



+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 23, 2025

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 2

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA; VENERABLE GORGONIA, SISTER OF GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN

Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday



Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today's Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God's ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers

decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if any one sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

الرسالة

قَوْتِي وَتَسْبِيحَتِي الرَّبِّ. أَدَبًا أَدَّبَنِي الرَّبُّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى أَهْلِ كورِنْثُوسِ. (2:9-8:8)

يا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ الطَّعَامَ لَا يُعَرِّبُنَا إِلَى اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّا إِنِ أَكَلْنَا لَا نَزِيدُ وَإِنْ لَمْ نَأْكُلْ لَا نَنْقُصُ. وَلَكِنْ أَنْظُرُوا أَنْ لَا يَكُونَ سُلْطَانُكُمْ هَذَا مَعْتَرَةً لِلضَّعْفَاءِ. لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ رَأَى أَحَدٌ يَا مَنْ لَهُ الْعِلْمُ مُتَكَبِّراً فِي بَيْتِ الْأَوْثَانِ، أَفَلَا يَتَقَوَّى ضَمِيرُهُ، وَهُوَ ضَعِيفٌ، عَلَى أَكْلِ ذَبَائِحِ الْأَوْثَانِ، فَيَهْلِكُ بِسَبَبِ عِلْمِكَ الْأَخِ الضَّعِيفِ الَّذِي مَاتَ الْمَسِيحُ لِأَجْلِهِ؟ وَهَكَذَا إِذْ تُحْطِئُونَ إِلَى الْإِخْوَةِ وَتَجْرَحُونَ ضَمَائِرَهُمْ، وَهِيَ ضَعِيفَةٌ، إِنَّمَا تُحْطِئُونَ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ. فَلِذَلِكَ إِنْ كَانَ الطَّعَامُ يُشَكِّكَ أَخِي، فَلَا أَكُلْ لِحَمَاءِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ لئَلَّا أَشْكَكَ أَخِي. أَلَسْتُ أَنَا رَسُولاً؟ أَلَسْتُ أَنَا حُرّاً؟ أَمَا رَأَيْتُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ رَبَّنَا؟ أَلَسْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ عَمَلِي فِي الرَّبِّ؟ وَإِنْ لَمْ أَكُنْ رَسُولاً إِلَى آخَرِينَ، فَإِنِّي رَسُولٌ إِلَيْكُمْ. لِأَنَّ خَاتَمَ رِسَالَتِي هُوَ أَنْتُمْ فِي الرَّبِّ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

الإنجيل

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِذِ الطَّاهِرِ. (46-31:25)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: مَتَى جَاءَ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ فِي مَجْدِهِ وَجَمِيعِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ مَعَهُ، فَحِينَئِذٍ يَجْلِسُ عَلَى عَرْشِ مَجْدِهِ. وَتُجْمَعُ إِلَيْهِ كُلُّ الْأُمَمِ، فَيَمَيِّرُ بَعْضَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْضٍ، كَمَا يَمَيِّرُ الرَّاعِي الْخِرَافَ مِنَ الْجِدَاءِ. وَيُقِيمُ الْخِرَافَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ وَالْجِدَاءَ عَنْ يَسَارِهِ. حِينَئِذٍ يَقُولُ الْمَلِكُ لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ يَمِينِهِ: تَعَالَوْا يَا مُبَارَكِي أَبِي رَثُوا الْمَلِكَ الْمُعَدَّ لَكُمْ مِنْذُ انْشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنِّي جَعْتُ فَأَطْعَمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَسَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُمْ غَرِيبًا فَأَوْثَمْتُمُونِي، وَغُرِيانًا فَكَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا فَعَدَّتُمُونِي، وَمَحْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْتُمُنِي إِلَى. حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُ الصِّدِّيقُونَ قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبُّ مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَائِعًا فَأَطْعَمْنَاكَ، أَوْ عَطِشَانَ فَسَقَيْنَاكَ؟ وَمَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ غَرِيبًا فَأَوْثَمْنَاكَ، أَوْ غُرِيانًا فَكَسَوْنَاكَ؟ وَمَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَحْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ؟ فَيُجِيبُ الْمَلِكُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ فَعَلْتُمْ ذَلِكَ بِأَحَدٍ إِخْوَتِي هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ فَبِي فَعَلْتُمُوهُ. حِينَئِذٍ يَقُولُ أَيْضًا لِلَّذِينَ عَنْ يَسَارِهِ: إِذْهَبُوا عَنِّي يَا مَلَاعِينُ إِلَى النَّارِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ الْمُعَدَّةِ لِإِبْلِيسَ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ. لِأَنِّي جَعْتُ فَلَمْ تُطْعِمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُمْ فَلَمْ تَسْقُونِي، وَكُنْتُمْ غَرِيبًا فَلَمْ تُؤْوِئُونِي، وَغُرِيانًا فَلَمْ تَكْسُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا وَمَحْبُوسًا فَلَمْ تَرْوُونِي. حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُونَهُ هُمْ أَيْضًا قَائِلِينَ: يَا رَبُّ، مَتَى رَأَيْنَاكَ جَائِعًا أَوْ عَطِشَانَ أَوْ غَرِيبًا أَوْ غُرِيانًا أَوْ مَرِيضًا أَوْ مَحْبُوسًا وَلَمْ نَخْدِمْكَ؟ حِينَئِذٍ يُجِيبُهُمْ قَائِلًا: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا ذَلِكَ بِأَحَدٍ هَؤُلَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، فَبِي لَمْ تَفْعَلُوهُ. فَيَذْهَبُ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَى الْعَذَابِ الْأَبَدِيِّ، وَالصِّدِّيقُونَ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ.

