



# +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 02, 2025**

**TONE 7 / EOTHINON 10**

**PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**



## **The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple**

On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

The Greek word for the feast is "Hypapante" [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means "Encounter" or "Meeting." However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the

divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus' first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. "Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory" (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*

*For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)**

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek".

## الرسالة

تُعْظِمُ نَفْسِي الرَّبِّ وَتَبْتَهِّجُ رُوحِي بِاللَّهِ مُخْلِصِي. لِأَنَّهُ نَظَرَ إِلَى تَوَاضِعِ أُمَّتِهِ.  
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولِيِّ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (7:17-17)

يا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّهُ مِمَّا لَا خِلَافَ فِيهِ إِنَّ الْأَضْعَرَ يَأْخُذُ الْبَرَكَاتِ مِنَ الْأَكْبَرَ شَأْنًا. وَهَهُنَا إِنَّمَا يَأْخُذُ الْعُشُورَ أَنْاسٌ يَمُوتُونَ. فَأَمَّا هُنَاكَ فَالْمَشْهُودُ لَهُ بِأَنَّهُ حَيٌّ. فَيَسُوعُ أَنْ يُقَالَ إِنَّ لَآوِي نَفْسَهُ الَّذِي يَأْخُذُ الْعُشُورَ قَدْ آدَى الْعُشُورَ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ. لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ فِي صُلْبِ أَبِيهِ حِينَ التَّقَاهُ مَلِكِيصَادِقَ. وَلَوْ كَانَ بِالْكَهَنُوتِ اللَّاَوِيِّ كَمَالَ (فَإِنَّ الشَّعْبَ عَلَيْهِ قَدْ أَخَذَ النَّامُوسَ) إِذَنْ أَيْتُهُ حَاجَةٌ كَانَتْ بَعْدَ أَنْ يَقُومَ كَاهِنٌ آخَرَ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادِقَ، وَلَمْ يَقُلْ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ هَارُونَ؟ لِأَنَّهُ مَتَى تَحَوَّلَ الْكَهَنُوتُ، فَلَا بُدَّ مِنْ تَحَوُّلِ النَّامُوسِ أَيْضًا. وَالْحَالُ إِنَّ الَّذِي يُقَالُ هَذَا فِيهِ، إِنَّمَا كَانَ مُشْتَرِكًا فِي سِبْطِ آخَرَ، لَمْ يَلِزِمَ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُ الْمَدْبَحَ. لِأَنَّهُ مِنَ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّ رَبَّنَا طَلَعَ مِنْ يَهُودَا، مِنَ السَّبْطِ الَّذِي لَمْ يَتَكَلَّمْ عَنْهُ مُوسَى بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْكَهَنُوتِ. وَمِمَّا يَزِيدُ الْأَمْرَ وُضُوحًا، إِنَّهُ يَقُومُ عَلَى مِثَالِ مَلِكِيصَادِقَ كَاهِنٌ آخَرَ، غَيْرُ مَنْصُوبٍ حَسَبَ نَامُوسِ وَصِيَّةِ جَسَدِيَّةٍ، بَلْ حَسَبَ قُوَّةِ حَيَاةٍ لَا تَزُولُ. لِأَنَّهُ يَشْهَدُ "أَنْ أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادِقَ."

## THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (2:22-40)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، صَعِدَ بِالطِّفْلِ يَسُوعَ أَبَوَاهُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِيَقْدِمَاهُ لِلرَّبِّ (عَلَى حَسَبِ مَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي نَامُوسِ الرَّبِّ، "أَنْ كُلَّ ذَكَرٍ فَاتِحٍ رَحْمٍ يُدْعَى قُدُوسًا لِلرَّبِّ")، وَلِيَقْرَبَا ذَبِيحَةً عَلَى حَسَبِ مَا قِيلَ فِي نَامُوسِ الرَّبِّ، "رُوجٌ يَمَامٍ أَوْ فِرْحَانِ حَمَامٍ." وَكَانَ إِنْسَانٌ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ اسْمُهُ سِمْعَانُ، وَكَانَ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانُ بَارًّا وَتَقِيًّا، يَنْتَظِرُ تَعْزِيَةَ إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَالرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ. وَكَانَ قَدْ أَوْجَى إِلَيْهِ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ أَنَّهُ لَا يَرَى الْمَوْتَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُعَايَنَ مَسِيحَ الرَّبِّ. فَأَقْبَلَ بِالرُّوحِ إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ. وَعِنْدَمَا دَخَلَ بِالطِّفْلِ يَسُوعَ أَبَوَاهُ لِيَصْنَعَا لَهُ بِحَسَبِ عَادَةِ النَّامُوسِ، أَقْبَلَهُ هُوَ عَلَى ذِرَاعَيْهِ، وَبَارَكَ اللَّهَ، وَقَالَ: "الآن تَطْلُقُ عَبْدَكَ أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ عَلَى حَسَبِ قَوْلِكَ بِسَلَامٍ، فَإِنَّ عَيْنِي قَدْ أَبْصَرْتُ خَلَاصَكَ الَّذِي أَعَدَدْتَهُ أَمَامَ وُجُوهِ جَمِيعِ الشُّعُوبِ، نُورَ إِعْلَانٍ لِلْأُمَّمِ وَمَجْدًا لِشُعْبِكَ إِسْرَائِيلَ." وَكَانَ يَوْسُفُ وَأُمُّهُ يَتَعَجَّبَانِ مِمَّا يُقَالُ فِيهِ. وَبَارَكَهُمَا سِمْعَانُ وَقَالَ لِمَرْيَمَ أُمِّهِ: "ها إِنَّ هَذَا قَدْ جُعِلَ لِسُقُوطِ وَقِيَامِ كَثِيرِينَ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَهَدَفًا لِلْمُخَالَفَةِ (وَأَنْتِ سَيَجُوزُ سَيْفٌ فِي نَفْسِكَ) لِكَيْ تُكْشَفَ أَفْكَارٌ عَنْ قُلُوبِ كَثِيرَةٍ." وَكَانَتْ أَيْضًا حَنَّةُ النَّبِيَّةِ ابْنَةُ فَنُوتِيلَ مِنْ سِبْطِ أَشِيرَ. هَذِهِ كَانَتْ قَدْ تَقَدَّمَتْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ كَثِيرًا، وَكَانَتْ قَدْ عَاشَتْ مَعَ رَجُلِهَا سَبْعَ سِنِينَ بَعْدَ بُكُورِيَّتِهَا. وَلَهَا أَرْمَلَةٌ نَحْوَ أَرْبَعِ وَثَمَانِينَ سَنَةً، لَا تُفَارِقُ الْهَيْكَلَ، مُتَعَبِّدَةً بِالْأَصْوَامِ وَالطَّلِبَاتِ لَيْلًا نَهَارًا. فَهَذِهِ قَدْ حَصَرَتْ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ تَشْكُرُ الرَّبَّ، وَتُحَدِّثُ عَنْهُ كُلَّ مَنْ كَانَ يَنْتَظِرُ فِدَاءً فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ. وَلَمَّا أَتَمُّوا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عَلَى حَسَبِ نَامُوسِ الرَّبِّ، رَجَعُوا إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِمُ النَّاصِرَةِ. وَكَانَ الصَّبِيُّ يَنْمُو وَيَتَقَوَّى فِي الرُّوحِ، مُمْتَلِئًا حِكْمَةً، وَكَانَتْ نِعْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.

## 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!

## Upcoming Events

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	General parish meeting. One year memorial service by Nadia Zeidan and family for Hayat Abboud (Nadia's mother) and Shafika Khoury (Nadia's aunt). May their memories be eternal!
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Memorial Service (10 year) by Laila Adranly and family in memory of Naim Adranly. May his memory be eternal!
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Ladie's meeting

## Coffee Hours

<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Sam and Nadia Zidan for the good health of their children Ramsey, Susan, Nancy and Dr. Joe. Many years!
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	By Laila Adranly and family in memory of Naim Adranly. May his memory be eternal!
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	The Adranly family in memory of Nuha Farraj (1 year). May her memory be eternal!
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	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, Henriette Hilal, George Wahbeh** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Haseeb Kaileh**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † Rocky and Nada Dudum for the good health of **Sandy Dudum Bennett**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rose Freij**. Many years!

## Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

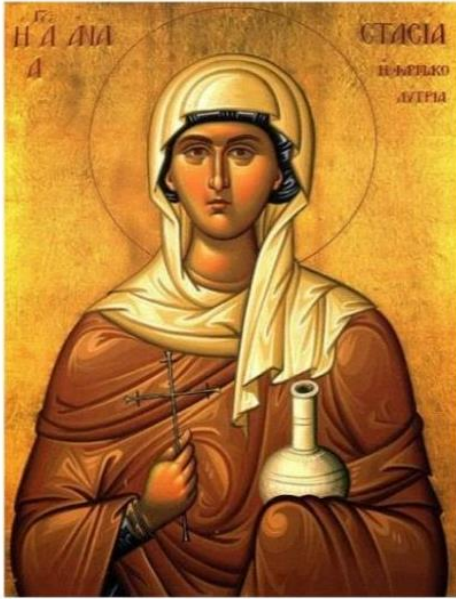
- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



- 
- † 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

# St. Anastasia's Fellowship

A 12-Step Fellowship for Orthodox Christians seeking recovery from alcoholism and addiction in its many forms



Every Sunday @ 7pm

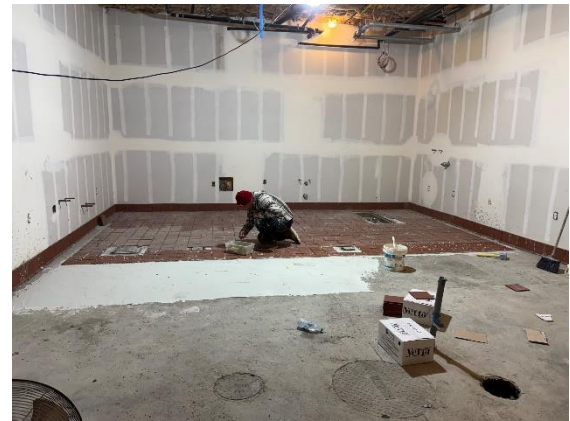
St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

501 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563

Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848

## Fellowship Hall Update

As seen in the photos below, the bathroom tiles have been delivered, the kitchen floor is being prepared and the prime paint layer has been applied!



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

APRIL 19TH, 2024 | AFTER MORNING LITURGY

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

INVITES YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO

~THE 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
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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.

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

You could use this QR code for your donation

