

+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 03, 2023

**TONE 1 / EOTHINON 4; TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

THE HOLY PROPHET ZEPHANIAH; MARTYRS AGAPIOS, SELEUKOS AND MAMAS;

VENERABLE THEODOULOS, EPARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE THEODOULOS OF CYPRUS

Holy Father Zephaniah



On December 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Prophet Zephaniah.

A native of Mount Sarabatha, from the tribe of Simeon, Zephaniah lived and prophesied in the seventh century before Christ, at the time of Josiah the pious king of Judah. Zephaniah was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Having great humility and a pure mind raised to God, he was found worthy of discerning the future. He prophesied the day of the wrath of God and the punishment of Gaza, Ashkalon, Ashdod, Ekron, Nineveh, Jerusalem and Egypt. He saw Jerusalem as a “filthy and polluted... oppressing city. Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; her prophets are light and treacherous persons; her priests have polluted the sanctuary; they have done violence to the Law (Zeph. 3:1-4). Foreseeing the advent of the Messiah, he enthusiastically exclaimed: Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem (Zeph. 3:14). This seer of mysteries entered into rest at his birthplace to await the General Resurrection and his reward from God.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true—and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And 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.

الرسالة

لَتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا، ابْتَهِجُوا أَهْلِهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.

يا إخوة، أَسْلُكُوا كأولادٍ للنور (فإنَّ ثمرَ الروحِ هو في كلِّ صلاحٍ وبرٍّ وحقٍّ) مُخْتَبِرِينَ ما هُوَ مَرَضِيٌّ لدى الربِّ. ولا تشتركوا في أعمالِ الظلمةِ غيرِ المثمرةِ بل بالأحرى وبِخوا عليها. فإنَّ الأفعالَ التي يفعلونها سِرًّا يَقْبَحُ ذكرها أيضاً. لكنَّ كلَّ ما يوبَّخُ عليه يُعلنُ بالنور. فإنَّ كلَّ ما يُعلنُ هو نورٌ. ولذلك يقولُ استيقظ أيُّها النَّائمُ وُقْمْ من بينِ الأمواتِ فيضيءَ لك المسيح. فانظروا إذن أن تسلكوا بِحَذَرٍ لا كجُهلاءَ بل كحُكماءَ. مفتدينَ الوقتَ فإنَّ الأيامَ شريرةٌ. فلذلك لا تكونوا أغبياءَ بل افهموا ما مشيئةُ الربِّ. ولا تسكروا بالخمير التي فيها الدعارةُ بل امتلئوا بالروح. مكلِّمينَ بعضكم بعضاً بمزاميرَ وتسابيحَ وأغانيَّ روحيةً مُرتَمينَ ومرتلينَ في قلوبكم للربِّ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْحِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

في ذلكَ الزمان، فيما يسوعُ بالقربِ من أريحا، كانَ أعمى جالساً على الطريقِ يَسْتَعْطِي. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْجَمْعَ مُجْتَازاً سَأَلَ: «مَا هَذَا؟» فَأَخْبَرَ بَأَنَّ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيِّ عَابِرٌ. فَصَرَخَ قَائِلاً: «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!» فَزَجَرَهُ الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ لَيْسُكَتَ، فَازْدَادَ صُرَاخاً: «يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!» فَوَقَّفَ يَسُوعُ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا قَرَّبَ سَأَلَهُ: «مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟» فَقَالَ: «يَا رَبُّ أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!» قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «أَبْصِرْ. إِيْمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَّصَكَ.» وَفِي الْحَالِ أَبْصَرَ، وَتَبِعَهُ وَهُوَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ. وَجَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ إِذْ رَأَوْا سَبَّحُوا اللَّهَ.

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!

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!



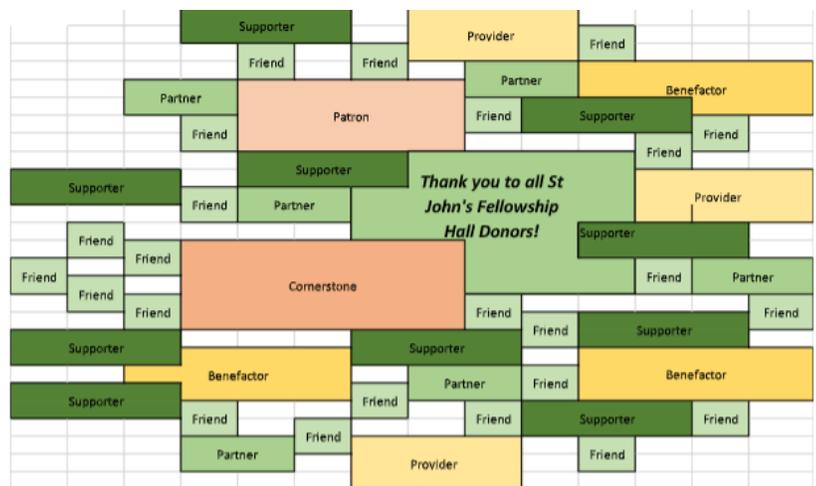
Fellowship Hall Updates

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

Wednesday, November 15th	Advent Begins
Sunday, December 3rd	Christmas Cars Event (see flyer)
December 9th and 10th	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 3rd	 Borbara بربارة pudding in celebration of the feast of St. Barbara, prepared by Fairouz Freij and family.
December 6th	Orthros at 10:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 11:00 am at St. Nicholas Church in San Francisco for the feast of St. Nicholas.
December 10th	Sponsor Needed
December 17th	Sponsor Needed
December 24th	Rihani family in memory of Victor Rihani. 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 daughters in memory of **Osama Mitry and family: Wadia, Habib, Nabiha, Evelyn, Margaret, Leila, Mitry**, and **Eugenia**.
- † 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!



