

# +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  
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**SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024**

**TONE 3 / EOTHINON 4**

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FOURTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

RIGHTEOUS FATHERS JOHN OF EDESSA IN MESOPOTAMIA & SIMEON OF HOMS (EMESA), THE FOOL-FOR-CHRIST



### **Righteous Fathers John of Edessa and Simeon of Homs,**

#### **Fools-for-Christ**

On July 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Righteous Fathers John of Edessa in Mesopotamia; and Simeon of Homs (Emesa), the Fool-for-Christ.

Both men received the monastic tonsure at the hands of the Abbot Nikon in the Monastery of St. Gerasimos. They withdrew into the wilderness near the Dead Sea where they lived an austere life of asceticism for nearly thirty years. They mortified their bodies so much that they resembled two withered trees. One day Simeon told John that, according to God's command, he must depart from the wilderness, go among the people and serve God there. John said to Simeon, "Pray to God for me, that He does not separate us, one from the other, in the future life." Simeon went among the people of Homs, Syria as a "fool for Christ," to teach people and to convert them to the Faith of

Christ. He pretended insanity before everyone but his heart was the temple of the Holy Spirit and, in that temple, was unceasing prayer. Simeon possessed abundant grace from God and was able to discern all the inner secrets of people, healing them from evil spirits and other ailments. Simeon came across a young fornicator who went out of his mind. Simeon struck him across the face with his hand and said: "Do not commit fornication." At that moment the unclean demon departed from the young man and he became well. Simeon reposed in 570; by the providence of God, John, who had remained in the wilderness, departed soon after.

### **THE EPISTLE**

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.*

*Clap your hands all ye peoples.*

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (6:18-23)**

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## الرسالة.

رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَفَّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية. (6:18-23)

يا إخوة، بعد أن أعبتكم من الخطيئة أصبحتم عبيدا للبر. أقول كلاما بشريا من أجل ضعف أجسادكم، فإنكم كما جعلتم أعضاءكم عبيدا للنجاسة والإثم للإثم، كذلك الآن اجعلوا أعضاءكم عبيدا للبر للقداسة. لأنكم حين كنتم عبيدا للخطيئة كنتم أحرارا من البر. فأني تمرر حصل لكم من الأمور التي تستحيون منها الآن، فإنما عاقبتنا الموت. وأما الآن فإذ قد أعبتكم من الخطيئة واستعبدتكم لله فإن لكم ثمركم القداسة، والعاقبة هي الحياة الأبدية. لأن أجره الخطيئة موت، وموهبة الله حياة أبدية في المسيح يسوع ربنا.

## THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:5-13)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered Him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

في ذلك الزمان، دخل يسوع كفرناحوم، فدنا إليه قائدا مئة، وطلب إليه قائلا: يا رب إن فتاي ملقى في البيت مقلعا يُعذب بعذاب شديد. فقال له يسوع: أنا أتى وأشفيه. فأجاب قائدا المئة قائلا: يا رب، لست مستحقا أن تدخل تحت سقفي، ولكن قل كلمة لا غير، فيبرأ فتاي. فأتى أنا إنسان تحت سلطان، ولي جند تحت يدي، أقول لهذا "اذهب"، فيذهب، وللآخر "أنت"، فيأتي، ولعبدي "اعمل هذا"، فيعمل. فلما سمع يسوع، تعجب وقال للذين يتبعونه: الحق أقول لكم، إنني لم أجد إيمانا بمقدار هذا ولا في إسرائيل. أقول لكم، إن كثيرين سيأتون من المشارق والمغرب ويتكئون مع إبراهيم واسحق ويعقوب في ملكوت السماوات. وأما بنو الملكوت فيلقون في الظلمة البرانية. هناك يكون البكاء وصريف الأسنان. ثم قال يسوع لقائد المئة: اذهب، وليكن لك كما آمنت. فشفي فتاه في تلك الساعة.

