

# +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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**JULY 20, 2025**

## **PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH) THE THESBITE**

RIGHTEOUS ILIYA CHAVCHAVADZE OF GEORGIA

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On July 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fiery ascent as it were into the Heaven of the holy and glorious Elias (Elijah) the Thesbite.

Elias was born in the town of Tishba for which he was called the Thesbite. When Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. This foreshadowed Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. Elias confronted the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. They worshipped idols

and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he accurately prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh. Before his death Elias took Elisseus (Elisha) and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling. Elias was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ with Moses on the Transfiguration. Before the end of the world Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

On this day, we also commemorate Righteous Iliya Chavchavadze [ee-LEE-yah chav-chah-VAD-zay] of Georgia.

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## THE EPISTLE

*Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.*

*The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou on my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. James. (5:10-20)**

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call those blessed who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by Heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes and your no be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elias was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

أَنْتَ الْكَاهِنُ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ عَلَى رُتَبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَق.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِرَبِّي: اجْلِسْ عَنْ يَمِينِي، حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِهَدْمِكَ.

### **فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ يَعْقُوبَ الرِّسُولِ الْجَامِعَةِ. (5:10-20)**

يَا إِخْوَتِي، اتَّخِذُوا الْأَنْبِيَاءَ، الَّذِينَ تَكَلَّمُوا بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ، قُدُوةً فِي احْتِمَالِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ وَفِي طُولِ الْأُنَاةِ، فَإِنَّا نَطُوبُ الصَّابِرِينَ. وَقَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِصَبْرِ أَيُّوبَ، وَرَأَيْتُمْ عَاقِبَةَ الرَّبِّ. لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ مُتَحَنِّنٌ جِدًّا وَرَوْفٌ. وَقَبْلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَا تَحْلِفُوا لَا بِالسَّمَاءِ وَلَا بِالْأَرْضِ وَلَا بِقَسَمٍ آخَرَ. وَلَكِنْ لِيَكُنْ كَلَامُكُمْ نَعَمَ وَلاَ لَا، لِنَلَّا تَقْعُوا فِي الدَّيْنُونَةِ. هَلْ فِيكُمْ أَحَدٌ فِي مَشَقَّاتٍ؟ فَلْيُصَلِّ؛ أَوْ فِي سُرُورٍ؟ فَلْيُرْتَلِّ. هَلْ فِيكُمْ مَرِيضٌ؟ فَلْيَدْعُ قُسُوسَ الْكَنِيسَةِ وَلْيُصَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَيَذْهَبُوا بِزَيْتِ بَازِيْلٍ بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ. فَإِنَّ صَلَاةَ الْإِيمَانِ تُخَلِّصُ الْمَرِيضَ، وَالرَّبُّ يُنْهَضُهُ. وَإِنْ كَانَ قَدْ ارْتَكَبَ خَطَايَا، تُغْفَرْ لَهُ. اعْتَرِفُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ بِالزَّلَّاتِ، وَصَلُّوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِأَجْلِ بَعْضٍ لِكَيْ تُبْرَأُوا. إِنَّ طَلِبَةَ الْبَارِّ تَقْتَدِرُ كَثِيرًا فِي فِعْلِهَا. كَانَ إِيلِيَّا إِنْسَانًا قَابِلَ الْآلَامِ مِثْلَنَا، وَقَدْ صَلَّى أَنْ لَا يَنْزِلَ الْمَطَرُ، فَلَمْ يَنْزِلْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مُدَّةَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ وَسِتَّةِ أَشْهُرٍ. ثُمَّ عَادَ وَصَلَّى فَأَمْطَرَتِ السَّمَاءُ وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ ثَمَرَهَا. أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِنْ ضَلَّ أَحَدٌ بَيْنَكُمْ عَنِ الْحَقِّ فَرَدَّهُ أَحَدٌ، فَلْيَعْلَمْ أَنَّ الَّذِي رَدَّ خَاطِئًا عَنْ ضَلَالِ طَرِيقِهِ، قَدْ خَلَّصَ نَفْسًا مِنَ الْمَوْتِ، وَسَتَرَ جَمًّا مِنَ الْخَطَايَا.

## **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.

### **فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (8-1:9)**

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

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### **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.

### **Festival Dance Group for Kids**

We are trying to put together a small group to dance at our up coming festival. Children between the ages of 5-10 (around that age) and willing to learn and be dedicated. Please contact Rania Kashou 415.722.0774. (Text is fine) or Irene Guajardo.

Couple of rules:

\* You must come to church every Sunday starting August 3rd September 14th.

\* You must ready to stay at lease 30-45 minutes after church for practice.

