



# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 01, 2023**

**FEASTS OF CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST & BASIL THE GREAT**

NEW-MARTYR PETER OF THE PELOPONNESOS



**Christ is Born.**

**Glorify Him!**

**The Circumcision in the Flesh of  
Christ and Father among the  
Saints Basil the Great**

On January 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Circumcision in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ; it being the eighth day after His birth, we commemorate also the

giving of the Name of Jesus.



The Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. Thus, the Apostle Paul declares: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Gal. 6:15).

On this day we also commemorate our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him, which we will celebrate today. Basil reposed peacefully in 379.

## THE EPISTLE

*My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.*

*Hear this, all ye people.*

### **The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul Epistle to the Colossians. (2:8-12)**

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

## الرسالة

فَمِي تَتَكَلَّمُ بِالْحِكْمَةِ، وَقَلْبِي يَهْدُ بِالْفَهْمِ. اِسْمَعُوا هَذَا يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُولُوسِي.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، انظُرُوا أَنْ لَا يَسْلِبِكُمْ أَحَدٌ بِالْفُلْسَفَةِ وَالغُرُورِ الْبَاطِلِ حَسَبَ تَقْلِيدِ النَّاسِ عَلَى مُقْتَضَى أَرْكَانِ الْعَالَمِ لَا عَلَى مُقْتَضَى الْمَسِيحِ. فَإِنَّهُ فِيهِ يَحِلُّ كُلُّ مِلءِ اللَّاهُوتِ جَسَدِيًّا. وَأَنْتُمْ مَمْلُوءُونَ فِيهِ، وَهُوَ رَأْسُ كُلِّ رِئَاسَةٍ وَسُلْطَانٍ. وَفِيهِ خُتِنْتُمْ خِتَانًا لَيْسَ مِنْ عَمَلِ الْإِنْدِي، بَلْ بِحَلْعِ جِسْمِ حَطَايَا الْبَشَرِيَّةِ عَنْكُمْ بِخِتَانِ الْمَسِيحِ. مَدْفُونِينَ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَعْمُودِيَّةِ، الَّتِي فِيهَا أَيْضًا أَقِمْتُمْ مَعَهُ بِإِيمَانِكُمْ، بِعَمَلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَقَامَهُ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:20-21, 40-52)**

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشاره القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير، والتلميذ الطاهر

في ذلك الزمان، رجع الرعاة وهم يمجدون الله ويسبحونه على كل ما سمعوا، وعانوا كما قيل لهم. ولما تمت ثمانية أيام ليختن الصبي، سمي يسوع كما سماه الملاك قبل أن يحنل به في البطن. وكان الصبي ينمو ويتقوى بالروح ممتلئاً حكمة، وكانت نعمة الله عليه. وكان أبواه يذهبان إلى أورشليم كل سنة في عيد الفصح. فلما بلغ اثنتي عشرة سنة، صعدا إلى أورشليم كعادة العيد. ولما أتتا الأيام، بقي عند رجوعهما الصبي يسوع في أورشليم، ويوسف وأمه لا يعلمان. وإذا كانا يظنان أنه مع الرفقة، سافرا مسيرة يوم، وكانا يطلبانه بين الأقارب والمعارف. وإذا لم يجداه، رجعا إلى أورشليم يطلبانه. وبعد ثلاثة أيام، وجداه في الهيكل، جالسا فيما بين المعلمين، يسمعون ويسألهم. وكان جميع الذين يسمعون منذهشين من فهمه وأجوبته، فلما نظراه بهتا. فقالت له أمه: يا ابني، لم صنعت بنا هكذا؟ ها إننا أنا وأباك كنا نطلبك متوجعين! فقال لهم: لماذا تطلبانني؟ ألم تعلما أنه ينبغي لي أن أكون فيما هو لأبي؟ فلم يفهما هما الكلام الذي قاله لهما. ثم نزل معهما، وأتى الناصرة، وكان خاضعا لهما. وكانت أمه تحفظ ذلك الكلام كله في قلبها. وأما يسوع فكان يتقدم في الحكمة والسن والنعمه عند الله والناس.

### **Support St. John's Church through Amazon Smile**

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### **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** - Saturday, 1/14/23 5:00 pm

Let's get together for a casual evening of good food, games and fellowship. All are welcome!! Please bring a dish to share and a fun game you would like to play. We'll eat together in the church hall then gather for games - younger kids in the classrooms, Teens in the teen room, etc.

Please see Rula Adranly to sign up or email at [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net) so we can have an idea of how many to expect. We hope this will be the start of a new tradition at St. John's.

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Memorial Service (at St. Nicholas church in San Francisco) in Memory of Audie John Dudum from the Dudum Families. Coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy will be hosted by the Dudum Families. May his memory eternal!
<b>Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	5:00pm Family Fun Night for adults, teens and kids to share a potluck meal, play games and more.
<b>Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	One year memorial service for the servant of God Fred Gedeon. May his memory be eternal!

### **Coffee Hours**

<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>New Year's Day 2023</b>
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### 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!
- † Mariam Munayer and family in memory of **Khalil Munayer** (12 yr.). May his memory be eternal!
- † Victor and Angel Husary and family for the good health of **Chris Husary**. 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 Swiess, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin



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- † Poinsettias to adorn the Royal Doors in loving memory of **Nick Sr. and Helen Nicola** by Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain, Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Ronald and Nancy Nicola and families

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

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**SAVE THE DATE**

## **MOM'S RETREAT WITH THE SPEIER'S**

**Hosted by Antiochian Women DLAW**

- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 11th
- **WHERE:** St Timothy - Fairfield, CA
- **WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Mom's of all ages & even mom's to be!

**Registration Information Out In Early January**

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**

**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 \$65**

**CHILDREN (UNDER 13) \$25**

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*For information, tickets, or to volunteer please call: Parish Office (925) 258-4255, Or*

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Dn Nicholas (Najeeb) (510) 207-1796

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