



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

Dn. Nicholas Adranly

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FEBRUARY 26, 2023

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

PORPHYRIOS, BISHOP OF GAZA; GREAT-MARTYR PHEME THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AND THOSE WITH HER



The Sunday of Forgiveness

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

THE EPISTLE (For the Sunday of Forgiveness)

O chant unto our God, chant ye. Clap your hands, all ye nations!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

الرسالة

رتلوا لإلهنا رتلوا.

يا جميع الأمم صققوا بالأيادي.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل رومية.

قَدْ تَنَاهَى اللَّيْلُ وَاقْتَرَبَ النَّهَارُ، فَلْنَدْعُ عَنَّا أَعْمَالَ الظُّلْمَةِ. يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِنَّ خَلَاصَنَا الْآنَ أَقْرَبُ مِمَّا كَانَ حِينَ آمَنَّا لِنَسْلُكَنَّ سُلُوكًا لَاتِقًا كَمَا فِي النَّهَارِ، لَا بِالْقُصُوفِ وَالسُّكْرِ، وَلَا بِالْمَضَاجِعِ وَالْعَهْرِ، وَلَا وَنَلْبَسَ أَسْلِحَةَ النُّورِ مَنْ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا فِي. بِالْخِصَامِ وَالْحَسَدِ، بَلِ الْبُسُو الرِّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ وَلَا تَهْتَمُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ لِقَضَاءِ شَهَوَاتِهَا مِنْ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَعْتَقِدُ أَنَّ لَهُ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، أَمَّا الضَّعِيفُ فَيَأْكُلُ. الْإِيمَانِ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ بِغَيْرِ مُبَاحَثَةٍ فِي الْآرَاءِ مَنْ أَنْتَ يَا مَنْ . فَلَا يَزْدِرِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ مَنْ لَا يَأْكُلُ وَلَا يَدِينُ الَّذِي لَا يَأْكُلُ مَنْ يَأْكُلُ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدِ اتَّخَذَهُ. بَقُولًا تَدِينُ عَبْدًا أَجْنَبِيًّا؟ إِنَّهُ لِمَوْلَاهُ يَنْبُثُ أَوْ يَسْقُطُ. لَكِنَّهُ سَيَنْبُثُ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يُنْبِثَهُ.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: إِنَّ غَفْرَتُمْ لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ أَبُوكُمُ السَّمَاوِيِّ أَيْضًا. وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، فَأَبُوكُمْ أَيْضًا لَا يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ زَلَّاتِكُمْ. وَمَتَى صُمْتُمْ، فَلَا تَكُونُوا مُعْبَسِينَ كَالْمُرَائِينَ. فَإِنَّهُمْ يُنْكِرُونَ وَجُوهَهُمْ لِيُظْهِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ صَائِمِينَ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُمْ قَدْ أَخَذُوا أَجْرَهُمْ. أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَإِذَا صُمْتَ، فَادْهِنْ رَأْسَكَ وَاغْسِلْ وَجْهَكَ لئَلَّا تَظْهَرَ لِلنَّاسِ صَائِمًا، بَلْ لِأَبِيكَ الَّذِي فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ، وَأَبُوكَ الَّذِي يَرَى فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ يُجَازِيكَ عَلَانِيَةً. لَا تَكْنِزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، حَيْثُ يُفْسِدُ السُّوسُ وَالْآكِلَةُ وَيَنْقَبُ السَّارِقُونَ وَيَسْرِقُونَ. لَكِنْ اكْنِزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا فِي السَّمَاءِ حَيْثُ لَا يُفْسِدُ سَوْسٌ وَلَا آكِلَةٌ وَلَا يَنْقَبُ السَّارِقُونَ وَلَا يَسْرِقُونَ. لِأَنَّهُ حَيْثُ تَكُونُ كُنُوزُكُمْ، هُنَاكَ تَكُونُ قُلُوبُكُمْ.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 26th	Cheese fare Sunday احد مرفع الجبن 5:30pm Forgiveness Vespers
Sunday, February 26th	One year memorial service for the servant of God Fred Gedeon, offered by Sue Gedeon, daughter Sandi, son Stan, daughter in law Ann and the grandchildren. May his memory be eternal!
Sunday, February 26th	Ladie's meeting
Monday, February 27th	Beginning of Lent بدء الصيام الكبير , Great Compline and canon of St. Andrew
Wednesday, March 1st	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, March 3rd	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 7:00 PM
Sunday, March 19th	Ladies of St. John's Kaak and Falafel sale. We appreciate your pre orders by calling Fadwa Samara at 510-909-0119 or Rula Adranly at 510 508-0929 or in person on Sundays.
Sunday, April 16, 2023	Pascha/Easter

Coffee Hours

February 26	Sue Gedeon, daughter Sandi, son Stan, daughter in law Ann and the grandchildren in memory of the servant of God Fred Gedeon. May his memory be eternal!
March 5th	Dudum, Dietzmann and Morgan family in memory of Jim and Rose Romley, Siz Dietmann, Ray, Gloria and Brad Zachariah.