You must be available on both festival days (performance in the earlier part -time TBD)

### **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](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**

<b>August 6th</b>	Divine Liturgy of the feast of the Transfiguration at 6 pm.
<b>August 7th</b>	Paraklises for the Virgin Mary at 6 pm.
<b>August 13th</b>	Paraklises for the Virgin Mary at 6 pm.
<b>August 14th</b>	Vespers Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at 6 pm.
<b>September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup></b>	St. John's annual Middle Eastern Food Festival

#### **Coffee Hour**

<b>July 20</b>	Sponsor needed
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Zzane and Irene Guajardo</b>

#### **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 for the good health of **Yacoub and Nazzar Samara, Jiries, Nakhleh, Fayez, Rizik, Khamis, Yousef, and Moufid, Elaine, Rita, and Jeanette**. Many Years!
- † Siham Mitry in memory of **Leila Samara**. Memory eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rocky and Nada Dudum**. 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

***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 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30**

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

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## ***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.***

# St. John Fellowship Hall Donor Recognition Levels

**Founder**  
**\$1,000,000**

**Cornerstone**  
**500,000**

**Pillar**  
**250,000**

**Patron**  
**100,000**

**Benefactor**  
**50,000**

**Provider**  
**25,000**

**Supporter**  
**10,000**

**Partner**  
**5,000**

**Friend**  
**1,000**

**Builder**  
**100**

Donor recognition wall will be in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall.

Donations and pledges can be made from stock and annuities

For more information about the Fellowship Hall and ways to participate, please contact:

Fr. Nicholas Borzghol – Pastor

Steve Kreta – Building Committee Chair

David Hanna – Fundraising Committee Chair

## **Project Mexico 2025!**

Featuring Nick Farrah, Nadine Potts, Lilly Potts, and Herman (the owner of the new home) and his son.







## Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry



Orthodox Christian  
PRISON MINISTRY™

### PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison? Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church? **Who will minister to them?**

As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) supports prisoners' unique spiritual needs through longterm case management and provides resources and training to parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison. As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.



**4,845**

TOTAL PRISONERS MINISTERED TO

**55,059**

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2023

*"I was in prison,  
and you visited Me."*

*Matthew 25:36*



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LEARN MORE AT [theocpm.org](http://theocpm.org)

PHONE: +1.347.868.6957



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX BISHOPS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States.

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Orthodox Christian  
PRISON MINISTRY

**WHO  
WE  
ARE**

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church in the US and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.



## OUR MISSION

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training, and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

## WHAT WE DO

**RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT** - Through our Correspondence Ministry, OCPM case managers maintain relationships with Orthodox and non-Orthodox prisoners over years and decades at a time.

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN PRISON MINISTRY** - We rigorously train Orthodox clergy and laity through a one-year academic program, in partnership with St. Tikhon's Seminary.

**CHURCH PROGRAMS** - We train, inspire, and partner with churches to establish parish-based prison ministries and implement OCPM's religious education and spiritual formation programs, like Early Christian History, Stories of Faith: The Parables of Jesus, and the PenPal Ministry.

**STORYBOOK CONNECTIONS™** - Storybook Connections™ is an OCPM program that enables volunteers to enter a jail to record incarcerated parents reading a storybook for their child. The recording along with the book is then sent to the child, who now has a tangible connection to his or her parent.

## YOUR 2024 IMPACT

**1,268** people in prison who corresponded with OCPM

**236** new case files of people in prison opened

**55,059** spiritual books, study courses, Bible studies, daily readings, and spiritual reflections sent

**93** Orthodox parishes participated in OCPM Church Program

**517** prison facilities served by OCPM

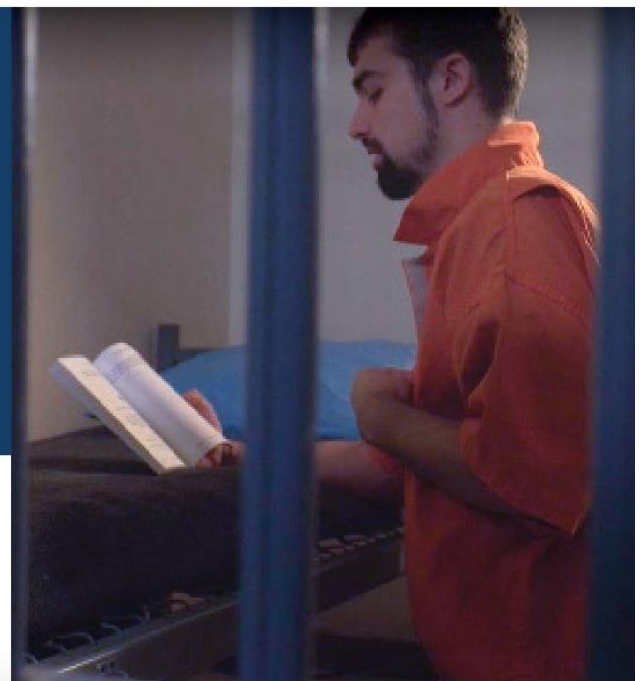
### CONTACT US

276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183  
New York, NY 10001

(347) 868-6957

### LEARN MORE

[WWW.THEOCPM.ORG](http://WWW.THEOCPM.ORG)



