

+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

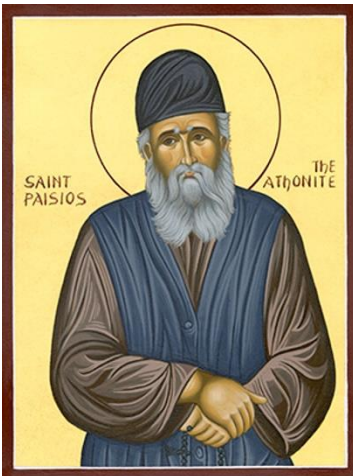
Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America
V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor
Dn. Nicholas Adranly

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, California 925-258-4255

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SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026; TONE 5 / EOTHINON 6 VENERABLE PAISIOS THE NEW OF MOUNT ATHOS

HOLY MARTYRS PROCLUS AND HILARY OF ANCYRA;
VERONICA, THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD WHO WAS HEALED BY OUR LORD



On July 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our venerable Father Paisios the New of Mount Athos, who was perfected in peace in 1994. This holy man was born as Arsenios Eznepidis in Farasa, Turkey in 1924. His family settled in Konitsa, Epirus, Greece. In 1950, he began his monastic life on Mount Athos. Seven years later, he was tonsured to the small schema and given the name Paisios after the famed Paisios II, Metropolitan of Caesarea. Paisios lived for a time at St. Katherine Monastery on Mount Sinai, spent many years on Mount Athos, and eventually took up residence at St. John the Theologian Monastery in Souroti, Greece. Elder Paisios drew unwanted fame for his holiness, but he welcomed, counseled and cured thousands of Orthodox Christians of their various ailments and addictions through the power of Christ, upon which he counted for his own illnesses. After a battle with cancer, Elder Paisios reposed. Thousands of pilgrims flock to his grave at Souroti each year, seeking his intercessions before God to heal their illnesses. They continue to rely upon his counseling through his teachings in books and interviews. On January 13, 2015, the Ecumenical Patriarchate numbered Elder Paisios among the saints for his pious example and miracles, especially in recognition of the multitudes of clergy and faithful who love him.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us, let each use them accordingly: whether prophecy, let him prophesy according to the proportion of the faith; or ministry, let him give himself to the ministry; or the teacher, to the teaching; or he who exhorts, in the exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with simplicity; he who presides, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبِّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ.

خَلِّصْنِي يَا رَبِّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَّةَ. (14-6:12)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ لَنَا مَوَاهِبُ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ بِاخْتِلَافِ النِّعْمَةِ الْمُعْطَاةِ لَنَا، فَمَنْ وَهَبَ النُّبُوَّةَ فَلْيَتَنَبَّأْ وَفَقًا لِلْإِيمَانِ، وَمَنْ وَهَبَ الخِدْمَةَ فَلْيُلازِمِ الخِدْمَةَ، وَالْمُعَلِّمُ التَّعْلِيمَ، وَالْوَاعِظُ الْوَعْظَ، وَالْمُنْصَدِّقُ الْبَسَاطَةَ، وَالْمُدَبِّرُ الْاجْتِهَادَ، وَالرَّاحِمُ الْبَشَاشَةَ. وَلَتَكُنِ الْمَحَبَّةُ بِلا رِيَاءٍ. كُونُوا مَاقِتِينَ لِلشَّرِّ وَمُلْتَصِقِينَ بِالْخَيْرِ. مُحِبِّينَ بَعْضًا حُبًّا أَخَوِيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرَ مُتَكَاسِلِينَ فِي الْاجْتِهَادِ، حَارِّينَ بِالرُّوحِ، عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ فِي الرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الضِّيقِ، مُوَظِّبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، مُؤَاسِينَ الْقَدِّيسِينَ فِي اخْتِيَاجَاتِهِمْ، عَاكِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَاةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. بَارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهُدُونَكُمْ، بَارِكُوا، وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (8-1:9)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَازَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَإِذَا بِمُخْلَعٍ مُلْقَى عَلَى سَرِيرٍ قَدَّمُوهُ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيْمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "ثِقْ يَا بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنْ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ "هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ." فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ فَامْشِ؟ وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "قُمْ، أَحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ الْجُمُوعُ، تَعَجَّبُوا وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

Coffee Hour

July 12 th	Nelly and Maureen in memory of Paula, Genevieve, Morris, Marlene and Mel and good health of the Nassif Family and the Nelson-Cody Family
July 19 th	Yowakeem Family for the one year memorial of Aida Yowakeem
July 26 th	Irene and Zzane Guajardo

Upcoming Events

July 12th	One year memorial service for the handmaid of God Najat Nicola
July 19th	One year memorial service for the handmaid of God Aida Yowakeem
July 19th	40-day memorial for David Romley.
Aug 9th	Grapes offered by the Nicola Family for the feast of the Transfiguration in memory of Metropolitan Phillip Saliba and Najat Nicola.
1st and 3rd Sundays	St. Anastasia's Fellowship for those struggling with substance abuse. 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. 6pm meeting; 7pm Readers Paraklesis at St. John's. Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sandy Dudum, George Messih, George Adranly, Fred Addes, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Rocky Dudum** and **Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Laila Mashy**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **David Romley**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Jean Harb**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nader Hanna**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Violet Jaber**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Laila Adranly**. 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 Kavar, Mason Kavar, Jonathan Juha, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Announcements

Organizing Items in the Hall

We are beginning an important project to organize and improve the kitchen and storage areas in our hall. Our goal is to label all storage rooms, cabinets, shelves, and kitchen areas so that items can be easily returned to their proper place after use and the space can remain clean, organized, and well-maintained.

