

+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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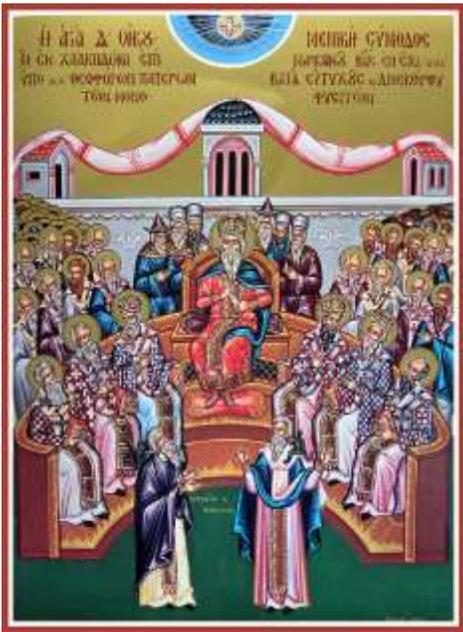
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SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 6

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

HIEROMARTYR ATHENOGENES, BISHOP OF HERAKLEOPOLIS, AND HIS TEN DISCIPLES



The Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Councils

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!

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous. Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven!

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.

الرسالة.

إفْرَحُوا بِالرَّبِّ وَابْتَهَجُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ.

طُوبَى لِلَّذِي غُفِرَ إِثْمُهُ.

إفْرَحُوا بِالرَّبِّ وَابْتَهَجُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ. طُوبَى لِلَّذِي غُفِرَ إِثْمُهُ.

يا ولدي تيطس، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَإِيَّاهَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ تَقَرَّرَ حَتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ فِي الْقِيَامِ بِالْأَعْمَالِ الْحَسَنَةِ، فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَدْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُمَاحَكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةَ بَعْدَ الْإِنذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ. عَلِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اعْتَسَفَ، وَهُوَ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضِي بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. وَمَتَى أُرْسَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أُرْتِيمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكْسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أَمَّا زِينَا سَ مَعْلَمُ النَّامُوسِ وَأَبْلُوسَ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَّهَبِينَ لِنَلَّا يُعَوِّزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلْيَتَعَلَّمْ دُونَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الصَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمَرِينَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ مَعِي، سَلِّمَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النَّعِمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.

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."

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر

قال الرب لتلاميذه، أنتم نور العالم، لا يمكن أن تخفى مدينة واقعة على جبل. ولا يوقد سراج ويوضع تحت المكيال، لكن على المنارة ليضيء لجميع الذين في البيت. هكذا فليضي نوركم قدام الناس ليروا أعمالكم الصالحة، ويمجدوا أباكم الذي في السماوات. لا تظنوا أنني أتيت لأحلل ناموس والأنبياء، إنني لم أت لأحلل لكن لأتمم. الحق أقول لكم، إنه إلى أن تزول السماء والأرض، لا يزول حرف واحد أو نقطة واحدة من ناموس حتى يبي الكُل. فكل من يحل واحدة من هذه الوصايا الصغار ويعلم الناس هكذا، فإنه يدعى صغيراً في ملكوت السماوات؛ وأما الذي يعمل ويعلم، فهذا يدعى عظيماً في ملكوت السماوات.

Love your Neighbor

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.

Vacation Church School Info

Sonshine Kids Camp is a free Vacation Church School Camp for Kindergarten - 6th grade hosted by St. Christina's. The day camp will include prayers, crafts, faith-based lessons, singing, and games.

Details: July 24-28 from 9am - 12pm @ St. Christina Orthodox Church, 3721 Parish Ave, Fremont, CA

Theme: The Fruits of the Spirit and the Saints

Registration Deadline: July 17, 2023

See the flyer in the bulletin to request a registration form.

Fellowship Hall Questions From Parishioners

Question: "What are the capacities for the new Fellowship Hall?"

