وَالمَغَاوِرِ، وَكُھُوفِ الأَرْضِ. فَهؤلاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُوداً لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا المَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللهَ سَبَقَ فَتَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئاً أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بَدُونِنَا.

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

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن إبراهيم. فإبراهيم ولد إسحق، وإسحق ولد يعقوب، ويعقوب ولد يهوذا واخوته. ويهوذا ولد فارص، وفارص من تامار، وفارص ولد حصرون، وحصرون ولد آرام. وأرام ولد عميناداب، وعميناداب ولد نحشون، ونحشون ولد سلمون. وسلمون ولد بوعر من زاحاب، وبوعر ولد عوبيد من راعوث، وعوبيد ولد يسى، ويسى ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأوريا. وسليمان ولد رعبعام، ورعبعام ولد أبيتا، وأبيتا ولد آسا. وآسا ولد يوشافاط، ويوشافاط ولد يورام، ويورام ولد عزيا. وعزيا ولد يوثام، ويوثام ولد آحاز، وآحاز ولد حزقيا. وحزقيا ولد منسى، ومنسى ولد آمون، وآمون ولد يوشيا. ويوشيا ولد يكنيا واخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل، يكنيا ولد شالنتيل، وشالنتيل ولد زرتابل. وزرتابل ولد أبيهود، وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم، وألياقيم ولد عازور. وعازور ولد صادق، وسادوق ولد أخيم، وأخيم ولد أليهود. وأليهود ولد ألعازار، وألعازار 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 جيلا، ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلا، ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلا. أما مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا. لما خطبت مريم أمه ليوسف، وجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا حبل من الروح القدس. وإذا كان يوسف رجلا صديقا، ولم يرد أن يشهرها، هم بتخليتها سرا. وفيما هو متفكر في ذلك، إذا بملاك الرب ظهر له في الحلم، قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم. فإن المولود فيها إنما هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابناً فنسميه 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.

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.

Thank You!

Thanks to Ramzi Zachariah for donating the Orarions/belts in red for the Altar boys. God bless you.

Also thank you to Ziad and Charlene Mansoura for donating the case of wine for Communion. God bless you and your family!

Update from the Building Committee Q:

Are there specific items individuals or families can donate toward for the completion and beautification of the Fellowship Hall?

A: Yes! Please see the item list included as a separate page in this bulletin.

Upcoming Events

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. No meeting this Sunday.

Coffee Hours

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!
- † 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!
- † The Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Families for the beloved memory of **Jimi** and **Rose Romley, Sig Dietzmann, Ray, Gloria** and **Brad Zachariah**. May their memories be eternal!
- † Jim and Denise Dudum for the birth of **McCovey James**, son of **JD** and **Jessie Dudum** and for the good health of the entire **Dudum family**. Many years!
- † Noha Schulze in memory of her mother, **Marie Batrouny**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. 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!



-
- † 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




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

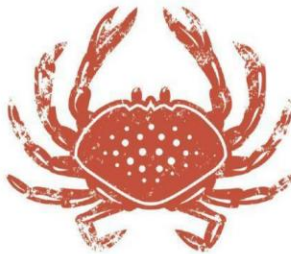


Items for the Hall that can be Donated by Individuals or Families

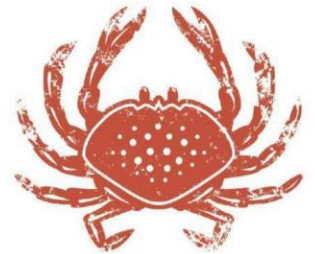
EXTERIOR		
SITE LIGHTING	\$	50,000
LANDSCAPING - Hardscape	\$	110,000
LANDSCAPING - Plants	\$	75,000
EXTERIOR WOOD TRELLIS	\$	32,000
EXTERIOR BUILDING LIGHTING	\$	50,000
FELLOWSHIP HALL INTERIOR		
SKYLIGHTS	\$	25,000
FINISHES - Interior walls	\$	75,000
FINISHES - Flooring - Main Hall and Foyer	\$	60,000
FINISHES - Flooring - Kitchen	\$	24,000
FINISHES - Wood ceiling, main hall	\$	200,000
FINISHES - Acoustic panels	\$	40,000
FINISHES - Interior paint	\$	18,000
LIGHTING - Chandeliers - 4@ \$5,000 each	\$	20,000
SPECIAL SYSTEMS - SECURITY	\$	15,000
SPECIAL SYSTEMS - AUDIO	\$	15,000
SPECIALTIES - Custom Casework	\$	45,000
KITCHEN		
- Hood	\$	45,000
- Convection oven	\$	15,000
- Ice Machine, bin, and ice caddy	\$	12,500
- Gas range - 36"	\$	6,000
- Gas range - 48" w/ griddle	\$	15,000
- Brazing pan/skillet	\$	30,000
- Banquet carts 2@ \$7,500 ea	\$	15,000
- Work table - 2@ \$4,000 ea	\$	8,000
- Coffee urn	\$	4,500
- Beverage cabinet	\$	6,500
- Reach in refrigerator - 2@ \$7,500 ea	\$	15,000
- Food slicer	\$	3,500
- Food Processor(s)	\$	2,000
- Counter top	\$	10,000
-Hand sink - 3 @ \$2,000 ea	\$	6,000
- 3 compartment dish table	\$	7,000
- Dishwasher	\$	12,000
- Misc; including taxes, installation, flooring, wiring, shelving, filtration systems, waste collection, etc	\$	87,000
Kitchen Total	\$	300,000
WINDOWS AND DOORS		
- Main Entrance	\$	90,000
- Side glass door and window units (2@30K ea)	\$	60,000
- Rear corner window	\$	10,000
- Rear glass exit door by kitchen	\$	15,000
- folding glass doors between hall and foyer	\$	25,000
- Entry doors from foyer to hall (2@ 25K ea)	\$	50,000
Windows and door Total	\$	250,000
FURNISHINGS		
Tables	\$	15,000
Chairs	\$	10,500
Dishes - plates, cups, silverware	\$	15,000
Portable bar(s)	\$	50,000
SUM OF ABOVE ITEMS	\$	1,494,500

THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH

~THE 45 TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED~



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2024
COCKTAILS 6:00 PM
DINNER 7:00 PM
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
1700 SCHOOL STREET, MORAGA, CA



ALL ~ YOU ~ CAN ~ EAT

APPETIZERS, PASTA, CRAB, SALAD, CHICKEN, GARLIC BREAD AND
DESSERT

FEATURING GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES

ADULTS \$ 70

CHILDREN (UNDER 13) \$ 25

For information, tickets, or to volunteer please call: Parish Office (925) 258-4255, Or

Dn Nicholas (Najeeb) (510) 207-1796

YOUR DONATIONS ARE A HUGE PART OF EACH SUCCESS

Crab Feed Placemat Donation For 2024: feature Business Card size ads for \$70,
Medium size ads for \$150, Large size ads for \$250, and Premium Ads for \$450.
Please make your Checks payable to St. John Orthodox Church. Or Contact Dn Nicholas
at (510)207-1796

The Order of St. Ignatius

This Sunday across the Archdiocese is The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Sunday. The Department of Communications is featuring stories about The Order's [oldest](#) and [youngest](#) members who are 102 and 8 years old. Please read these stories so you can become more familiar with this philanthropic organization and its generous members.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023: Meet Ignatius Wood, The Order's Youngest Member

Dn. Peter Samore

On Dec. 18, 2022, at [Ss. Joachim and Anna Mission](#) in Goldendale, Wash., the priest called out after the Divine Liturgy, "Where is Ignatius?"

Ignatius Wood replied, "I'm right here! I've been serving next to you all morning."

Fr. John Phelps then helped Ignatius read the oath of induction. That day, at age 7, he became the youngest member ever of [The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch](#).



Fr. John Phelps, pastor of Ss. Joachim and Anna Church in Goldendale, Wash., bestows the ribbon and cross upon Ignatius Wood upon his induction into The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch on Dec. 18, 2022.

Ignatius told his friends that it feels special to be part of an organization named after his patron saint. He knew that the "God-bearer" was the third bishop of Antioch, and that as a young child, St. Ignatius sat on Christ's lap (Matt. 18). He also knew that lions devoured St. Ignatius.

"When I wanted to be a lion for All Saints Eve, I told people that the lions helped in his sainthood and martyrdom," Ignatius recalled.

When Ignatius is not serving with Fr. John at the altar, he is setting up coffee hour and visiting St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery in Goldendale.

Ignatius celebrating his feast day in December of 2022.

His father, Bryan, read the first-century Fathers of the Church, especially delving into [the epistles of St. Ignatius of Antioch](#), when he was first learning about the Faith.

"The very first Christians knew Christ and the apostles, so it's impossible to deny that through the writings of St. Ignatius we have an organized, rooted Church," Bryan said. "In St. Ignatius, I saw how the Church is supposed to work.

"The more I dove into Orthodoxy, the more I saw that St. Ignatius made Orthodoxy stick. The child who sat on Christ's lap – that's quite the endorsement!"

When Bryan's wife, Meika, became pregnant with their second child, they decided to name him Ignatius. Last year, in thanks to God and the intercessions of the hieromartyr, father and son decided to join The Order as a Knight and a Junior Knight. Bryan sponsors his son's membership for now.



Ignatius preparing to attend services for Holy Friday at St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery in April of 2023.

"I loved to be there doing something with my son, doing something meaningful with him in our church," Bryan said. "The more we saw about all the good that it does, we were convinced to join."

Of The Order's many outreaches, financial support for the clergy and for missions like theirs stands out. But above all, the Woods most appreciate scholarships for summer camps, which the Woods' oldest daughter received last year to attend [Camp St. Mary of Egypt](#).

Ignatius and Bryan hope that more people join The Order, including youth, young adults and families. Bryan sees membership in The Order as a way to teach children about structure and giving more to their church with parents setting a good example.

