



+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, JULY 13, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL; VENERABLE STEPHEN OF MAR SABBAS MONASTERY



On July 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; and Venerable Stephen of Mar Sabbas monastery.

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.

THE EPISTLE

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous.

Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

إِفْرَحُوا بِالرَّبِّ وَابْتَهِجُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الصَّادِقُونَ.

طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ غُفِرَتْ ذُنُوبُهُمْ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تَيْطُسَ. (3:8-15)

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تقرر حتى يهتم الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة، فهذه هي الأعمال الحسنة والنافعة. أما المباحثات الهديانية والأنساب والخصومات والمماحكات الناموسية فاجتنبها، فإنها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة بعد الإنذار مرة وأخرى أعرض عنه. عالماً أن من هو كذلك قد اعتسف، وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه. ومتى أرسلت إليك أرتيماس أو تيخيكس، فبادر أن تأتيني إلى نيكوبولس لأنني قد عرمت أن أشتي هناك. أما زيناس معلم الناموس وأبلوس، فاجتهد أن تشيعهما متأهبين لئلا يعوزهما شيء. ولتتعلم ذونا أن يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية حتى لا يكونوا غير مثمريين. يسلم عليك جميع الذين معي، سلم على الذين يحبوننا في الإيمان، النعمة معكم أجمعين. آمين.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (19-14:5)

قالَ الرَّبُّ لِتِلْامِيذِهِ، أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تُخْفِيَ مَدِينَةً وَاقِعَةً عَلَى جَبَلٍ. وَلَا يُوقَدُ سِرَاجٌ وَيُوضَعُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ، لَكِنْ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ لِيُضِيَءَ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. هَكَذَا فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِيَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الصَّالِحَةَ، وَيَمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. لَا تَتَّظُنُّوا أَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَحْلَ النَّامُوسِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، إِنِّي لَمْ آتِ لِأَحْلَ لَكِنْ لِأَتَمِّمَ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُ إِلَى أَنْ تَزُولَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ، لَا يَزُولُ حَرْفٌ وَاحِدٌ أَوْ نُقْطَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ مِنَ النَّامُوسِ حَتَّى يَتِمَّ الْكُلُّ. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَحُلُّ وَاحِدَةً مِنْ هَذِهِ الْوَصَايَا الصِّغَارِ وَيُعَلِّمُ النَّاسَ هَكَذَا، فَإِنَّهُ يُدْعَى صَغِيرًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ؛ وَأَمَّا الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ وَيُعَلِّمُ، فَهَذَا يُدْعَى عَظِيمًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

Donations for Heritage Booth at Festival

During the past few Festivals, there were multiple inquiries about purchasing used Middle Eastern items/ souvenirs at the Heritage Booth. We would like to gather unwanted items from our parish.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Dn. Nicholas Adranly at 510-207-1796 for more information.

Krispy Kreme Fundraising Campaign

Another exciting fundraiser! Campaign is good until December 31.

How it works!

1. Order place an order using the link or QR code.

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/60225-st-john-church-krispy-kreme-digital-dozens>

2. Support 50% of each Original Glazed Dozen you order is donated back to the organization.

3. Enjoy Visit your local Krispy Kreme to pick up your Original Glazed Dozens!

Dave & Buster's Fundraising Campaign

We have something new and exciting!!

Dave & Buster's fundraising campaign will begin NOW until December 31, 2025. Get Your Power Cards through St. John link.

How it works!

1. Place an order using St. John fundraising link. Here is the link:

https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/59958-st-john-church-dave-busters-fundraising-campaigns?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=o_offers_day_1

And/or ask: Rania Kashou

2. 50% of each Dave & Buster's Power Card purchased is donated back to the organization.

3. Visit any Dave & Buster's location to pick up your Power Card and start playing!

Awesome gift for kids, grand kids, parents, even yourself. Who doesn't like to play??

This link can be forwarded to friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, businesses, anyone!!

Upcoming Events

September 20 th -21 st	St. John's annual Middle Eastern Food Festival
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Coffee Hour

July 13	Joseph and Lisbeth Rodrigues
July 20	Sponsor needed
July 27	Sponsor needed

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum Bennett, Fairouz Freij, Henriette Hilal and Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Adranly**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fred Addas**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Najat Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Hala Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Souhad Halaka**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Messih**. Many years!
- † Siham Mitry in memory of
Her parents: **Yacoub** and **Nazzar Samara**
Her brothers: **Jiries, Nakhleh, Fayez, Rizik, Khamis, Yousef, and Moufid**
Her sisters: **Elaine, Rita, and Jeanette**

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

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



LET'S GET ROLLING & BAKING...in our new kitchen!!