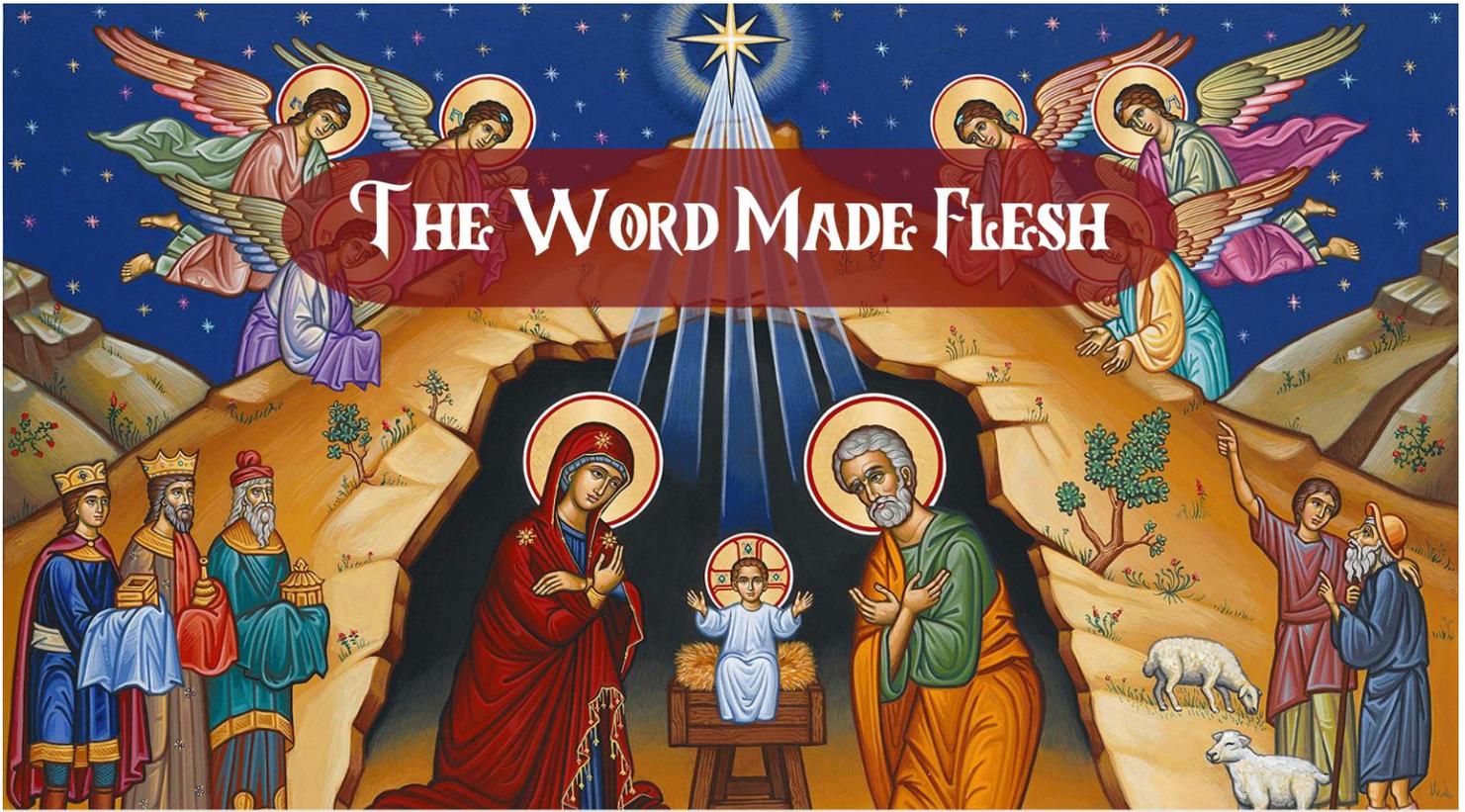
† Altar

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





THE WORD MADE FLESH

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



SONS OF ANTIOCH
Byzantine Choir

Ο ho - ly Ra pha el

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.



JOLLY CHRISTMAS CARS

DECORATE THE TRUNK OF
YOUR CAR FOR ALL TO ENJOY



3
SUNDAY

DECEMBER
AFTER LITURGY

BRING A TREAT
TO PASS TO ALL
THE KIDS

TO PARTICIPATE
PLEASE CONTACT:
RANIA KASHOU



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

