

+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 23, 2023

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 7; SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

& SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS, BISHOP OF SINOPE; HIEROMARTYRS APOLLINARIS AND VITALIS, BISHOPS OF RAVENNA;
MARTYR APOLLONIUS OF ROME; HOLY PROPHET EZEKIEL



The Recovery of the Relics of Hieromartyr Phocas

On July 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the recovery of the precious relics of the holy Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope.

Phocas exercised himself in all the Christian virtues from his youth. As bishop in his birthplace, the town of Sinope on the shores of the Black Sea, he strengthened the faith of the true believers by his example and divine words and converted many idol-worshippers to the true Faith. The hard-hearted pagans were filled with rage against holy Phocas. Through a vision granted him by the Lord, he foresaw his martyrdom for Christ: Phocas saw a white dove fly down from heaven carrying a beautiful wreath of flowers in its beak, and lowered the wreath onto his head. He was not afraid, but with gratitude toward God prepared himself for suffering. A certain prince, Africanus, took Phocas for interrogation, and subjected him to harsh tortures, and after a time of imprisonment threw him into boiling water, where this brave soldier of Christ ended his earthly life and settled in the joy of his Lord. Phocas suffered during the reign of Emperor Trajan in 102.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyrs Apollinaris and Vitalis, bishops of Ravenna; Martyr Apollonius of Rome; and the Holy Prophet Ezekiel. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good for his edification. For Christ also did not please Himself; but, as it is written: "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me." For whatever was written beforehand was written for our learning, that we might have hope, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, even as Christ has also received you, to the glory of God.

الرسالة.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية.

يا إخوة، يَجِبُ عَلَيْنَا نَحْنُ الْأَقْوِيَاءُ أَنْ نَحْتَمِلَ وَهَنَ الضُّعْفَاءِ وَلَا نُرْضِيَ أَنْفُسَنَا. فَلْيُرْضِ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ مِنَّا قَرِيبَهُ لِلْخَيْرِ، لِأَجْلِ الْبُنْيَانِ. فَإِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ لَمْ يُرْضِ نَفْسَهُ، وَلَكِنْ كَمَا كُتِبَ "تَغْيِيرَاتُ مُعْيِرِكَ وَقَعَتْ عَلَيَّ." لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَا كُتِبَ مِنْ قَبْلُ، إِنَّمَا كُتِبَ لِتَعْلِيمِنَا، لِيَكُونَ لَنَا الرَّجَاءُ بِالصَّبْرِ وَبِتَغْيِيرَةِ الْكُتُبِ. وَلْيُعْطِكُمْ إِلَهُ الصَّبْرِ وَالتَّغْيِيرَةِ أَنْ تَكُونُوا مُتَّقِي الْأَرَاءِ فِيَمَا بَيْنَكُمْ، بِحَسَبِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. حَتَّى إِنَّكُمْ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَفَمٍ وَاحِدٍ تَمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ أَبَا رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ، فَلْيَتَّخِذْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا كَمَا اتَّخَذَكُمُ الْمَسِيحُ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (9:27-35)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازًا، تَبِعَهُ أَعْمِيَانِ يَصِيحَانِ وَيَقُولَانِ: ارْحَمْنَا يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ. فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ الْأَعْمِيَانِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: هَلْ تُؤْمِنَانِ أَنِّي أَقْدِرُ أَنْ أَفْعَلَ ذَلِكَ؟ فَقَالَا لَهُ: نَعَمْ، يَا رَبُّ. حَيْثُ نَزَلْنَا لَمَسْنَا أَعْيُنَهُمَا قَائِلًا: كَأَيْمَانِكُمَا فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمَا. فَاثْفَتَحْنَا أَعْيُنَهُمَا. فَاثْتَهَرَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: انظُرَا، لَا يَعْلَمُ أَحَدٌ. فَلَمَّا خَرَجَا، شَهَرَاهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا. وَبَعْدَ خُرُوجِهِمَا، قَدَمُوا إِلَيْهِ أَخْرَسَ بِهِ شَيْطَانٌ. فَلَمَّا أَخْرَجَ الشَّيْطَانُ، تَكَلَّمَ الْأَخْرَسُ. فَتَعَجَّبَتِ الْجُمُوعُ قَائِلِينَ: لَمْ يَطْهَرْ قَطُّ مِثْلُ هَذَا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَمَّا الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَقَالُوا: إِنَّهُ بِرَأْسِ الشَّيْطَانِ يُخْرِجُ الشَّيْطَانِينَ. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ كُلَّهَا وَالْقُرَى، يُعَلِّمُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ، وَيَكْرِزُ بِبَشَارَةِ الْمَلَكُوتِ، وَيَشْفِي كُلَّ مَرَضٍ وَكُلَّ ضَعْفٍ فِي الشَّعْبِ.