Answer: The new Fellowship Hall includes three distinct areas, foyer, kitchen, and the main hall space. In addition, there will be storage areas and restroom facilities. The foyer has a 219-person standing capacity, and it opens onto the outdoor space between our two existing buildings. Table and chair type functions in the main hall can accommodate up to 319 guests. Events using chairs only will be able to seat up to 683 people.

Keep your questions coming to rnlm@aol.com about all aspects of this historic project in the life of our parish.

Monthly Lunches for the Fellowship Hall

The Ladies' Committee would like to revive our monthly sponsored lunches to help raise funds for the new fellowship hall! The idea is to have two families pick a date and together provide a meal to serve after Sunday liturgy. The Ladies' Committee will sponsor a lunch at the church on Father's Day, but would love to have volunteers lined up for the months following. Please contact Fadwa Samara with any questions or to sign up at 510.909.0119 or fvsamara@gmail.com. Thank you!!

A Request for Pictures

Our community has many years of memorial moments. We are requesting pictures from you. These pictures will be put together in a picture collage that will be display at our FIRST parish hall event. Please send or give a copy of any pictures you have that display St. John throughout the years! Submit pictures by July 30th to raniamariekashou@gmail.com or personally hand her a photo copy.

Also, if you would like to donate and/volunteer to this event please contact Rania Kashou. We are also in need of Silent auction items.

Thank you for your support!

Many Blessings, -The Fundraising Committee

Family Salad Bar Luncheon – THIS SUNDAY after Divine Liturgy

We will be having a luncheon this Sunday, July 16 following Divine Liturgy. Please join us for fellowship, fun and great food. Proceeds benefit the building fund for our new Hall! It will be hosted by the Farradj, Silva, Halaby and Lawyer families. You can host a family luncheon to help raise money for our new hall as well. Please contact Fadwa Samara for details.



Condolences to Deacon George Nassief and his Family

St. John Parish Family expresses its deepest condolences to Deacon George (Ray) Nassief and his family on the passing into eternal life of his wife Jane Nassief. May her memory be eternal! The family has expressed that in lieu of flowers, those who would like to donate in Jane’s memory should contribute to the building fund.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 16	Memorial service for the handmaiden of God Jane Nassief. May her memory be eternal!
September 23-24	Our annual St. John’s Middle Eastern Festival!

Coffee Hours

July 16th	Community Lunch hosted by the Farradj and Silva families and Miranda Halaby and Laila Lawyer.
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Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Henriette Hilal**. Many years!
- † Issa and Alexandra Samara in memory of **George Samara**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Ron and Nancy Nicola in memory of **Jane Nassief**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Ron and Ruth Jeha for the good health of **Michael Jeha**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Jane Nassief**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Fairouz Freij, Issam Freij and family, and Rania Shuhaiber and family in memory of **Khalid Haddad**. May his memory be eternal!

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 Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum and David Evans

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

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BENEFITTING: ST JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

