

+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 26, 2026; TONE 7 / EOTHINON 8

THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS MARTYR PARASKEVA OF ROME

HIEROMARTYRS HERMOLAUS, HERMIPPUS, AND HERMOCRATES OF NICOMEDIA



On July 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Righteous Martyr of Christ, Paraskeva of Rome. Born in Rome of Christian parents, she was brought up from her earliest youth in the Christian faith and gave herself wholeheartedly to the fulfilling of God's commandments in her life. When her parents died, Paraskeva gave all her goods away to the poor and received the monastic habit. As a nun, she preached the truth of Christ with ever more burning zeal, neither hiding from anyone nor fearing persecution. Paraskeva was brought to trial before the Emperor Antoninus then ordered a white-hot helmet placed on her head. But God saved her miraculously and she escaped and left Rome. She again began to go from city to city to bring the pagans to the true Faith. In two more cities she was brought before princes and judges and tortured for her Lord, performing on these occasions great miracles by the power of God and quickly recovering

from her wounds. The pagans ascribed her recovery to the power and mercy of their gods. Paraskeva once said to a prince who was torturing her: "It is not your gods, O Prince, who heal me, but my Christ, the true God." She was finally beheaded by Prince Tarasius. She suffered for Christ in the second century and received her heavenly reward.

THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous in His saints.

In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللَّهُ فِي قَدِّيسِيهِ. فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةَ. (3:23-4:5)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، قَبْلَ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ الْإِيمَانُ كُنَّا مَحْفُوظِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ مُغْلَقًا عَلَيْنَا مِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِيمَانِ الَّذِي كَانَ مُزْمَعًا إِعْلَانُهُ. فَالنَّامُوسُ إِذَا كَانَ مُؤَدِّبًا لَنَا يُرْشِدُنَا إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ، لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ، فَبَعْدَ أَنْ جَاءَ الْإِيمَانُ، لَسْنَا بَعْدَ تَحْتَ مُؤَدِّبٍ. فَأَنْتُمْ كُلُّكُمْ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. لِأَنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ بِالْمَسِيحِ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ، الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ لَبِسْتُمْ. لَيْسَ يَهُودِيٌّ وَلَا يُونَانِيٌّ، لَيْسَ عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، لَيْسَ ذَكَرٌ وَلَا أُنْثَى، فَأَنْتُمْ كُلُّكُمْ وَاحِدٌ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فَإِذَا كُنْتُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، فَأَنْتُمْ إِذَا نَسَلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَوَرَثَةُ بِحَسَبِ الْمَوْعِدِ. وَأَقُولُ: إِنَّ الْوَارِثَ مَا دَامَ طِفْلًا فَلَا فَرْقَ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْعَبْدِ مَعَ كَوْنِهِ مَالِكِ الْجَمِيعِ، لَكِنَّهُ تَحْتَ أَيْدِي الْأَوْصِيَاءِ وَالْوُكَلَاءِ إِلَى الْوَقْتِ الَّذِي حَدَدَهُ الْأَبُ. هَكَذَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا حِينَ كُنَّا أَطْفَالًا كُنَّا مُتَعَبِّدِينَ تَحْتَ أَرْكَانِ الْعَالَمِ، فَلَمَّا حَانَ مِلْءُ الزَّمَانِ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ مَوْلُودًا مِنْ امْرَأَةٍ، مَوْلُودًا تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِيَقْتَدِيَ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِنَنَالَ التَّنَبِّيَّ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (14:14-22)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَبْصَرَ يَسُوعُ جَمْعًا كَثِيرًا، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَبْرَأَ مَرْضَاهُمْ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ الْمَسَاءُ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ تَلَامِيذُهُ وَقَالُوا: "إِنَّ الْمَكَانَ قَفْرٌ، وَالسَّاعَةُ قَدْ فَاتَتْ. فَاصْرِفِ الْجُمُوعَ لِيَذْهَبُوا إِلَى الْقُرَى وَيَبْتَاعُوا لَهُمْ طَعَامًا." فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: "لَا حَاجَةَ لَهُمْ إِلَى الذَّهَابِ. أَعْطُوهُمْ أَنْتُمْ لِيَأْكُلُوا." فَقَالُوا لَهُ: "مَا عِنْدَنَا هَهُنَا إِلَّا خَمْسَةُ أَرْغَفَةٍ وَسَمَكَتَانِ." فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "هَلُمَّ بِهَا إِلَيَّ إِلَى هَهُنَا." وَأَمَرَ بِجُلُوسِ الْجُمُوعِ عَلَى الْعُشْبِ. ثُمَّ أَخَذَ الْخَمْسَةَ الْأَرْغَفَةَ وَالسَّمَكَيْنِ، وَنَظَرَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، وَبَارَكَ، وَكَسَرَ، وَأَعْطَى الْأَرْغَفَةَ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، وَالتَّلَامِيذُ لِلْجُمُوعِ. فَأَكَلُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ وَشَبِعُوا، وَرَفَعُوا مَا فَضُلَ مِنَ الْكَسْرِ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ قُفَّةً مَمْلُوءَةً. وَكَانَ الْأَكِلُونَ خَمْسَةَ آلَافِ رَجُلٍ، سِوَى النِّسَاءِ وَالصِّبْيَانِ. وَلِلْوَقْتِ اضْطَرَّ يَسُوعُ تَلَامِيذُهُ أَنْ يَدْخُلُوا السَّفِينَةَ وَيَسْبِقُوهُ إِلَى الْعَبْرِ، حَتَّى يَصْرِفَ الْجُمُوعَ.

