



# +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  
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**JANUARY 12, 2025**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**

MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER; MARTYR PETER ABSALOM OF PALESTINE



## **Holy Martyr Tatiana**

On January 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we commemorate the holy Martyr Tatiana of Rome, the Deaconess, and those with her.

Tatiana lived during the reign of Emperor Alexander Severus, whose chief assistants persecuted Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to disfigure

Tatiana, but God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds. Each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. Finally, Tatiana and her father were both beheaded in about the year 225. Thus, this heroic woman and those with her were crowned with immortal wreaths of glory.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.*

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## الرسالة

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا.  
ابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس. (4:7-13)

يا إخوة، لكلِّ واحدٍ مِنَّا أُعْطِيَتِ النِّعْمَةُ عَلَى مِقْدَارِ مَوْهَبَةِ الْمَسِيحِ. فَذَلِكَ يَقُولُ لَمَّا صَعِدَ إِلَى الْعُلَى سَبَى سَبِيًّا وَأَعْطَى النَّاسَ عَطَايَا. "فَكَوْنُهُ صَعِدَ، هَلْ هُوَ إِلَّا أَنَّهُ نَزَلَ أَوَّلًا إِلَى أَسْفَلِ الْأَرْضِ؟ فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي نَزَلَ، هُوَ الَّذِي صَعِدَ أَيْضًا فَوْقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ كُلِّهَا لِيَمْلَأَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَهُوَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْبَعْضُ رُسُلًا، وَالْبَعْضُ أَنْبِيَاءَ، وَالْبَعْضُ مُبَشِّرِينَ، وَالْبَعْضُ رِعَاةَ، وَمُعَلِّمِينَ، لِأَجْلِ تَكْمِيلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ، وَلِعَمَلِ الْخِدْمَةِ، وَبُنْيَانِ جَسَدِ الْمَسِيحِ إِلَى أَنْ نَنْتَهِيَ جَمِيعُنَا إِلَى وَحْدَةِ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَعْرِفَةِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ، إِلَى إِنْسَانٍ كَامِلٍ، إِلَى مِقْدَارِ قَامَةِ مِلءِ الْمَسِيحِ.

## THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand".

## الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمْيِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (4:12-17)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، لَمَّا سَمِعَ يَسُوعُ أَنَّ يُوْحَنَّا قَدْ أُسْلِمَ، انْصَرَفَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ. وَتَرَكَ النَّاصِرَةَ، وَجَاءَ فَسَكَنَ فِي كَفَرْنَاهُومَ الَّتِي عَلَى شَاطِئِ الْبَحْرِ فِي تَخُومِ زَبُولُونَ وَنَفْتَالِيمَ. لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِأَشْعِيَاءَ النَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: أَرْضُ زَبُولُونَ وَأَرْضُ نَفْتَالِيمَ، طَرِيقُ الْبَحْرِ، عَبْرَ الْأَرْدُنِّ، جَلِيلُ الْأُمَمِ. الشَّعْبُ الْجَالِسُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ أَبْصَرَ نُورًا عَظِيمًا، وَالْجَالِسُونَ فِي بُقْعَةِ الْمَوْتِ وَظِلَالِهِ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْهِمْ نُورٌ. وَمُنْذُئذِ ابْتَدَأَ يَسُوعُ يَكْرُزُ وَيَقُولُ: تَوْبُوا، فَقَدْ اقْتَرَبَ مَلَكُوتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

## Love Your Neighbor

### January – St John's Community Fund/Special offering

The St John's Community fund is a special fund that will allow our priest to help, anonymously, anyone in our parish throughout the year that may need temporary financial help.

## St. Anastasia Fellowship Presentation

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity, Father Nikolas Delaveris will present his St. Anastasia model of Orthodox recovery. This uniquely Orthodox approach to addressing addiction has been successfully implemented on the East Coast. Anyone who struggles with addiction, supports persons with addiction, has been in a recovery program, or who simply wants to learn more about this subject is invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place in the lower level of the church. Obviously, the hope is that this meeting might generate interest in establishing similar groups in the Bay Area.

## 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!

## Open House

Afaf Wahbeh will have an open house for those who wish to visit her for condolences on the passing into eternal life of her brother Hasseb Kaileh. May his memory be eternal!

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Memorial service (40 days) by Suzanne Gebara for her mother Afaf Gebara. May her memory be eternal!
<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!

**Coffee Hours**

<b>January 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Munayer family in memory of Khalil Ibrahim Munayer, husband of Mariam Munayer, Father of Amal, Ibrahim and Joseph (Stephani) Munayer. May his memory be eternal!
<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Suzanne Gebara in memory of her mother Afaf Gebara. May her memory be eternal!
<b>January 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	By Laila Adranly and family in memory of Naim Adranly. May his 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!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of baby **Isaiah Karanikola**. 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



MARCH WITH US

for the

2025 Orthodox  
Gathering

of the

**WALK  
for LIFE**

Saturday, January 25  
12:00 PM

Civic Center Plaza,  
San Francisco, CA

Corner of Polk Street &  
Grove Street



for details go to [oclife.org/walk](http://oclife.org/walk)

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

## Building Committee Update:

We are expecting the funds from the bank loan to be deposited in our building fund this week and we can commence the new year with gusto to complete our fellowship hall. First items we are looking to complete, once we have collected and reviewed all bids, are the kitchen and bathroom floors, walls, fixtures, equipment, and final electrical and mechanical installation.

As previously discussed, we are reviewing all remaining aspects of the hall to ensure we first complete those absolutely necessary for the certificate of occupancy from the county. Any remaining items can be completed after we have access to use of the hall. Of course, with continued support and value engineering, we would like to complete everything according to design right away. And yes, the rails will be primed and painted once all hand and guardrails are completely installed. Thank you for your continued support of this important project, and as always, please feel free to ask any questions you may have and any member of the building committee will be happy to address them.

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  
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.

You could use this QR code for your donation



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA  
The Right Reverend  
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America  
Diocese of Los Angeles  
and the West

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
After-feast of Theophany;  
Righteous George of Hozeva; Righteous Domnica of Constantinople**

Beloved: Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We expect the New Year to start out restfully, but we are asked to be resilient as we resist the encroaching winds and wildfires beside us.

We ask our Lord for protection and provisions for all our faithful and all our fellow citizens in our counties and cities, especially those enduring the wildfires raging in Los Angeles County.

St. Paul, who had been constantly confronted by difficult conditions and hard choices, said so well: “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Cor. 4:8-9).

When Joshua was to lead the people across the Jordan River, the Lord said: “Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:9).

Faith turns into a foundation for future blessings. “Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh. 8:10b).

And through the holy Prophet Isaiah, our Lord beautifully encourages us: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you... Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you” (Isa. 43:2, 4).

I am praying for all of you. I ask all of you to follow the instructions of those in charge of the wildfire disaster to ensure that you and your families stay safe.

Here are some petitions that I offer to you to include in your prayers, especially before the icon of Christ:

We pray for our frontline workers, community leaders, and all those who are involved in dealing with the present danger and ongoing tragedy: Lord, have mercy!

We pray that Orthodox Christians are a light of peace and wisdom during this time so we can assist others: Lord, have mercy!

We pray that we can help those in need after this challenge passes: Lord, have mercy!

Again, please be assured of my love and prayers for you before our Almighty God.

Yours in Christ,

**+ Bishop ANTHONY**

Bishop of Los Angeles

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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