

+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, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 5

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

TARASIOS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE;

HIEROMARTYR MARKELLOS, BISHOP OF APAMEA IN SYRIA

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the



publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الرسالة

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجَبَلِ،
حَاصِنِي، يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيْمُوثَاوَسَ.

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي، وَسِيرَتِي، وَقَصْدِي، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَا تِي، وَمَحَبَّتِي، وَصَبْرِي، وَاضْطَهَادَاتِي، وَأَلَامِي، وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي إِنْطَاكِيَّةٍ وَأَيُقُونِيَّةٍ وَلِسْتَرَةَ، وَأَيَّةِ اضْطَهَادَاتٍ اِحْتَمَلْتُ، وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعْشُوا بِالتَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمُعْوُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَيَزْدَادُونَ شَرًّا، مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضَلَّلِينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّي أَنْتِ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيَقَنْتِ بِهِ، عَالِمًا مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتِ، وَأَنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخَلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

الإنجيل

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، التِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانَانِ صَعِدَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ لِيُصَلِّيَا، أَحَدُهُمَا فَرِيسِيٌّ وَالْآخَرُ عَشَّارٌ. فَكَانَ الْفَرِيسِيُّ وَاقِفًا يُصَلِّي فِي نَفْسِهِ هَكَذَا، "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْكُرُكَ لِأَنِّي لَسْتُ كَسَائِرِ النَّاسِ الْخَطْفَةِ، الظَّالِمِينَ، الْفَاسِقِينَ، وَلَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْعَشَّارِ. فَإِنِّي أَصُومُ فِي الْأُسْبُوعِ مَرَّتَيْنِ، وَأَعَشِّرُ كُلَّ مَا هُوَ لِي." أَمَّا الْعَشَّارُ فَوَقَفَ عَن بُعْدٍ، وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، بَلْ كَانَ يَقْرَعُ صَدْرَهُ قَائِلًا، "اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْخَاطِيءُ." أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ هَذَا نَزَلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُبَرَّرًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ رَفَعَ نَفْسَهُ اتَّضَعَّ، وَمَنْ وَضَعَ نَفْسَهُ ارْتَفَعَ.

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 4th. 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. Thank you!

Parish Council Members

The names below are current members of the St. John Parish Council. Each of these fellow parishioners attend council meetings every month, lead or serve on various parish committees, and support our parish in many other ways. We thank them for giving generously of their time, talents, and treasure for the wellbeing of our parish.

When you see them at church services or at parish activities, let them know you appreciate their service to our community. In addition, let them hear from you when you have a comment, question, or concern about any aspect of parish life at St. John. Parishioner input allows them to make the best possible decisions.

Moving forward, this message will appear in the Bulletin once every month as a way of reminding us of this part of our parish organizational structure.

Parish Council Members

Fr. Nicholas Borzghol
Dn. Nicholas Adranly
Raif Rihani (chairman)
Samir Youakim (vice chairman)
Matthew Simon (treasurer)
Charlene Nassoura (secretary)
Jordis Fasheh
Andrew Thayer
Neezar Samara
David Kashou
Samir Syriani

Ex-Officio Members

Paula Kassouf (Sunday school)
Angie Kreta (Choir)
Dn. Nicholas Adranly (men's fellowship)
Fadwa Samara (ladies)



Lore Roasters!

More information to follow!

Upcoming Events

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

Coffee Hours

February 25th	Sonia Neshiwat in memory of her father Jeries Neshiwat (42 years).
March 3rd	Denise Dudum, Dana Dietzmann & Dale Morgan
March 10th	Munayer family in memory of Mariam Munayer (one year). May her memory be eternal!
March 17th	Sponsor Needed
March 24th	Mona Thayer in memory of Matilda & Nicola Messih. May their memory be eternal!

Memorial Services

Sunday, February 25th. 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!



-
- † 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

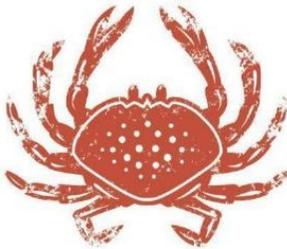
St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

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~

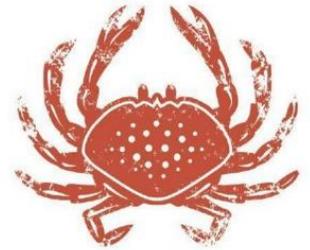


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2024

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

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.

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!

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

SAINT JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECT

FUNDRAISING

Donor Recognition Levels for Donor Wall in Hall Foyer

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

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

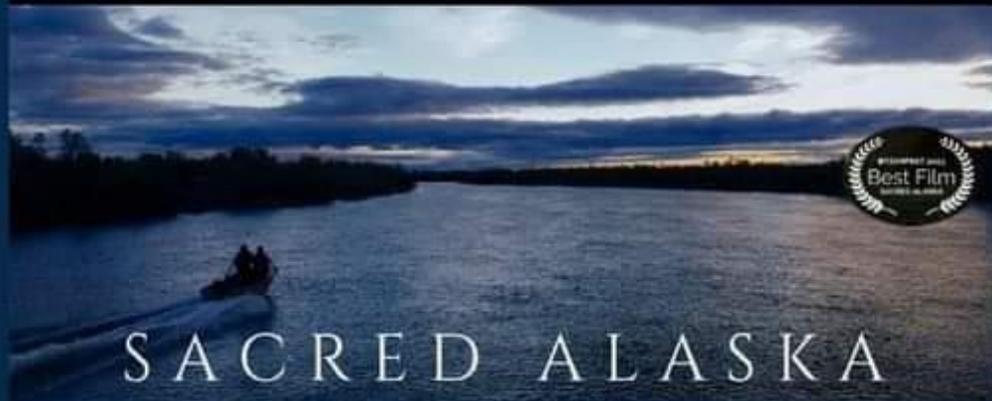
Fundraising Efforts since Beginning the Project

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



Rocco's Ristorante
Pizzeria

DINE AND DONATE
MARCH 21ST

Dine in or take-out
ALL DAY LONG

MENTION ST. JOHN
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