Love Your Neighbor

February – Special appeal through IOCC for LA Wildfire relief

Communication and coordination are underway with Orthodox dioceses on the west coast. Trained IOCC staff and Frontliners are on the ground and coordinating with Orthodox parishes in the affected areas to offer emotional and spiritual care (ESC), gathering information on local needs, and offering technical support to parishes who wish to assist their communities. This includes guidance on organizing and managing resources, operating as respite centers or shelters, as well as help in coordinating with FEMA, local emergency authorities, and other volunteer groups.

House Blessing

Fr. Nicholas will be visiting parishioners for house blessings. Please contact Fr. Nicholas (415-317-2072) to schedule your house blessing. Also, Fr. Nicholas might call, text or email you if he is going to a certain area near you. God bless you all!

Parish Meeting Success

We had a great 2025 Parish Meeting and elected two new members, Andrew Thayer and Raif Rihani to the Parish council, and Fr. Nicholas appointed one member, Tania De Groot. Thank you all for your willingness to serve your church!

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Sunday, February 23rd	Prison Ministry Card Workshop after Liturgy.
Sunday, February 23rd	Meatfare Sunday احد مرفع اللحم
Sunday, March 2nd	Cheesefare Sunday احد مرفع الجبن
Monday, March 3rd	Great Lent Begins
Wednesday, March 26th	Joseph Rodrigues will be speaking at Ascension Cathedral at a potluck sponsored by the Youth Council after their Presanctified Liturgy. He would love people from his parish to be there!

Coffee Hours

February 23rd	Dudum, Dietzmann and Morgan Families in memory of Jim & Rose Romley, Sig Dietzmann, Ray, Brad & Gloria Zachariah. May their memories be eternal!
March 2nd	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, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum Bennett, Fairouz Freij, Henriette Hilal** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rose Freij**. Many years!
- † Sue Gideon and Sandy Gangovi and family for the good health of grandson **Conner Gangovi**. And in memory of **Fred Gideon**, may his memory be eternal!
- † Victor and Angela Husary for the good health of **Chris Husary**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **George Wahbeh**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Prayers are being offered by Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Family in beloved memory of **Jim and Rose Romley, Ray, Gloria** and **Brad Zachariah** and **Sig Dietzmann**. 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!



- † 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

IOCC Update: Gaza: Finding Relief and Community Amidst Crisis

Nora (not her real name) is a 14-year-old girl who has been displaced multiple times due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Her family originally lived in Gaza City but were forced to flee their home, finding refuge in a displacement camp. The upheaval caused Nora to lose her sense of safety, and she began to struggle with fear and anxiety.



While dealing with these problems, Nora and her family learned about a project implemented through IOCC, providing recreational activities for displaced children in Gaza. Nora decided to attend an event organized by IOCC, which gave her the opportunity to participate in fun and playful activities and to socialize in a lighthearted atmosphere.

Despite very difficult circumstances, Nora expressed how much happiness and relief she felt being able to play and experience a bit of joy again. She hopes to attend similar events in the future, and is grateful to IOCC for helping the youth in her community get together in a spirit of fun.



Rocco's Ristorante
Pizzeria

DINE AND DONATE
THURSDAY MARCH 6th

20% Give back, Dine in or take-out
ALL DAY LONG

Mention ST. JOHN & show flyer
2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek,
CA 94598

ST. JOHN'S
**PASCHA
EGG HUNT**

APRIL 19TH, 2024 | AFTER MORNING LITURGY

EGG HUNT, BRUNCH, ARTS & CRAFT, & MORE!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE
PLEASE CONTACT RANIA KASHOU

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

INVITES YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO

~THE 46th ANNUAL CRAB FEED~



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025
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: \$75

CHILDREN (UNDER 13): \$25

For information, tickets, or to volunteer please call: Parish Office (925) 258-4255, Deacon
Nicholas (Najeeb) (510) 237-6049

YOUR DONATIONS ARE A HUGE PART OF EACH SUCCESS!

Crab Feed Donations 2025: For the February 22nd, 2025 Crab Feed, it is not too early to contact Dn. Nicholas Adranly (510) 237-6049 with your donations!

The Crab Feed Placemat will feature business card size ads for a standard donation of \$80, Medium Size for \$250, Large size for \$350 and Premium size for \$500. Please make your checks payable to St. John AOC. And give or send them with your business card to Dn. Nicholas.

FUNDRAISER

JOIN US!



**IS GIVING
50% BACK TO:**

**St. John Orthodox
Church**

**Thursday, Apr 24
All day**

The Kebab Shop
2359 Oak Grove Rd Bldg H
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To participate in this fundraiser, show this flyer during checkout at the store or order online at order.thekebabshop.com using the fundraiser coupon code below.

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This fundraiser event is between St. John Orthodox Church and The Kebab Shop. The Kebab Shop will donate 50% of qualifying food and beverage sales to St. John Orthodox Church. Additional sales exclusions may apply including: Delivery, Catering, any other promotions. Offer valid only on select date(s) and location(s). Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the store. The Kebab Shop may impose additional terms and conditions.



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

You could use this QR code for your donation