With the help of Joby, a professional organizer by trade, we will be starting this process on Sunday, July 19th at 1:00 PM, immediately following coffee hour. Please plan on dedicating at least 4+ hours. This project will take place in 2-3 phases, and we would greatly appreciate all volunteers who are willing to lend a hand. If you would like to help, please let Rania K know. Thank you in advance for your support as we work together to improve and maintain our shared space!

Festival Children's Debka Group

As we gear up for our Festival in September, we'd love to get the kids involved in a Debka group! This was a huge hit last year, and we're excited to bring it back. If your child is 5 years old or older and would like to participate, please contact Rania K. at (415) 722-0774.

Since its a short timeframe, these are the requirements:

- Must attend practice every Sunday beginning August 2 through Festival week (some exceptions maybe accommodated).
- Practices will be approximately 30 minutes each Sunday after coffee hour.
- Must be available both days of the festival. We anticipate two performances per day (schedule TBD).
- A black t-shirt must be provided during the first week of practice.

Please note that Rania K. is not a professional Debka instructor. If you have experience with Debka and are interested in helping coordinate or lead the group, we would greatly appreciate your assistance. Please contact Rania K. if you'd like to help. Let's make this year's Festival another memorable one!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FESTIVAL PREP WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at 9:30 AM in our new kitchen!

June 27th	Grape leaves	July 11th	Spinach & Cheese Pies
August 1st	Sfeiha & Zatar Pies	September 12th	Knafeh & Date Mamoul



Please sign up for **any or all** workshops with Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net or 510-508-0929

We're accepting pre-orders for grape leaves - will be available at the festival on September 25th & 26th or as early as June 27th. Delicious for your family to enjoy, for summer parties, graduations and more!!

- Large Tray - (approximately 180 leaves) \$200	- Small Tray - (approximately 90 leaves) \$100
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Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil

“Love your Neighbor”

A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Proposed monthly collection calendar for 2026 is shown below and is subject to change.

May – Project Mexico/ St Innocent Orphanage

Project Mexico is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that performs works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing education and shelter for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

June - Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve - FOCUS North America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve exists to support the growth of Orthodox Christian service efforts by providing engagement opportunities that reveal Christ in our neighbor and serve community needs within our five ministry areas of Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter.

July - Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA

An Orthodox Christian Monastery for Women, with its home on the banks of the Napa River in Calistoga, California, Holy Assumption Monastery welcomes faithful pilgrims and visitors of all backgrounds. Mother Melania, the Abbess of the Monastery has given talks at our church and many other groups.

August – Orthodox Christian Missions Center – OCMC

As the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States it is OCMC's mission to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church.

September – Archdiocese collection for Seminarian Fund

Each year in the Fall, the Archdiocese asks parishes to take a collection to help support the Antiochian Orthodox students studying at the seminaries in our country, including St Vladimir's, St Tikhon's and Holy Cross Seminary.

October – (Youth Month) SOYO Special Olympics

This ministry is sponsored by the North American Council of Teen SOYO and is the second longest running program of Special Olympics Pennsylvania, serving over 340 Special Olympics athletes, coaches, and staff each season. It is the premier SOYO outreach program, now in its 38th year of service. Each year SOYO teens raise the funds on Special Olympics Awareness Day.

November – International Orthodox Christian Charities – IOCC

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond. We envision that, by God's grace, IOCC will enable those suffering and in need to continue to improve their own lives and communities and to have means to live with dignity, respect, and hope.

December – Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need. We distribute food directly to low-income people at community sites and make food available for other nonprofit organizations serving the ill, needy and infants.

Advertisement Form for 2026 Festival Ad Book

32nd Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Festival Location: St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Grounds,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Dates: Saturday, September 26th & Sunday, September 27th

Advertiser: _____
Contact: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Advertisement (circle one)

Premium Page AD	Full Page AD	1/2 Page AD	1/4 Page AD
\$500 Plus	\$250	\$130	\$75

Note: If you wish to include a logo or special typeface, it's best to email it.

The 2026 Middle Eastern Festival will feature the finest Middle Eastern entertainment, delicious food, exotic desserts, live music, folk dancing, bazaar, Middle Eastern heritage exhibits, children's games & activities, and more.

The Festival Book, given to attendees, will include advertisements from local businesses and community supporters;

On behalf of the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church and members of the 2026 Festival Committee, we thank you for your support.

Checks payable to St. John Church Festival.
Earmark 2026 Festival Mail to:

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Office,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA
Email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



MUSIC



FOOD



CULTURE

CELEBRATING
32
YEARS

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

501 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CA

SAT 11AM - 8PM | SUN NOON - 7PM

FREE ADMISSION

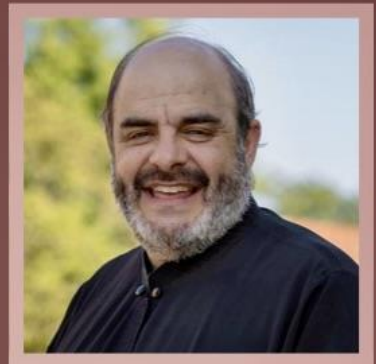
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Summit

Teen Directors & Advisors | Church School Directors & Teachers
Camp Directors & Staff | Young Adult Advisors & Leaders



*Registration
now open!*

Rev. Dr. George Parsenios
Keynote Speaker



<https://registration.antiochianvillage.org/Summit2026>



V. Rev. Fr.
Michael Nasser



Rev. Dr.
Greg Abdalah



Dr. Ann Bezzerides



Sh. Shell Keim

Save the date

★ AUGUST 15TH ★

St. John

DINNER DANCE

★ Under the stars ★



\$75.00
PER PERSON

Hope to
see you there!

★ KIDS 12 AND UNDER \$40.00 ★

★ 5:30 PM – Cocktails (No Host Bar) ★

RSVP by August 2nd to
Evleen Salem (925) 788-6775