



# +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, FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4; SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME;

AGAPITOS THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNAIDA IN PHRYGIA, AND HIS COMPANIONS

## Leo the Great, Pope of Rome



On February 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints, Leo the Great, pope of Rome.

Leo was born in Italy in 400 of devout parents, becoming Pope of Rome in 440. When Attila, with his Huns, drew near to burn Rome, Leo came out before him in his episcopal vestments. Leo subdued the wrath of Attila and averted the destruction of Rome. Attila allowed himself to be counseled by this holy man, but was also frightened by a vision of the Apostles Peter and Paul, who stood alongside Leo and threatened him with flaming swords. Leo also saved Orthodoxy from the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus. They erroneously taught the merger of the divine and human natures of Christ into one and, consequently, the denial of the two wills in the person of the Son. Because of this, the Fourth Ecumenical Council was convened in Chalcedon in 451, at which time the tome of Leo the Great was read and the Council condemned this heresy. This saint peacefully reposed in the Lord in 461.

## THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, how magnified are Thy works.*

*In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)**

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

## الرسالة

ما أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالَكَ يَا رَبُّ، كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.  
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كورِنْثُوسِ.

يا إِخْوَةَ، أَنْتُمْ هَيْكَلُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، كما قَالَ اللَّهُ، "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَسِيرُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا فَلِذَلِكَ أَخْرَجُوا مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ وَاعْتَرَلُوا"، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ، "وَلَا تَمَسُّوا نَجِسًا، فَأَقْبَلُكُمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَكُمْ أَبًا، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ لِي بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ"، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ الْقَدِيرُ. وَإِذْ لَنَا هَذِهِ الْمَوَاعِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحِبَّاءُ، فَلْنُظَهِّرْ أَنْفُسَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أَدْنَسِ الْجَسَدِ وَالرُّوحِ، وَنُكَمِّلِ الْقَدَاسَةَ بِمَخَافَةِ اللَّهِ.

## THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (15: 21-28)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا. وَإِذَا بِامْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ قَدْ خَرَجَتْ مِنْ تِلْكَ التُّخُومِ وَصَرَخَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلَةً: "إِرْحَمْنِي يَا رَبُّ! يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، فَإِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا جَدًّا." فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ. فَدَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: "إِصْرِفْهَا فَإِنَّهَا نَصِيحٌ فِي إِثْرِنَا". فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "لَمْ أُرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخِرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلِ." فَاتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ قَائِلَةً: "أَغْنِنِي يَا رَبُّ." فَأَجَابَ قَائِلًا: "لَيْسَ حَسَنًا أَنْ يُؤَخَذَ حُبُّزُ الْبَنِينَ وَيُلْقَى لِلْكَلابِ." فَقَالَتْ: "نَعَمْ يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْكَلابَ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفُتَاتِ الَّذِي يَسْقُطُ مِنْ مَوَائِدِ أَرْبَابِهَا." حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: "يَا امْرَأَةَ، عَظِيمٌ إِيمَانُكَ، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا أَرَدْتَ." فَشُفِيَتْ أَبْنَتُهَا مِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ.

## Love Your Neighbor

### February – IOCC Gaza relief

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond. We envision that, by God's grace, IOCC will enable those suffering and in need to continue to improve their own lives and communities and to have means to live with dignity, respect, and hope. This month's Love Your Neighbor collections will go towards their Gaza relief fund.

### **House Blessing**

Fr. Nicholas will be visiting parishioners for house blessings. You will receive a call from Fr. Nicholas or Evan to schedule. You may also call Fr. To schedule. God bless you all!

### **Building Committee Update:**

A full discussion of the hall building status was discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. For your information, the written report is included in this week's bulletin.

### **Parish Help Needed**

Fellow parishioners, the fundraising committee is seeking your help in finding funding for our community hall. If you or anyone you know, has any experience with grants for charitable organizations, we would love to talk with you! We would like to apply for some grants, but don't know where to begin. This is an important step in fulfilling our financial goals for the hall. If you have any information, please email David Hanna at [davidnlisah@hotmail.com](mailto:davidnlisah@hotmail.com). Thank you!