**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](https://grouprai.se/krispykreme60225o)



**\$15**  
per order



**50%**  
donated back



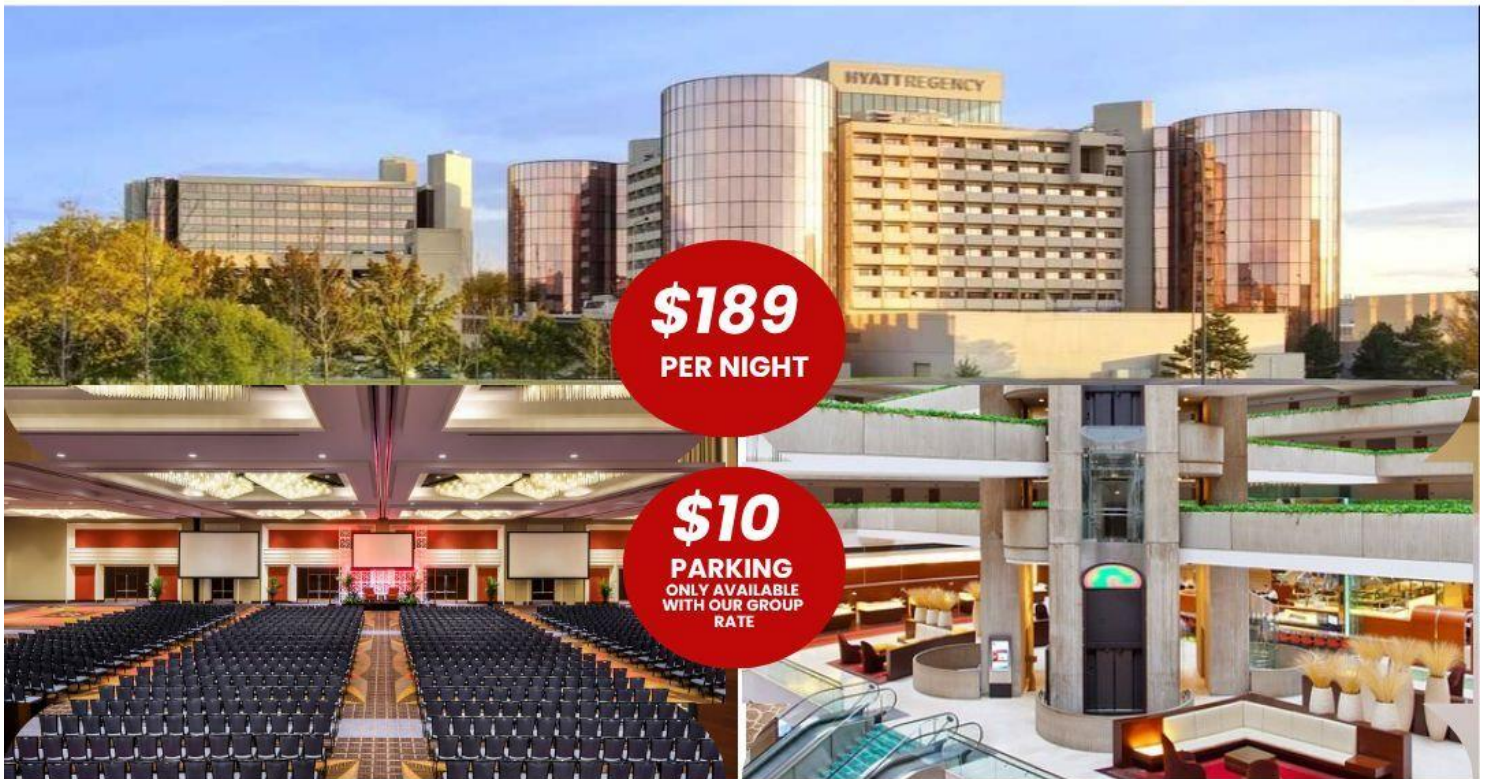
**57TH BIENNIAL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN**  
*Archdiocese Convention*

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](http://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.

<b>Recognition level</b>	<b>Names of Donors</b>	
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)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F