



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

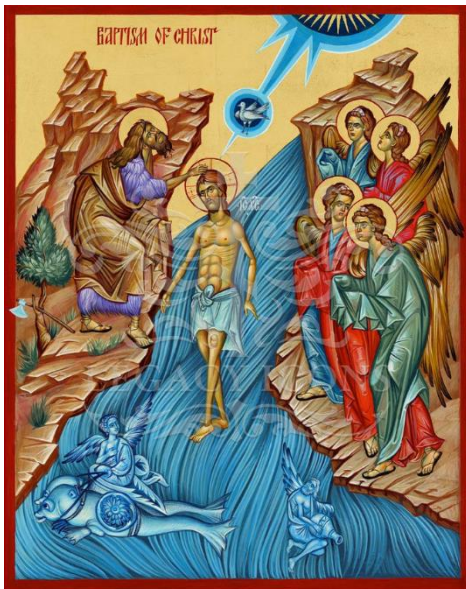
Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America
V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

TRANSFERRED FROM JANUARY 06

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (BLESSING OF THE WATERS SERVICE WILL FOLLOW DIVINE LITURGY)



Holy Theophany

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this “beginning of the beginning” by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, “The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan.” At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.” When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world

and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

الرسالة

مُبَارَكُ الْآتِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ. اعْتَرَفُوا لِلرَّبِّ فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ، وَإِنَّ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ رَحْمَتَهُ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تِيطُسَ. (7-4:3؛ 14-11:2)

يا وُلْدِي تِيطُسَ، لَقَدْ ظَهَرْتَ نِعْمَةً اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصَةَ لِجَمِيعِ النَّاسِ. وَهِيَ تُؤَدِّبُنَا لِنُنْكِرَ النِّفَاقَ وَالشَّهَوَاتِ الْعَالَمِيَّةَ، فَنَحْيَا فِي الذَّهْرِ الْحَاضِرِ عَلَى مُقْتَضَى التَّعَقُّلِ وَالْعَدْلِ وَالنَّقْوَى، مُنْتَظِرِينَ الرَّجَاءَ السَّعِيدَ وَظُهُورَ مَجْدِ إِلَهِنَا الْعَظِيمِ وَمُخْلِصِنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي بَدَّلَ نَفْسَهُ لِأَجْلِنَا لِنَقْتَدِينَا مِنْ كُلِّ إِثْمٍ، وَيُطَهِّرَ لِنَفْسِهِ شَعْبًا خَاصًّا، غَيْرًا عَلَى الْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ. فَلَمَّا ظَهَرَ لَطْفُ اللَّهِ مُخْلِصِنَا وَمَحَبَّتُهُ لِلنَّاسِ، خَلَّصْنَا هُوَ لَا لِأَعْمَالٍ فِي الْبِرِّ عَمَلْنَاهَا نَحْنُ، بَلْ عَلَى مُقْتَضَى رَحْمَتِهِ، بَعْسَلِ الْمِيلَادِ الثَّانِي وَتَجْدِيدِ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ الَّذِي أَفَاضَهُ عَلَيْنَا بِسَخَاءٍ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مُخْلِصِنَا، حَتَّى إِذَا تَبَرَّرْنَا بِنِعْمَتِهِ نَصِيرُ وَرَثَةً عَلَى حَسَبِ رَجَاءِ الْحَيَاةِ الْأَبَدِيَّةِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٍ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (17-13:3)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَقْبَلَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ إِلَى الْأُرْدُنِّ إِلَى يُوْحَنَّا لِيَعْتَمِدَ مِنْهُ. فَكَانَ يُوْحَنَّا يُمَانِعُهُ قَائِلًا: أَنَا مُحْتَاجٌ أَنْ أَعْتَمِدَ مِنْكَ، أَوْ أَنْتَ تَأْتِي إِلَيَّ؟ فَأَجَابَهُ يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: دَعْ الْآنَ، فَهَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي لَنَا أَنْ نُتَمَّ كُلَّ بَرٍّ. جِينِزِدِ تَرَكَهْ. فَلَمَّا اعْتَمَدَ يَسُوعُ، صَعِدَ لِلْوَقْتِ مِنَ الْمَاءِ، وَإِذَا السَّمَاوَاتُ قَدْ انْفَتَحَتْ لَهُ، فَرَأَى رُوحَ اللَّهِ نَازِلًا مِثْلَ حَمَامَةٍ وَحَالًا عَلَيْهِ. وَإِذَا صَوْتٌ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ قَائِلًا: هَذَا هُوَ ابْنِي الْحَبِيبِ، الَّذِي بِهِ سُرَرْتُ.

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.

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
February 9 th	Memorial Service (10 year) by Leila Adranly and family in memory of Naim Adranly. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

January 5 th	Samia Shaheen in memory of her father Badi Ibrahim
January 12 th	Munayer family in memory of Khalil Ibrahim Munayer. May his memory be eternal!
January 19 th	Sponsor Needed
January 26 th	Sponsor Needed
February 2 nd	Sponsor Needed
February 9 th	By Leila Adranly and family in memory of Naim Adranly. May his memory be eternal!
March 2 nd	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 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

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.



Join us to pray, march,
& fellowship together
at the Walk for Life!

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

THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH
INVITES YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO
~THE 46th 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.

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

You could use this QR code for your donation