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Prison Ministry card writing workshop after Divine Liturgy

### **Coffee Hours**

<b>February 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Evelyn Salem and Eddie Salem and family in memory of Sister Albertina Qubeen.
<b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Sonia Neshiwat in memory of her father Jeries Neshiwat (42 years).
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Denise Dudum
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Munayer family in memory of Mariam Munayer (one year). May her memory be eternal!
<b>March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Mona Thayer in memory of Matilda & Nicola Messih. May their memory be eternal!

### **Memorial Services**

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.** For the handmaiden of God Sister Albertina Qubeen, offered by Evelyn Salem and Eddie Salem and family. May her memory be eternal!

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** One year memorial for Mona Habayeb Khoury offered by Helen Ghantous and family!

### 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 **Ghassan and Vivian Sruji**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Blanche Manneh**. Many years!
- † Nino family in memory of husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather **Elias Nino** (20 yr.) May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij and Issam Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Marc Johnston and Monica Mikhail** and their newly born **Lucia**. Many years!
- † Gina Jaber and family in memory of **Charles Zayed**. May his 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 and Maron Juha

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



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

~THE 45 TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED~

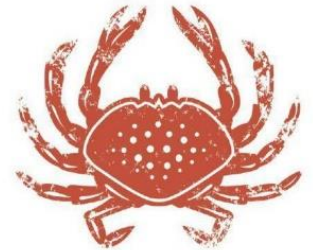


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2024

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

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*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



## Meeting Urgent Needs and Planning for the Future

Active in the Middle East since the 1990s, IOCC is using its deep experience and relationships to provide aid during the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land. Since conflict began in October, IOCC has remained in close contact with partners and staff on the ground.

From food and water to baby formula and medicine, IOCC has supplied essential support to thousands of displaced refugees in Gaza. Read more about how IOCC is providing emergency relief while planning for long-term needs.



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ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL **JUNIOR** OR **SENIOR**?



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**summer**  
with what **counts**

Join one of  
our four sessions

Boston June 8–18

Northern California June 18–28

Boston June 22–July 2

Chicago July 6–16

Explore what's next

CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for YOU as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures. By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.



Application Deadline **February 20, 2024**

# Saint John Fellowship Hall

Annual Report to Parish Meeting

February 4, 2024

## Brief History of Saint John Orthodox Church

- The parish, founded in 1978, first held weekly services at the Orinda Masonic Hall
- In 1983, the property at 501 Moraga Way was purchased
- In 1989, the St. John Preschool/Day Care Center was launched
- In the late 1990s, the Administration Building was built
- In 2005, the interior and exterior of the church building was remodeled
- September 11, 2023. Broke ground for our Fellowship Hall



## PARISH COUNCIL

1. Father Nicholas Borzghol
2. Chair: Tania DeGroot
3. Vice Chair: Joe Sweiss
4. Secretary: Charlene Nassoura
5. Treasurer: Matthew Simon
6. Andrew Thayer
7. Norma Khalil
8. Neezar Samara
9. Raif Rihani
10. Samir Yoakim

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

1. Samar Adranly, Member
2. Steve Kreta, Chair
3. Father Nicholas, Member
4. Joe Sweis, Member
5. Ron Nichola (Past Member)
6. Chris Malki (Past Member)
7. Ray Nassif (Past Member)
8. Ziad Nassoura (Past Member)

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

1. David Hanna, Chair
2. Steve Kreta
3. Father Nicholas
4. Noha Schulze
5. Elias Shaheen
6. Rania Kashou
7. Ronald Nicola
8. Jason Dudum
9. Joseph Sweis
10. Kathy Adranly



## SAINT JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT

Our parish family has always been unified in projects we have undertaken over the course of our forty plus years. While the Fellowship Hall Project is by far the largest our parish has undertaken, our parish's culture and history proves when we come together as one, we accomplish our goals. With God's blessing, fulfilling this goal will be no different.

### Fellowship Hall Project Highlights

- ❖ Total building area is 8,900 square foot with a 34 ft high ceiling.
- ❖ New paved parking lot for 112 cars
- ❖ Main hall is 5,000 sq. ft. with capacity for 300 people seated in Banquet Style and 700 people in theater style.
- ❖ Elegant foyer for receptions and the weekly coffee hour.
- ❖ Full Commercial Kitchen with top of the line equipment.
- ❖ Elegant bathrooms for men and women.
- ❖ A 1,500 sq. ft. patio overlooking playground
- ❖ Fully landscaped Central Plaza to accommodate Church functions
- ❖ EV Car Chargers for 12 cars
- ❖ Service Driveway for deliveries



