



+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

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SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA
MARTYR SABINOS OF EGYPT; VENERABLE CHRISTODOULOS THE WONDERWORKER OF PATMOS



Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

On 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 hierarch, a theologian who defeated the heretics of his era, 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.

Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

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

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ

خَلِّصْنِي، يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (10:1-2:3)

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

THE GOSPEL

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

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّالِمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ. (2:1-12)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَفَرْنَاحُومَ وَسَمِعَ أَنَّهُ فِي بَيْتٍ. فَلِلْوَقْتِ اجْتَمَعَ كَثِيرُونَ، حَتَّى أَنَّهُ لَمْ يَعُدْ مَوْضِعٌ وَلَا مَا حَوْلَ الْبَابِ يَسَعُ، وَكَانَ يُخَاطَبُهُمْ بِالْكَلِمَةِ. فَأَتُوا 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 بُنَيَّ، 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 الْإَيْسَرُ 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. فَقَالَ 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."

Love Your Neighbor

March – Archdiocese Collection for Seminarian Fund on Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 9, 2025)

Each year the Archdiocese asks all parishes to contribute to help the Antiochian students studying on the various seminaries of the United States. In March, these students will be our neighbors.



Fellowship Hall Kitchen Hood

The kitchen hood has been installed in the hall!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 13th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, March 14th	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
Monday, March 17th	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 19th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, March 21st	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
Sunday, March 16th	40 days memorial service for the servant of God George Wahbeh offered by Afaf Wahbeh and family. May his memory be eternal!
Sunday, March 23rd	Luncheon prepared by Mona Thayer, Siham Mitry and Fadwa Samara. Minimum donation \$20. Children under 6 years free.
Wednesday, March 26th	Joseph Rodrigues will be speaking at Ascension Cathedral at a potluck sponsored by the Youth Council after their Presanctified Liturgy. He would love people from his parish to be there!

Coffee Hours

March 16th	Afaf Wahbeh in memory of George Wahbeh. May his memory be eternal!
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Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum Bennett, Fairouz Freij, Henriette Hilal and Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Rose Freij**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Victor and Angela Husary for the good health of **Chris Husary**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **George Wahbeh**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Siham Mitri and family in memory of **Michael Azoury**, her great nephew. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Naim Nazzal**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jacob Swanson**. 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

- † Epistle Readers March 16th
Arabic: Sahar Juha
English: Kimberly Bailey

- † Flowers for the 3rd Sunday of Lent offered by Nick Nicola for the good health of his wife Najat and his children Mark, Kristin, Kimberly and his grandchildren. Many years!

St. John Financial Snapshot

Year to Date Actual Finances as of 02/28/2025

INCOME	2025 Year To Date	% of Total Income	2024 Year to Date	
Membership Pledges	\$ 21,198	21%	\$ 28,945	-\$8K difference vs. YTD 2024. -\$9K difference vs. 2025 Budget.
Tray Collections	\$ 2,621	3%	\$ 1,798	
Preschool Contribution	\$ 69,431	68%	\$ 38,580	
Crab Feed and Festival	\$ -	0%	\$ -	
Ladies Contribution	\$ 5,000	5%	\$ -	Related to prior year. Add'l \$5K expected in December 2025.
Other**	\$ 4,118	4%	\$ 3,227	
Total Income	\$ 102,368	100%	\$ 72,549	
Total Expenses	\$ 116,027		\$ 64,251	
YTD Net Income	\$ (13,659)	-13%	\$ 8,298	

**Other includes bookstore, candles, flowers, palms, coffee hour, memorials, weddings, baptisms, weddings, prior year pledges

Building Fund Balance \$ 1,190,968.35

Those who wish to see the full financial summary should contact Parish Council Treasurer Andrew Thayer

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



The background is a light blue color decorated with several Easter-themed illustrations. At the top and bottom, there are white bunny heads with pink inner ears. In the center, there are four decorated Easter eggs: a green egg with white flowers, a pink egg with blue polka dots, a yellow and white striped egg, and another green egg with white flowers. The word 'Canva' is faintly visible on the green eggs.

ST. JOHN'S PASCHA EGG HUNT

APRIL 19TH, 2024 | AFTER MORNING LITURGY

EGG HUNT, BRUNCH, ARTS & CRAFT, & MORE!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE
PLEASE CONTACT RANIA KASHOU

Dine & Donate

A dine and donate fundraising event, where a portion of a restaurant's sales on a specific day are donated to our church when mention St. John and/or show the flyer. Essentially creating a win-win situation for both the restaurant and St. John. Plus you can gather with fellow community members and have no mess to clean. Additionally you don't have to cook or worry about what to eat that day. :)



JOIN US!



IS GIVING
50% BACK TO:

St. John Orthodox
Church

Thursday, Apr 24
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 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



FUNDRAISER