



# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

Dn. Nicholas Adranly

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023**

**TONE 6 / EOTHINON 6**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

VENERABLE THEOPHANES THE CONFESSOR OF SIGRIANE; GREGORY THE DIALOGIST, POPE OF ROME

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## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas



On March 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of Sigriane; and Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome.

On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a theologian, a hierarch and a miracle-worker, who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

## THE EPISTLE (For the Second Sunday of Lent)

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and shalt preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more!*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)**

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

## الرسالة (للأحد الثاني من الصوم)

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا. خَلِّصْنِي يَا رَبُّ فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

"أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ فِي الْبَدْءِ أَسَّسْتَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ هِيَ صُنْعُ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى وَكُلُّهَا تَبْلَى كَالثُّوبِ. وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ فَنَتَّعِيرُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسِنُوكَ لَنْ تَفْنَى." وَلِمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ قَطُّ "إِجْلِسْ عَنْ يَمِينِي حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ؟" أَلَيْسُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ أَرْوَاحًا خَادِمَةً تُرْسَلُ لِلْخِدْمَةِ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ سَيَرْتُونَهُ الْخَلَاصَ؟ فَذَلِكَ يَجِبُ عَلَيْنَا أَنْ نُصْغِيَ إِلَى مَا سَمِعْنَاهُ إِصْغَاءً أَشَدَّ لئَلَّا يَسْرَبَ مِنْ أَدْهَانِنَا. فَإِنَّهَا إِنْ كَانَتْ الْكَلِمَةُ الَّتِي نُطِقُ بِهَا عَلَى أَلْسِنَةِ مَلَائِكَةٍ قَدْ ثَبَّتَتْ، وَكُلُّ تَعَدٍّ وَمَعْصِيَةٍ نَالَ جَزَاءً عَدْلًا. فَكَيْفَ نُفَلِّتُ نَحْنُ إِنْ أَهْمُنَا خَلَاصًا عَظِيمًا كَهَذَا؟ قَدْ ابْتَدَأَ النُّطْقُ بِهِ عَلَى لِسَانِ الرَّبِّ، ثُمَّ ثَبَّتَهُ لَنَا الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوهُ.

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## الإنجيل (للأحد الثاني من الصوم)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَفَرْنَاحُومَ وَسَمِعَ أَنَّهُ فِي بَيْتٍ. فَلِلْوَقْتِ اجْتَمَعَ كَثِيرُونَ، حَتَّى أَنَّهُ لَمْ يَعْذُ مَوْضِعٌ وَلَا مَا حَوْلَ الْبَابِ يَسْعُ، وَكَانَ يُخَاطَبُهُمْ بِالْكَلِمَةِ. فَأَتَوْا إِلَيْهِ بِمُخْلَعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةٌ. وَإِذْ لَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يَقْتَرِبُوا إِلَيْهِ لِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ، كَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ حَيْثُ كَانَ. وَبَعْدَ مَا نَقَبُوهُ، دَلُّوا السَّرِيرَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخْلَعُ مُضْطَجِعًا عَلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "يَا بَنِيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." وَكَانَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْكُتَّابَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ "مَا بَالُ هَذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَكَذَا بِالتَّجْدِيفِ؟ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟" فَلِلْوَقْتِ عَلِمَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِهَذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ 'مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ' أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ 'قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ'؟" وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا (قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ) "لَكَ أَقُولُ، قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ لِلْوَقْتِ وَحَمَلَ سَرِيرَهُ وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشَ كُلُّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ "مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا قَطُّ".

### Sonshine Kids Event

Dear friends,

I hope you can make it to our **March 11th Sonshine Kids event!** We'll be participating in and teaching the children about two important Lenten traditions: praying for the departed at a Soul Saturday Liturgy and almsgiving. Here are the details!

**9am Soul Saturday Liturgy & Litya** at [Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church](#) in Menlo Park. Please bring the names of any Orthodox departed you would like to commemorate at the Litya, which will immediately follow Liturgy. Following the Litya, our friends at Holy Virgin will be graciously providing everyone lunch (sandwiches, drinks, & fruit)! Please bring anything else you would like or need (including gluten-free items if you need to). The children will also have a chance to play on their playground outside.