## 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 to many other groups.

## Vigil in Santa Rosa

A vigil will be held for St. Panteleimon on 7/26 at St. Seraphim Sarov church in Santa Rosa. Details in the flyer. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday. There will be a prison ministry card and letter writing workshop during coffee hour.
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

### **Coffee Hours**

<b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Jordis, Jill and Margaret.
<b>July 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>August 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Kashou Family 10-year memorial lunch for Ibrahim Kashou.

### **Holy Oblations**

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Daniel Romley, Henriette Hilal** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Frida Cawog**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Daniel Scuiry**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Vivian Sruji**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Souhail Kawar**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. 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!



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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum, David Evans, Evan Kawar, Mason Kawar, Jonathan Juha and Maron Juha

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



## Fellowship Hall News

### Building Committee Update:

As you can see, the exterior of the fellowship hall is nearing completion. The doors and windows are in and exterior tiles are being applied. Inside the hall insulation is being installed and drywall is going up. Additionally, the preschool playground area is being mapped out and final designs for equipment are being determined. Final details for the hardscape from the new parking to the entrance of the hall is being finalized and will begin soon.

There is still much to be done on the interior before we complete the project such as the kitchen, restrooms, some lighting, and floor, wall and ceiling treatments, but we are nearing the point where building funds are being depleted. The parish council, building committee, contractor and fundraising committee are meeting to strategize next steps for the final fundraising push to complete the project. With God's help, we will be able to raise the funds to bring the building to completion soon.

### Fundraising Committee Update:

The Fundraising Committee, along with the contractor, and the Building Committee will be meeting with the Parish Council to look at fundraising opportunities for completing the Fellowship Hall. We may soon be announcing the donors and the amount of their gifts to date. If you would like your gift to the Fellowship Hall to be anonymous, please let the Church Office know as soon as possible.

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## **See's CANDIES**

St John Orthodox Church Storefront

Help Us  
Reach Our Goal!



### See's Candies

Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.

- Own a business and need to gift?
- Any gift?
- Easter chocolate??
- SEE'S just because it's SEE'S??

ANYONE can purchase!! Please scan the QR code, find the link on our Facebook, or ask anyone in the fundraising committee .

