



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 2; SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

& SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

VENERABLE DAVID OF THESSALONICA; JOHN, BISHOP OF THE GOTHS IN CRIMEA

PETER AND PAUL, THE HOLY APOSTLES



The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the

Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and

which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (2:10-16)

Brethren, glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek; for there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law; and as many as have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law (for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God but the doers of the Law are justified. For when the nations who do not have the Law do by nature the things contained in the Law, these then, in spite of not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, and their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them) in the day when God judges the secrets of persons, according to my gospel, through Jesus Christ.

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.

ابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَةِ.

يا إخوة، المجدُّ والكرامةُ والسَّلامُ لِكُلِّ مَنْ يَفْعَلُ الْخَيْرَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ أَوْلاً ثُمَّ مِنَ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ. لِأَنَّ أَيْسَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مُحَابَاةً وَجُوهَ. فَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ أَخْطَأُوا بِدُونِ النَّامُوسِ فَبِدُونِ النَّامُوسِ يَهْلِكُونَ، وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ أَخْطَأُوا فِي النَّامُوسِ فَبِالنَّامُوسِ يُدَانُونَ. لِأَنَّهُ أَيْسَ السَّامِعُونَ بِالنَّامُوسِ هُمْ أَبْرَارًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ بَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ بِالنَّامُوسِ هُمْ يُبْرَرُونَ. فَإِنَّ الْأُمَّمَ الَّذِينَ أَيْسَ عِنْدَهُمُ النَّامُوسُ، إِذَا عَمِلُوا بِالطَّبِيعَةِ بِمَا هُوَ فِي النَّامُوسِ، فَهَؤُلَاءِ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ عِنْدَهُمُ النَّامُوسُ، فَهُمُ نَامُوسٌ لَأَنْفُسِهِمْ. الَّذِينَ يُظْهِرُونَ عَمَلَ النَّامُوسِ مَكْتُوبًا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَضَمِيرُهُمْ شَاهِدٌ وَأَفْكَارُهُمْ تَشْكُو أَوْ تَحْتَجُّ فِيمَا بَيْنَهَا، يَوْمَ يَدِينُ اللَّهُ سَرَائِرَ النَّاسِ بِحَسَبِ إِنْجِيلِي بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:18-23)

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

فصلٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متىّ الإنجيليّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ.

في ذَلِكَ الزَّمانِ، فيما كانَ يَسوعُ ماشياً على شاطئِ بحرِ الجليلِ، رَأى أَخوينِ وَهُما سِمعانُ المَدْعُوُّ بُطرسُ وَأندراؤُسُ أخوهُ، يُلقِيانِ شَبَكَةَ في البَحْرِ (لأنَّهُما كانا صَيَّادَيْنِ)، فَقَالَ لَهُما هَلُمَّ وَرَائِي فَأَجْعَلُكُما صَيَّادِي النَّاسِ. فَلِلوَقْتِ تَرَكا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَتَبِعاهُ. وَجازَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ، فَرَأى أَخوينِ آخَرَيْنِ وَهُما يَعقوبُ بنُ زَبَدَى وَيوحنا أَخوهُ، في سَفِينَةٍ مَعَ أبِيهِما زَبَدَى يُصَلِحانِ شِباكَهُما فدَعاهُما، وَلِلوَقْتِ تَرَكا السَّفِينَةَ وَأباهُما وَتَبِعاهُ. وَكانَ يَسوعُ يَطوفُ الجليلَ كُلَّهُ يُعَلِّمُ في مَجامِعِهِم وَيَكْرِزُ بِبِشارَةِ المَلَكوتِ وَيَشفي كُلَّ مَرَضٍ وَكُلَّ ضَعْفٍ في الشَّعبِ.

"Love your Neighbor"- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

During these next few months at the beginning of summer, we will be helping our neighbors in the Bay Area who are struggling with various mental and physical health issues. Please also keep these neighbors in your prayers.

June - Contra Costa Crisis Center - The mission of the Contra Costa Crisis Center is to keep people alive and safe, help them through crises, and provide or connect them with culturally relevant services in the community.

July - Women's Daytime Drop in Center – Berkeley - California's Northern Alameda County is home to the country's highest concentration of chronically homeless individuals, nearly all of whom struggle with addictions, physical disabilities, domestic violence, or severe and persistent mental illness. The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center provide a safe space, warm meals, counseling, and support to identify housing to any homeless woman and her children during the day, when shelters are closed. WDDC serves an average of 150 women and children each month.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 26th	Belated Father's Day Barbecue after Divine Liturgy
September 24th – 25th	Festival

Coffee Hours

June 26th	Fairouz Freij in memory of Angel Freij, 27 years.
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Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Nabil Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † Hala Youakeem and the Youakeem family for the good health of **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nadia Frangieh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Helen Addes**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Nevine Youakim and family in memory of her father **Maher Salama** (one year). May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Vivian Frangieh**. 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 Swiess, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin

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

St. John Orthodox Church Father's Day Picnic



After Liturgy
Sunday June 26th, 2022
St. John Church Grounds
501 Moraga Way, Orinda
\$20 Adult Children FREE

**We will be roasting a LAMB
In Memory of Naim Frangieh**

Plus hamburgers, & hot dogs,

Beer and Wine \$5

FUN FOR ALL

Backgammon, Tug of War, Games & Prizes

Generous Donations are always welcome

We will be needing help from our community



June 10, 2022

Dear parishioners,

In January we held our general meeting wherein we discussed, among many things, the status of our fellowship hall. As many of you know this has been a long multi-year journey which, after much work and labor, is nearing its start. Unfortunately, this year we incurred a few more delays in obtaining loan approval which has in turn delayed our projected start date.

Initially, we had sought to obtain a construction loan which is a more efficient and cost-effective way to pay for the hall. During this time, material costs continued to rise making it a more challenging path since the entire cost of the project would be required upfront; we cannot complete the project without a fundraising campaign. At that point we opted to pivot to an equity loan on our property. In our fiduciary responsibility to the church, we explored a few different options which took more time. We are now in the stages of underwriting and hope to have approval back by July with an August start date.

Despite the delays, we are still expecting to break ground this year and deliver on our efforts and vision. With faith, prayer, and a community effort we will see this project through to fruition.

In Christ,

Joseph Sweis
Chairman, Parish Council