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Julian and Mary Farradj**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jane Nassif**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the **victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey**. For the good health of the survivors and memory eternal for the departed!
- † Steve and Angie Kreta for the good health of their son in law **Colin Roth**. 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!



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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin

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 44TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED~



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2023

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

DINNER 7:00 PM

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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 2023: 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 Dcn Nicholas

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE
OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST



AN ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT!

March 31- April 2, 2023



Featured Keynote Speaker
Rev. Fr. Thomas Hernandez
St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Church
St. George, Utah

Theme

The Dominance of Christian
Humility: The Antidote to
Self-Delusion

In Person at Camp St.
Nicholas 11770 Frontier Rd.
Frazier Park, CA 93225

COST

- \$170 Includes 5 meals, snacks, room, and board.
- \$80 Saturday only, Includes 3 meals and snacks.



V. Rev. Fr. David Hovik
DLAW Antiochian Women
Spiritual Leader
St. Andrew Antiochian
Orthodox Church
Arlington, WA

For any questions, please contact Khourieh Jean Baba,
DLAW Retreat Coordinator @ (916) 955-4736



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: PV055/2023

February 7, 2023

To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful,

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

This week we learned with heavy hearts of the devastation wrought by the powerful earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The toll of death and destruction is only slowly coming to light, but it is clear that thousands have died and the lives and livelihoods of many have been wrecked. In these moments, as our hearts break for our fellow man—especially for our brothers and sisters in the Faith—we feel acutely what St. Paul said about the Body of Christ: “When one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Brethren, the same apostle teaches us to share what we have with those who are now in need, knowing that a time may come when they can help us. He writes, “It is not that you should be burdened so that others might have it easy. Rather, out of equality, your abundance should now go toward their need, so that their abundance might someday supply your need, so that there might be equality” (2 Cor. 8:13–14). This openhearted sharing is an affirmation of our bonds with those now suffering. It is also an expression of love, which always takes the burden of the beloved upon one’s own shoulders.

I call upon all our parishes to collect contributions each Sunday throughout the month of February for the relief of those suffering as a result of this earthquake. Immediately after each Sunday, each parish should mail a check for the funds collected that Sunday to our archdiocese headquarters and email the total amount to Mr. Daniel Nehme at our headquarters (dnehme@antiochian.org), which will allow us to distribute the funds more quickly. Individuals can also contribute online at antiochian.org/earthquake. We will forward the collected funds to His Beatitude Patriarch John X as they come in, as a demonstration of our love, to be distributed through our patriarchal relief agencies to those affected by this disaster.

With love and prayers for you as we approach the holy struggle of Great Lent, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies

Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America Provides Relief to Earthquake Survivors

The clergy and laity continuously offer prayers and precious dollars to save lives in Turkey and Syria.

On the morning of Feb. 6, 2023, two earthquakes of magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5 rocked southern Turkey and northern Syria. To date, the death toll has surpassed 41,000 people in both countries and tens of thousands of people are homeless. Countless homes and houses of worship have been destroyed.

Heeding the distress call of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, Patriarchal Vicar, and the clergy and laity of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America immediately mobilized to express their love, firstly by lifting their prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims, the health of the survivors, and to save those who are trapped in the rubble. The following litany was offered to the divine service:

“For the preservation of all victims of the recent natural disaster in Syria and Turkey, and for the souls of all who have perished, let us pray to the Lord.”

The Archdiocese of North America wired an initial contribution of \$250,000 to the Patriarchate to aid in the relief efforts in Syria and Turkey that provide food, clothing, counseling, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, diapers, medicine and medical supplies to earthquake survivors, some of whom are staying in Antiochian churches and halls. On Feb. 14, a delegation from by His Beatitude arrived in Adana, Turkey to assess the urgent needs and to coordinate relief efforts on the ground.

Complementing the relief efforts, the Archdiocese of North America established an online donation portal at Antiochian.org/earthquake. To date, more than \$292,000 has been raised here, with generous donors often paying transaction fees to ensure 100% of their donations will reach earthquake survivors. Additionally, anonymous donors set up a matching grant of \$150,000 for online donations which has now been matched. Therefore, online donations have reached more than \$442,000 at this point.

Furthermore, the churches of the Archdiocese of North America are taking special collections (trays) for earthquake victims on Sundays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26. As this money reaches the Archdiocesan headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey, along with the online and other private donations, it will be wired regularly to the Patriarchate to sponsor relief efforts on the ground.

The Archdiocese of North America ensures that every dollar collected through its mechanisms will reach relief efforts without transactional delays.

Additionally, the Archdiocese of North America applauds the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury for easing sanctions on Syria, authorizing all transactions related to earthquake and humanitarian relief that would otherwise be hindered under the existing sanctions regulations for 180 days. This is good news in the short term that will hopefully raise awareness about the humanitarian and economic crises that have now plagued Syria for over a decade. The Archdiocese stands ready to help the U.S. government find long-term, peaceful solutions.

Keep up with the latest news on the Archdiocese of North America’s relief efforts on its online platforms. And please keep giving generously to help our suffering brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria.



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“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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