Coffee Hour

July 26th	Irene and Zzane Guajardo
	Sponsors Needed

Upcoming Events

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 Kawar, Mason Kawar, 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



Announcements

Fr. Nicholas Traveling

Fr. Nicholas is attending the clergy symposium at the Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania from Monday to Friday this week. He will be back Friday night and will celebrate Divine Liturgy this Sunday the 26th. Please pray for his safe travels.

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.

We will be starting this process on Thursday July 30th at 5pm. This project will happen in 2–3 phases, and we would greatly appreciate all volunteers willing to lend a hand. If you would like to help, please let Rania K, Rania K. or Joby 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!

Calling all St. John Parish!!

Festival Volunteers Needed

Our Annual Food Festival is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27, and we need your help to make it a success! Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or a full shift, every helping hand makes a difference. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside one another, build friendships, and support our church community. The more hands we have, the lighter the work—and the more enjoyable the weekend will be!

Please consider signing up using the link below:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/60B0C4FA8A729A0F94-64807921-copy?useFullSite=false>

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to serve. We can't wait to see everyone there! God bless you all!
The Festival Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FESTIVAL PREP WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at 9:30 AM in our new kitchen!

August 1st	Sfeiha & Zatar Pies	September 12th	Knafeh & Date Mamoul
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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

St. John Financial Snapshot

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

INCOME		2026 Year To Date	% of Total Income	2025 Year To Date	
Membership Pledges		\$ 85,448	25%	\$ 76,840	+\$9K difference vs. 2025 YTD. +\$1K difference vs. Budget.
Tray Collections		\$ 9,219	3%	\$ 8,266	
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

“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

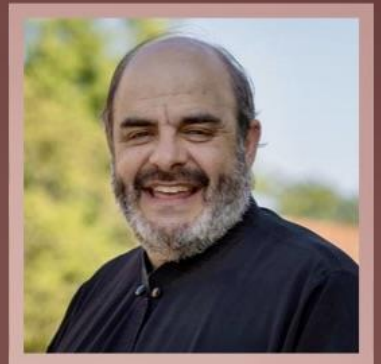
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Summit

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

★ KIDS 12 AND UNDER \$40.00 ★

★ 5:30 PM – Cocktails
(No Host Bar)

★ NO TICKET SALES AT DOOR

RSVP by August 2nd to
Evleen Salem (925) 788-6775 ★

Hope to
see you there!



SCAN TO RSVP!

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



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