Saturday, 8/9 and 8/23



Saturday, August 9th at 9:30

Saturday, August 23rd at 9:30

We need all hands on deck to help roll grape leaves and make spinach pies for the upcoming festival. We'll have coffee and treats and always enjoy our time working together. Please let Rula A. know if you can help. It's a blessing to work together. **Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.**

Building Committee Update

It's punch list time! Believe it or not, we are nearing the finish line. The Building Committee and the architect have met with the contractor to review a preliminary punch list of items that need to be completed prior to the building inspection for occupancy. These items include things like acoustic wall panels, signage, HVAC grills, fire extinguishers, etc.

Additionally, outside the scope of the original contract with Petra, we have ordered the major kitchen equipment. Some equipment has been delivered, some is on order and custom countertops and workspaces are being fabricated.

We are looking at majority completion in just a few weeks, and then working with city and county officials for inspections. The timing of inspections is out of our complete control, but we are hoping to complete these soon to acquire occupancy certificates.

Of course there will still be some work to complete that has not yet been budgeted or contracted such as trellises and landscaping.

Project Mexico 2025!

These are the Project Mexico photographs, featuring Nick Farrah, Nadine Potts, Lilly Potts, and Herman (the owner of the new home) and his son.





**St. John Sunday Funday
Dave and Busters
2075 Diamond Blvd Ste.
H180, Concord, CA 94520
August 24th @ 1:30pm**



Support St. John Church with Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens



Price Per Dozen: \$15



Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens to Support St. John Church



grouprai.se/krispykreme60225o



\$15
per order



50%
donated back



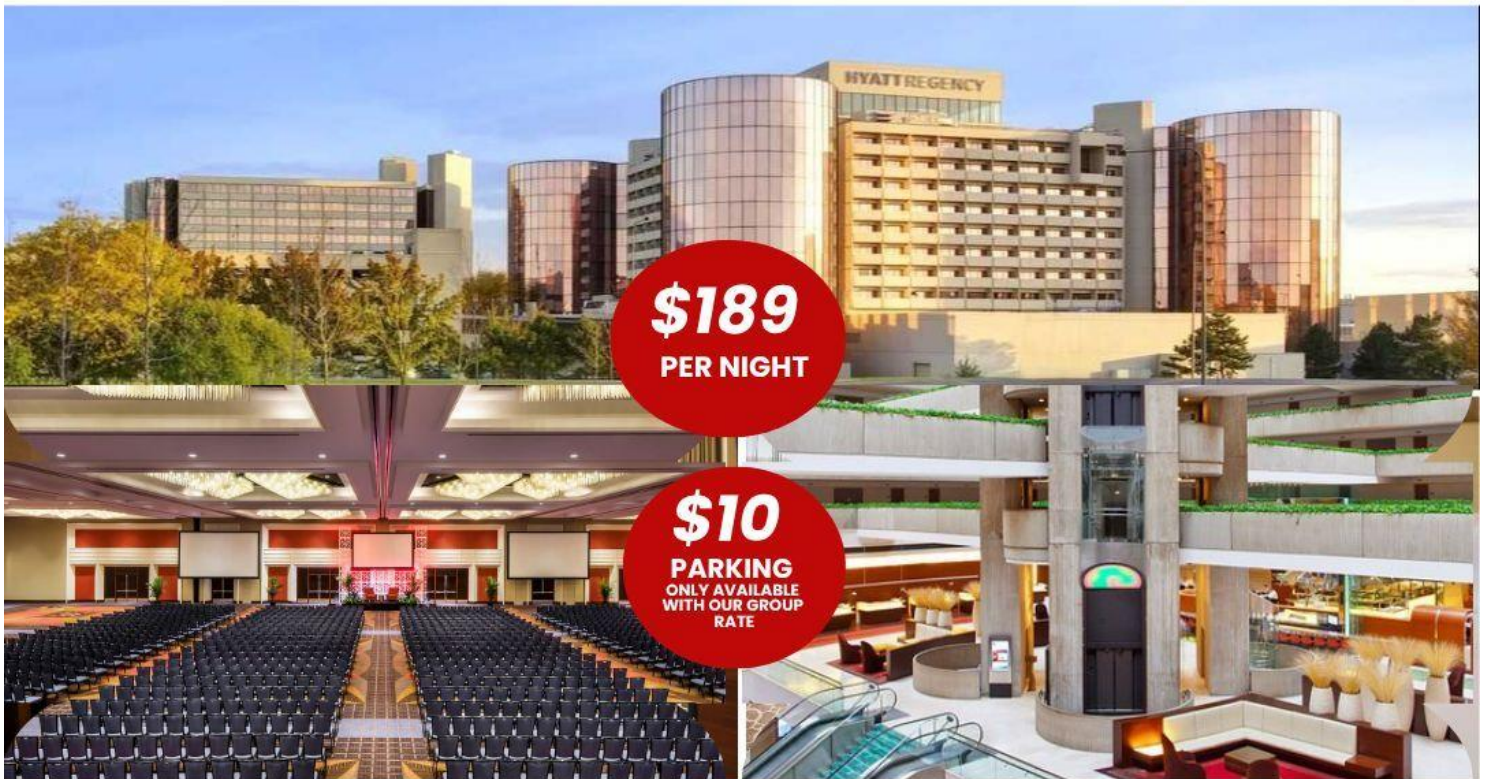
57TH BIENNIAL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
Archdiocese Convention