# SAINT JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT

## This Past Year Accomplishments and Next Steps

This past year, 2023, has seen major accomplishments for our Fellowship Hall. At the time of our last parish meeting, our contractor was busy excavating, moving dirt and erecting retaining walls for the parking lot area. Since then you can see the incredible improvements to our property which included new utilities (gas, electric, water, sewer, drainage, etc.), large reinforced concrete slab foundation, beautiful wood framing, and currently all interior framing and rough electrical, plumbing, and other work is being done. Many of you witnessed the raising of the top ridge beams after you signed your names and the names of your loved ones especially the ones who passed away who have contributed generously to our parish in the past. This was truly an exciting celebration by many parishioners who felt that with the Grace of God our dream is finally becoming a reality. In August, we used the unfinished Hall for the first time for a reception and silent auction that helped us raise more funds from many of our parishioners. The asphalt paving for the parking area and the concrete walkways were completed in early September, two week before our Annual Middle Eastern Festival.

Over the next few months the contractor will continue to complete all the interior rough installations for the plumbing, electrical, mechanical, Audio/Video, Fire Alarm, etc., complete the zinc tile roof, all porcelain tile walls for the building while improving the exterior grounds and the new Playground area. We expect the Aluminum Doors and windows to be installed in mid April which will be followed by City Inspections which will allow the contractor to start closing the walls, painting the interior, installing fixtures, etc. With God's will, your support, and the dedication of all those who are working on the project, we hope to reach substantial completion for this project around the Fourth of July!

<b>PROJECT MILESTONES</b>	<b>DATES</b>
<b>Schematic Design</b>	<b>2018 - 2019</b>
<b>Orinda Planning Commission Approval</b>	<b>Summer 2020</b>
<b>Construction Drawings</b>	<b>June 2021</b>
<b>Building Permit</b>	<b>September 2021</b>
<b>Start of Construction</b>	<b>September 2022</b>
<b>Substantial Completion</b>	<b>FOURTH OF JULY 2024!</b>

# SAINT JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT

## FUNDRAISING

### Donor Recognition Levels for Donor Wall in Hall Foyer

<b>Founder</b> <b>\$1,000,000</b>		
<b>Cornerstone</b> <b>500,000</b>	<b>Pillar</b> <b>250,000</b>	<b>Patron</b> <b>100,000</b>
<b>Benefactor</b> <b>50,000</b>	<b>Provider</b> <b>25,000</b>	<b>Supporter</b> <b>10,000</b>
<b>Partner</b> <b>5,000</b>	<b>Friend</b> <b>1,000</b>	<b>Builder</b> <b>100</b>

### **Financial Considerations of the Fellowship Hall at start of project**

The estimated cost of the project is \$7.0 Million dollars. The cash in the Building Fund at the start of construction was \$2 million. We were able to secure a \$2.5 million Equity Loan through Summit Bank. The payments on this loan are being paid by parishioner pledges and donations to the church operating funds as well as the preschool contributions.

To complete the project, we set a fundraising goal from parishioners and friends of St. John 2.5 million dollars

### **Fundraising Efforts since Beginning the Project**

Through pledges, donations, fundraising events such as after church luncheons and meals at restaurants throughout the Bay Area, we have raised more than \$600,000. Additionally, from increased preschool contributions as well as parish events such as the crab feed and festival, we have raised about \$200,000.

This more than \$800,000 brings us to about one-third of the way toward our \$2.5 Million goal

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE & SUPPORT!**

RESURRECTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PRESENTS



*Special Double Feature*  
*and* **Q&A with the Filmmakers**

**Tuesday, March 26 | 6:30 PM**  
**The Chabot Theater, Castro Valley**

*Amphilochios Saint of Patmos* explores the life and spiritual legacy of Saint Amphilochios (1889-1970) from the Greek island of Patmos. St. Amphilochios was a tireless spiritual father, missionary, and founder of orphanages and monasteries.

*Sacred Alaska* showcases the profound influence of Orthodoxy, introduced by Russian monks in the late 18th century, on Alaskan Society and how Alaskans have woven their indigenous beliefs with Orthodox traditions.

**Admission is free. Pre-registration is Required at:**

<https://bit.ly/Mar26Registration>

Questions? (510) 581-8950 | [office@resurrectiongoc.com](mailto:office@resurrectiongoc.com)