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.

Questions From Parishioners

Question: " How is construction progressing, and when will we need to reach our fundraising goal so that the hall can be completed without any delays?"

Answer: "Construction is progressing well, with excavation and foundation work virtually complete. The cement pad for the entire building has been poured and work has begun on construction of the walls. God willing, a fully enclosed building, including roof and exterior finishes, should be complete by early 2024. Reaching our fundraising goal of \$2.5 million by the end of 2023 will allow work on the interior of the hall to continue uninterrupted.

Parishioners serving on the construction and fundraising committees, as well as the Parish Council, are constantly monitoring both construction and fundraising progress. As these Q/A features in the Weekly Bulletin continue, additional details about construction and fundraising progress will be reported.

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!!

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

Wednesday, August 2nd	Paraklesis service at 6 pm
Wednesday, August 9	Paraklesis service at 6 pm
September 23-24	Our annual St. John's Middle Eastern Festival!

Coffee Hours

July 23	Zzane and Irene Guajardo for the good health of Zoe and Islay on the occasion of their birthdays. Many years!
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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!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Henriette Hilal**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Elias Shaheen, Elia Khalileh** and **Elias Freij** on the occasion of their patron saint's day (July 20th) many years.
- † Also, in memory of **Elias Nassoura**. May his memory be eternal!
- † 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!

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



OUR FIRST

PARISH HALL

Party

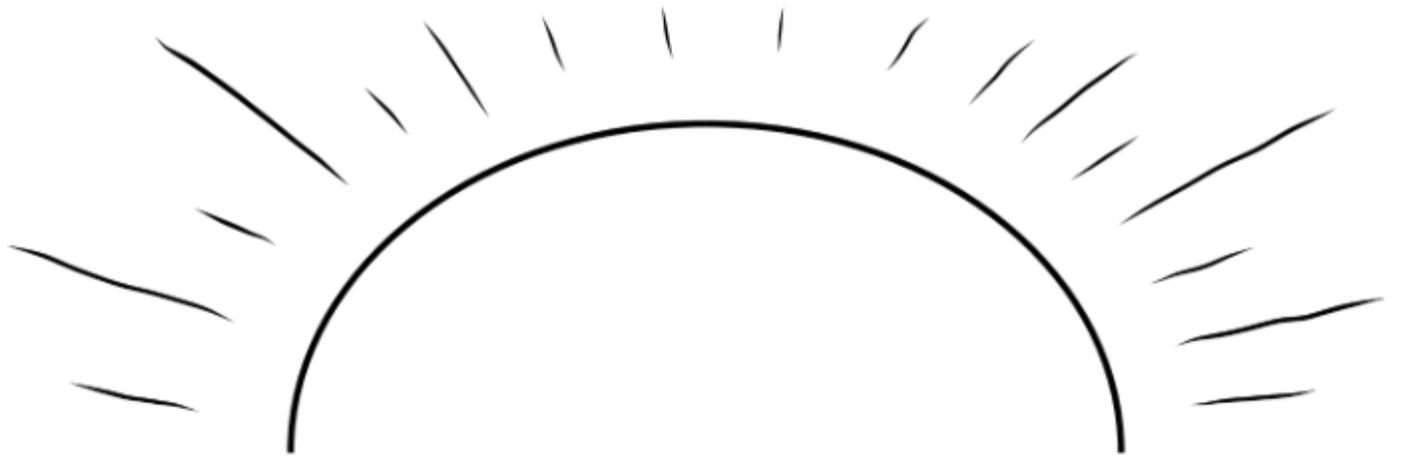
SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 4PM-8PM
ON THE CEMENT FLOOR

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.