July 20 – 27, 2025



Hotel Deadline Is Almost Here!

**Rates are only guaranteed through June 21!
Rooms are selling FAST don't wait!**



Book your room before it's too late!

Reserve now at:
www.ac2025chicago.org/hotel

St John Fellowship Hall Donor Recognition

The St John Fellowship Hall Building and Fundraising Committees along with the Parish Council would like to thank and recognize those donors who have given over the years to the Building Fund. The contributions shown below include cumulative donations to the initial \$2 Million in the building fund at the start of construction, in addition to those donations to the current fundraising effort. Please note that our very generous Cornerstone Donor, as well as several of the Partner and Friend level donors have donated prior to the beginning of our current campaign. All donors will be recognized on a plaque or donor wall feature located in the reception area (foyer) of the hall at the levels shown below. If you would like your contribution recognized in another way, or if you have questions regarding your donation level, please contact the church office.

Recognition level	Names of Donors	
Cornerstone \$500,000 +	Hanada I. Fasheh	
Patron \$100,000-249,000	Rick and Sandra Dudum Jack and Sylvia Dudum	Jason and Lena Dudum Fuad and Nadia Sweiss
Benefactor \$50,000 - 99,999	Keith Dudum Joseph Sweis and Family	The McClintic Family
Provider \$25,000 - 49,999	Sami and Kathy Adranly James and Denise Dudum Rocky and Nada Dudum Nick and Deena Farrah	Jon and Larissa Geleris Stephen and Angela Kreta Elias and Samia Shaheen
Supporter \$10,000-24,999	Dn. Nicolas and Rula Adranly George and Samar Adranly ADOBE – matching gift for Hanna Family Anonymous Dominick and Joby Aranda George and Freida Cawog Nick and Deena Farrah Ibrahim Fasheh Jordis Fasheh Lisa and David Hanna and Family Phillip and Gina Jaber	Jawad and Violet Jaber Ron and Ruth Jeha, in Memory of Michael Elias Jeha Sam Khoury Ron and Nancy Nicola Fady and Joumana Najjar Orthodox Vision Foundation The Potts Family Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain Raif and Sonya Rihani Ernest and Noha Shulze and Family Daniel and Mona Thayer Ramsay Zacharia

Partner
\$5,000-9,999

Anonymous
Charles and Marilee Ajalat
Miranda Halaby
Sandy Hodges
John and Sylvia Jaber
Leila Farradj

Lynn and Usama Farradj
Issam and Rania Freij
Salem and Antoinette Mufarreh
Darrin Rishwain
George Theodosy

Friend
\$1,000-4,999

Saleem & Samya Abudawood
Jack Ajluni
Anonymous
Richard and Joyce Ayooob
Anthony and Kimberly Bailey
Sandy Bennett
William and Judith Bosl
Fr. Nicholas Borzghol
Challenger Enterprises
Daryl and Katherine Dudum
J.D. and Jessie Dudum
F&M Bank
Fadi and Rana Feghali
Alex and Helen Ghantous
Khalil and Leila Hakeem
Ronald Issac
JDO Dakota Ventures
Mary Karadsheh
Maha Kury-Peterson
Brandon Laidlaw
Lieman Properties
Azmi and Melanie Madanat
Chris and Eva Malki
Margaret Mas
Fred and Tania Milkie
Siham Mitry
Myers Restaurant Supply
George Najjar

