

+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

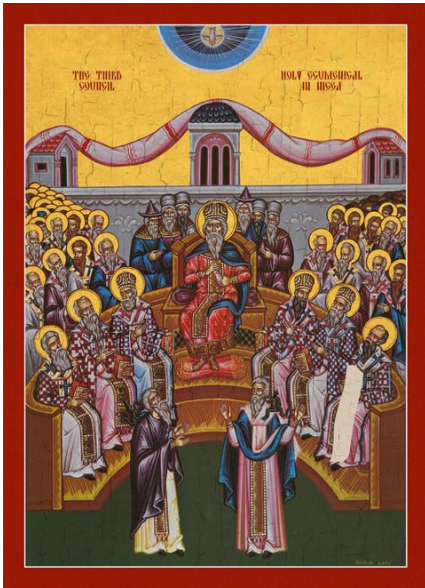
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, California 925-258-4255

www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026; TONE 6 / EOTHINON 7

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

VENERABLE MACRINA, SISTER OF BASIL THE GREAT; VENERABLE DIOS OF ANTIOCH



On July 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Macrina, sister of Basil the Great; and Venerable Dios of Antioch. 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 الصِّدِّيقُونَ.

طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ غُفِرَتْ ذُنُوبُهُمْ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تِيطُسَ. (8:3-15)

يَا وَلَدِي تِيطُسَ، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَإِيَّاهَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ تُقَرَّرَ حَتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ فِي الْقِيَامِ بِالْأَعْمَالِ الْحَسَنَةِ، فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَذْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُمَاحَكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةِ بَعْدَ الْإِنْذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرِضَ عَنْهُ. عَالِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اغْتَسَفَ، وَهُوَ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضِي بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. وَمَتَى أَرْسَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أَرْتِيمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أَمَّا زِينَا سُ مُعَلِّمُ النَّامُوسِ وَأَبْلُوسُ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَأَهِّبِينَ لِئَلَّا يُغَوِّزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلِيَتَعَلَّمْ ذَوُونَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الضَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمَرِينَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ، سَلِّمَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النِّعْمَةُ 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."

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (5:14-19)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تُخْفِيَ مَدِينَةً وَاقِعَةً عَلَى جَبَلٍ. وَلَا يُوقِدُ سِرَاجٌ وَيُوضَعُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ، لَكِنْ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ لِيُضِيَءَ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. هَكَذَا فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِيَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الصَّالِحَةَ، وَيَمَجِّدُوا آبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. لَا تَظُنُّوا أَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَحْلُلِ النَّامُوسَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءَ، إِنِّي لَمْ آتِ لِأَحْلُلْ 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.

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Coffee Hour

July 19th	Yowakeem Family for the one year memorial of Aida Yowakeem
July 26th	Irene and Zzane Guajardo

Upcoming Events

July 19th	One year memorial service for the handmaid of God Aida Yowakeem. May her memory be eternal!
July 19th	40-day memorial service for the Servant of God David Romley. May his memory be eternal!
July 26th	40-day memorial service for the Handmaiden of God Laila Mashy. May her memory be eternal!
Aug 5th	Evening Divine Liturgy at 6 pm Wednesday to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration عيد التجلي
Aug 9th	Grapes offered by the Nicola Family for the feast of the Transfiguration in memory of Metropolitan Phillip Saliba and Najat Nicola.
Aug 12th	Paraklises service for the Theotokos at 6 pm.
Aug 14th	Evening Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition عيد رقاد العذراء
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!
- † The Mitry Family for the good health of **Siham Mitry** for her 89th Birthday.
- † Thayer and Messih families in memory of **Carmen Mallouk**. May her memory be eternal!
- † 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 **Violet Jaber**. 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



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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

This icon will arrive and installed in our church on July 28th along with the relics of St. John of Damascus. May the Theotokos and St. John of Damascus intercede for us!

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY



We hereby certify that this icon,
THE LIFE-GIVING SPRING

measuring 110 cm/90 cm
executed in the traditional Byzantine
technique BOLUS using gold leaf 24k,
on a limewood panel tailored to
required dimensions,
was written by us,
the iconographers

**IOAN & ANDREEA-CLAUDIA
TCACIUC-DOBRIN**

The Icon was commissioned in November 2025
by SARGON & IRINA HEINRICH
and is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary
for

The Antiochian Orthodox Parish of
“Saint John the Evangelist
Orthodox Church”
in Orinda, California, USA

This icon incorporates a triangular cut bone-piece from the Holy Relic of
Saint John of Damascus, donated by The Holy Monastery RADU-VODĂ
of Bucharest - Romania, which is set into a cross-shaped reliquary to the
lower right-side of it. Documents certifying the Holy Relic's authenticity
are attached.

IOAN TCACIUC DOBRIN
Iconographer

ANDREEA-CLAUDIA TCACIUC DOBRIN
Iconographer

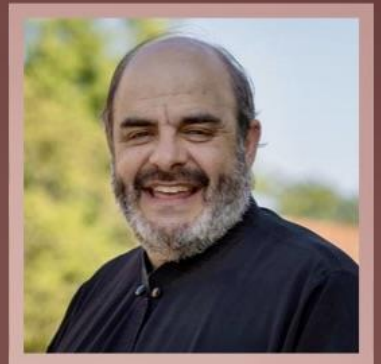
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Summit

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

One of the winners of at the parish life conference in San Diego: Yasmeen Rafeefe



St. John Financial Snapshot

Year to Date Actual Finances as of 06/30/2026

		2026 Year To Date	% of Total Income	2025 Year To Date	
INCOME					
Membership Pledges		\$ 85,448	25%	\$ 76,840	+\$9K difference vs. 2025 YTD.
Tray Collections		\$ 9,219	3%	\$ 8,266	+\$1K difference vs. Budget.
Preschool Contribution		\$ 204,703	59%	\$ 205,000	
Crab Feed and Festival		\$ 18,824	5%	\$ 21,011	
Ladies Contribution		\$ -	0%	\$ 5,000	Ladies account to now hold end-of-year balance of \$5K.
Other**		\$ 29,248	8%	\$ 12,707	
Total Income		\$ 347,442	100%	\$ 328,825	
Total Expenses		\$ 273,578		\$ 276,880	
YTD Net Income		\$ 73,863	21%	\$ 51,945	

**Other includes bookstore, candles, flowers, palms, coffee hour, memorials, weddings, baptisms, weddings, prior year pledges

Hall Rental Revenue Net of Expenses	Current Month	YTD
\$ Amount	\$ (1,597)	\$ (2,738)

Building Fund Balance	\$ 411,839.33
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Those who wish to see the full financial summary should contact Parish Council Treasurer Andrew Thayer