WHEN: JULY 13TH ALL DAY

WHERE: WALNUT CREEK and CONCORD

OUR FIRST

PARISH HALL

Party

SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 4PM-8PM

ON THE CEMENT FLOOR

ENJOY TIME WITH OUR COMMUNITY

OPEN WINE BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES,

LIGHT MUSIC, KIDS CRAFTS

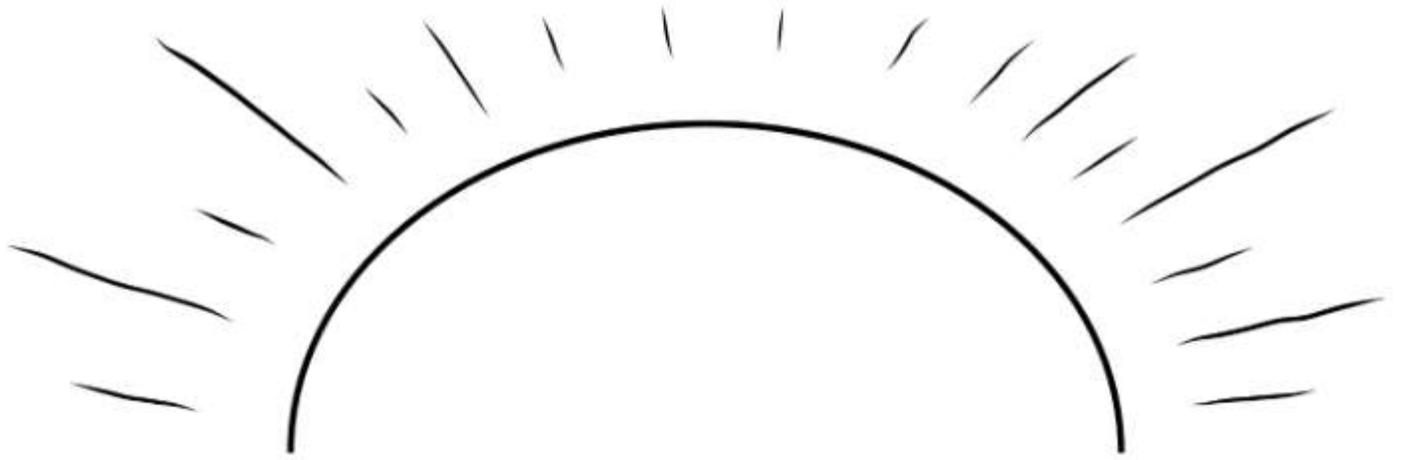
*** SILENT AUCTION ***

PLEASE RSVP BY 8/15

TO RANIA KASHOU

415.722.0774

**\$50 DONATION
PER PERSON
KIDS ARE
FREE**



SONSHINE KIDS DAY CAMP

CHILDREN GRADES K-6TH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A DAY CAMP, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PRAYERS, CRAFTS, FAITH-BASED LESSONS, SINGING, AND GAMES.

- DATES: JULY 24-28, 2023
- TIME: 9 AM – 12 PM
- THEME: THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH (FOCUSING ON STS. CHRISTINA, ANNA & PANTELEIMON)
- LOCATION: ST CHRISTINA ORTHODOX CHURCH
3721 PARISH AVE, FREMONT, CA

REGISTRATION IS OPEN. TO REQUEST A REGISTRATION FORM,
PLEASE EMAIL MAIL@STCHRISTINAORTHODOX.ORG.
PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS ASAP TO THE SAME EMAIL ADDRESS.

How to donate to your favorite charity/church Through qualified charitable donation(QCD).

Charitable giving should be part of your financial plan a qualified charitable distribution can further your philanthropic goals and help reduce the tax hit from your required mandatory distribution (RMD).

For retirees who have accumulated significant savings in their tax deferred account IRAs the onset of required minimum distribution at age 73 for this year can have serious tax consequences the higher the balance in your tax deferred account the higher your mandatory distribution and potential tax bracket. Qualified distributions allows individuals at age 73 and older to make tax free donations of up to 100,000 a year directly from an IRA account to charity there by satisfying all or part of their annual mandatory distribution.

Qualified distribution when you donate directly from your IRA to the charity/church your donation doesn't count as income and will exclude the amount donated from taxable income which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA keeping your taxable income lower and may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions including Social Security and Medicare.

Please consult with your CPA for all tax related issues because every individual has different tax circumstances.

Consider giving long-term appreciated securities rather than cash as your charitable donations in your regular account. Donations made by cash or check are by far the most common methods of charitable giving however contributing stocks bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated overtime has become increasingly very popular in recent years and for good reasons, your securities will be transferred in kind to the church's account therefore preventing the capitol gain from hitting your account.

If you receive compensation in the form of employer's stock it can carry a sizable exposure to that company, gifting shares of company stock can help satisfy your philanthropic goals as well as the common goal to diversify your portfolio all while managing the impact on your capital gains tax.

Another way to fully maximize your impact this year check if your employers offer any matching opportunities for charitable contributions.

In conclusion, here are some ways to donate to your church.

- Mandatory distribution from IRA's
- Overvalued stocks.
- Company stocks.
- Overvalued properties.
- Employers matching charity contribution.

Again, please consult your CPA before taking any steps concerning your taxes. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Noha Schulze

Senior Vice President

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