## Doors Installed!

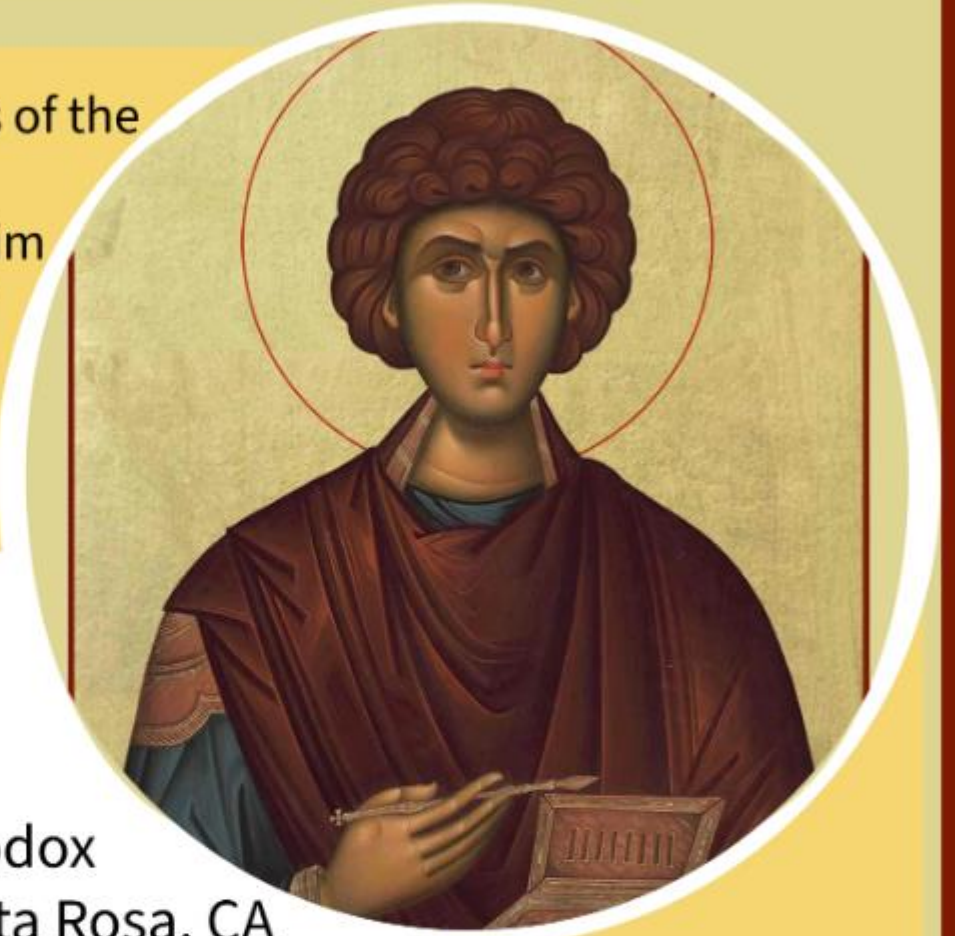


# St. Panteleimon

## All Night Vigil

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"Come, O ye lovers of the Martyrs, with one accord let us acclaim the prizewinner of Christ..."



St. Seraphim  
of Sarov Orthodox  
Cathedral Santa Rosa, CA

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Friday, July 26th  
7:00 P.M. - 2:00am

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90 Mountain View Ave

- Vespers
- Litia w/ Artoklasia
- Orthros
- Divine Liturgy

Relic of the Saint  
present for veneration

# GREAT FOOD GREAT CAUSE

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> 2024

**JACK'S WILL DONATE 15% OF PROCEEDS**

PRESENT THIS FLYER (OR SIMPLY MENTION THE ORGANIZATION ABOVE)  
AND JACK'S WILL HAPPILY DONATE 15% OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE SALES.

(ALCOHOL, TAX, GRATUITY AND GIFT CARDS SALES ARE EXCLUDED)

OFFER VALID FOR DINE IN, TAKE OUT OR PHONE ORDERS.

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SUNDAY-THURSDAY- 8AM-9PM | FRIDAY & SATURDAY- 8AM-10PM

# FUNDRAISER

JOIN US!



**IS GIVING  
50% BACK TO:**

**St. John Orthodox  
Church**

**Thursday, Jul 25  
All day**

**The Kebab Shop**  
2359 Oak Grove Rd Bldg H  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

To participate in this fundraiser, show this flyer during checkout at the store or order online at [order.thekebabshop.com](http://order.thekebabshop.com) using the fundraiser coupon code below.

Code for online ordering:

**FUNDRAISER**

This fundraiser event is between St. John Orthodox Church and The Kebab Shop. The Kebab Shop will donate 50% of qualifying food and beverage sales to St. John Orthodox Church. Additional sales exclusions may apply including: Delivery, Catering, any other promotions. Offer valid only on select date(s) and location(s). Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the store. The Kebab Shop may impose additional terms and conditions.

**FORCE  
4 GOOD**  
FUNDRAISING



# ST. BARBARA LEBANON RELIEF FUND

2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER



*SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:*  
**HIS EMINENCE  
METROPOLITAN ANTONIOS  
OF ZAHLE AND BAALBEK**



**September 7th** | **6:00 p.m.** | **\$60/ per person**

**ST MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
16643 VANOWEN ST  
VAN NUYS, CA 91406

**SEATING IS LIMITED,  
PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 28!**

**Dinner and Entertainment will be Provided**

**QUESTIONS? TEXT OR CALL:**  
RAMONA 661-433-9561  
KH. MIRAY 786-346-9094  
ESPER 626-255-8080



**IF PAYING BY CHECK**  
PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO

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