Samer Nassar
Sam & Nelly Nassif
Dn George and Jane Nassief
Ramzi and Marina Nassoura
Ziad & Charlene Nassoura
Naim and Helen Nazzal
Susan Nazzal
Nicholas Luengo Construction
Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Family
Antone Nino
Fawda Samara
Jeanne Shikany
Samir and Caroline Syriani
Sami and Alia Sahouria
Andrew Thayer
Steven Thayer
The Kebab Shop Restaurant
John and Jan Theodosy
Samir and Abla Toubassy
In Memory of Dwight Underhill
Robert and Katrina Waddell
George and Afaf Wahbeh
Kamal and Samar Wahbe
Nabil and Souhila Wakileh
William Wood Architects
Hala Yowakeem
Samir and Nadia Zeidan

Builder
\$100-999

George E. Adranly
Felice and Eric Ajluni
Howard & Marilyn Ashcraft
Eman Baalbaki
Tania & Daniel Bajada
Randy and Barbara Bray
Ken Bullock Ins & Fin Services
Robert and Renee Crawford
Mary Cubeisy
Dn. John and Irena Dibs
Herb & Tania DeGroot
Tony Dudum
Fuad and Mary Farradj
Naim & Nadia Frangieh
John & Dina Freij
Fairouz Freij
Fred and Sue Gedeon
Sandra Gedeon
Benjamin and Ashley Geleris
Zzane & Irene Guajardo
Julianna Greensides
Bahij & Yardena Hanhan
Raymond Hilal
Mounir and Muna Hobaika
Angela Husary
Jack's Restaurant
Carol Jeha
Samir Juha
Andreas Kamlot
David Kashou
Rima Kashou
Norma Khalil
Elia Khalilieh

Elizabeth Kreta
Mary Lodge
William and Mary Massarweh
Daniel & Amy McLellan
Mendocino Farms Restaurant
Paul and Arwa Mogannam
Alan & Dale Morgan
Khalil Mounzer
Ibrahim Munayer
Marwan Mukhar
William and Jida Nasser
Maureen Nelson
Mark Nicola
Michelle Nicola
Pacer Physical Therapy
Jacob Ritter
Alexis Robbins
Rocco's Restaurant & Pizza
Neezar Samara
Eddie and Evleen Salem
Wanda and Leonard Sarkissian
See's Candies
Jabra & Rania Shuheiber
Marie Simon
Matthew Simon
Summit Landscape Development
Christina Tast
Suzanne & Nabil Taovil
Sami Tawasha
Christina Thabit
TP Wolf
Khalil Yowakeem
Sam & Nevine Yowakim

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 344/2025

July 1, 2025

Beloved in Christ,

I pray you had a blessed celebration of the patrons and protectors of our Holy See of Antioch, Saints Peter and Paul. Our group of pilgrims was blessed to celebrate this important occasion in our spiritual home this year at the Patriarchal Monastery of Balamand, Lebanon.

Since the terrorist bombing of our Prophet Elias Church in Dweilaa, Damascus, Syria a week ago, we have received many inquiries from people and organizations asking how they can help the survivors and the families of those who lost their lives.

We have set up a special charitable account at the Archdiocese Headquarters for this purpose. All the proceeds will be forwarded to His Beatitude Patriarch John X for distribution to the survivors and families. Needless to say, after this traumatic and life-changing event, they need counseling, medical help and the basic necessities of life as they will not be able to function for some time.

In many cases, the families who lost their loved ones lost their main financial providers. Others will need long-term financial support as they have sustained the loss of bodily parts, making them permanent dependents unable to work to sustain their families.

Here is how you can donate to help the survivors and surviving family members:

- Online through the “[2025 Prophet Elias Church of Damascus, Syria Relief Fund.](#)”
- By check, either personally or through your parish that will, in turn, send the collected funds to the Archdiocese Headquarters, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238. Make checks payable to the Antiochian Archdiocese with “Prophet Elias Church Relief Fund” in the memo.

Thank you for helping to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Wishing you God’s every blessing, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F