Then, the children will be invited back inside to participate in our **almsgiving project**. Fr. Andrew Smith will first talk with the children about almsgiving, then we will assemble care bags for the residents at [Goodness Village](#), a tiny home community for those transitioning out of chronic homelessness. Please [sign-up here](#) to purchase and bring items the non-profit has told us the residents especially need: high-quality toiletries and cleaning supplies. The children will also make cards to go inside each bag. I would like to thank Irene Guajardo for suggesting this project and helping to organize it!

**Please RSVP by March 6th** so we can plan lunch and the project accordingly, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours in Christ, Mka. Stephanie, [smatlak@gmail.com](mailto:smatlak@gmail.com), 435-214-9331

### Upcoming Events

<b>Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00pm
<b>Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30pm, followed by potluck
<b>Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى at 6:00pm
<b>Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00pm
<b>Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30pm, followed by potluck
<b>Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Rose bake sale. Contact Denisse at 925-360-3350 about your participation in baking.
<b>Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Ladies of St. John's Kaak and Falafel sale. We appreciate your pre orders by calling Fadwa Samara at 510-909-0119 or Rula Adranly at 510 508-0929 or in person on Sundays. A Dozen Falafel: \$12. Ka'ak: \$6 (2 in a pack).
<b>Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Delicious Lenten Lunch \$10/person minimum donation Benefitting the Antiochian Women's Project for Syria & Turkey Earthquake Disaster Relief
<b>Sunday, April 16, 2023</b>	Pascha/Easter

### Coffee Hours

<b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Nelly Naseef
<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Norma Khalil
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mona Thayer in memory of Matilda and Nicola Messih
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Bake Sale

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Julian and Mary Farradj**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jane Nassif**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the **victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey**. For the good health of the survivors and memory eternal for the departed!
- † Steve and Angie Kreta for the good health of their son in law **Colin Roth**. Many years!
- † Issa and Alexandra Samara for the good health of **George Samara**. 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

- † March 12<sup>th</sup> Epistle Readers:  
English: Lisbeth Gallegos  
Arabic: Raghda Khalilieh

- † Flowers on the Sunday of the adoration of the Cross offered by Nick and Najat Nicola and family in loving memory of **Metropolitan Philip Saliba** and **Bishop Antoun** and for the good health of **Nick and Najat Nicola and Family**.



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

You could use this QR code for your donation





JOIN US FOR AN



# EASTER EGG HUNT

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APRIL 15TH AFTER 10AM SERVICE

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FOOD AND CANDY • EGG HUNT  
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for Volunteers and/or Donations  
Please contact Rania Kashou 415.722.0774 or  
Kimberly Bailey 925.408.5128



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** PV075/2023

The Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5, 2023

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful,

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year we ask for your support of our archdiocesan seminarians on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, as we celebrate those who have defended and preserved the Orthodox Faith over the centuries. The Church continues and prospers from generation to generation because of those who answer God's call and dedicate their lives to His service. In particular, its life and growth depend on men and their families responding when God calls them to the holy priesthood, so that they might care for the souls of the faithful and lead our parishes in worship and outreach.

The ability of these men to fulfill their calling depends on their being properly prepared. In the sacred scriptures, the Prophet Samuel needed Eli's help to recognize the Lord's voice calling him. The Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah needed to experience divine grace touching their lips before they could proclaim the word of God. The holy apostles needed to spend years with our Lord Jesus Christ—following Him, listening to Him, and observing Him—before they received the Spirit and went forth to preach. Likewise, those called to the priesthood need an opportunity to step away from worldly responsibilities and immerse themselves in the Church's worship, ethos, and teaching at seminary.

To do this, they need your financial help. When they come to seminary in order to prepare to serve you—to bring the grace of God into your parish, your family, and your soul—they leave behind the secular work that supports them and their families. As an archdiocese, we have always come together to shoulder the financial burden of this preparation by providing scholarships and housing aid. Your generous gifts today will thus make their future service possible.

With prayers for all of you as we continue along the life-giving path of the Great Fast toward the glorious day of Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies

Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

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## FALAFEL & KA'AK SALE

Sunday, March 19TH

St. John's Church

Come get some delicious, fresh falafel for lent!! Enjoy now or stock up your freezer!!

Falafel by the dozen \$12



Ka'ak pkg. of 2 for \$6



**Pre-orders are appreciated**

Rula Adranly at 510-508-0929, [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net) or Fadwa Samara at 510-909-0119, [fvsamara@gmail.com](mailto:fvsamara@gmail.com)

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