Ignatius and his parents, Meika and Bryan; his older sister, Elizabeth; and his younger sister, Katerina.

"It's not a massive commitment, but it is permanent," Bryan

said. "Learn as much about The Order as you can. The list of things we do is really long.

"We are participating in the support of all these things. All of this ties Orthodox people together in North America – meeting new people, going to monasteries, and supporting one another."

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is grateful to the Woods for their support. The Order always welcomes new members of all ages to get involved in its philanthropy and change the lives of others. Visit www.orderofstignatius.org today.



In her very full life, [Bea McPherson](#) served in World War II as a Military Mapping Maiden, and as the chairwoman of the first Pro Football Hall of Fame Style Show in 1963. Last year, she delivered the toast at the 100th anniversary celebration of [St. George Church of Canton, Ohio](#), her lifelong parish which she and her parents helped to found. Her life is chronicled on [her website](#).

On Dec. 14, Mrs. McPherson will turn 102 years old. She holds the title as the oldest active member of [The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch](#).

"I was surprised!" Bea said when she learned the news. "I think there was someone else, 101, and they weren't sure if she was up to date on her dues."



Moses David and Selma David Shaheen; children Charles, Bea (on Selma's lap), Nellie, and Anna, Canton, Ohio, 1922

Bea is up to date, having been a Dame of the philanthropic organization since 1977, one year after it was founded. Her brother, David Shaheen – a charter member and a Knight Commander – and Archbishop Michael Shaheen – a childhood neighbor of Bea – encouraged her to join The Order. She did, with one aspect of its ministry closest to her heart.

"Over the years, I have focused my financial support in helping each of the parish preachers and their families," she said. Active and retired priests of the Archdiocese receive financial assistance from The Order of St. Ignatius for travel, retirement and more.

Bea has been generous with her time, talents and treasure all her life. One of nine children, she grew up during the Great Depression selling magazines, working in a market, and operating an elevator at a store to help her family make ends meet.

Bea Shaheen briefs a map in 1943 during her time as a military cartographer, Montgomery Co., Maryland



She attended Kent State University where the course of her life changed. There, she met her husband, James W. "Bill" McPherson Jr. She also enlisted in the war effort with the Military Mapping Maidens, or "3Ms" for short. Young women like Bea were recruited during World War II for mapmaking jobs in the Army Map Service. Bea met the demand for current maps that could be distributed quickly to soldiers at the fronts. Her cartographic efforts included D-Day at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

Bea wasn't nervous about the work. "We simply went about doing our job based on what we learned, working together as a team, with excellent supervisors," she said.

Two decades later, Bea chaired or co-chaired the Pro Football Hall of Fame Style Shows in 1963 and 1965. Tickets were just \$3.50 each. The events drew about 300 attendees in those days. Attendance has since grown tenfold.

"I met so many interesting and committed people who cared about our community and the newly opened Pro Football Hall of Fame," she recalled, "plus working with the spouses of football players as style show models was a unique feature of our event."

Brigadier General (Retired) Wilma L. Vaught congratulating the 224 3Ms, represented by Bea McPherson, at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Hall of Fame ceremony, Springfield, Virginia, 2016



But Mrs. McPherson's greatest love and commitment have been to her home parish. "I am forever proud of the legacy of my family and numerous other families from the old country in starting this congregation in their new country," she said in her toast at St. George Church's centennial in May of 2022. "Here we have found solace, friendship, faith, and love – 100 years ago, down through the years, and to this day."

When St. George Church was remodeled in 2013, she donated all the cushions for the pews in memory of her husband. Her generosity didn't stop there.

"My mother died a day before my birthday in 1986, so I always decorate the church with poinsettias at Christmastime," Bea

said. "My father died around Easter, so I always decorate the church with lilies at Eastertime."

Bea McPherson takes in a play with her children Jim, Cheryl and Marena in Chicago, Illinois, 2018



She also loves being a member of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Her framed certificate of induction still hangs on her wall. She often encourages her family members to join.

"Joining The Order is yet another act of one's faith and commitment to the church," Bea said. "Getting involved at an early age helps to foster lasting friendships with others who share the same goals, interests, and spiritual beliefs."

"Being a member of The Order is another strong tie to the church I love. It reminds me to seek out opportunities where I can continue to serve the congregation, our preacher and church leaders, and the teachings of the Orthodox faith."

Bea McPherson at St. George Church in Canton, Ohio next to the icon of the Transfiguration of Christ donated by her father, Moses David Shaheen, in 1922. He signed the icon in Arabic.

When Bea cannot attend church in person, she faithfully watches the parish's livestream. But there is one thing she wants to do in person.

"I hope one day I can meet Metropolitan Saba," she said. "It'll be a nice visit when he comes to Canton!"

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is grateful to Mrs. Bea McPherson for her pioneering work. The Order always welcomes new members of all ages to get involved in its philanthropy and change the lives of others. Visit www.orderofstignatius.org today.

