



# +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 925-257-2940

[www.stjohnorinda.org](http://www.stjohnorinda.org) email: [st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**

**TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8**

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)**

VENERABLE ALEXIOS THE 'MAN OF GOD,' PATRICK, BISHOP OF ARMAGH AND ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND

## Sunday of Forgiveness.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of

Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

## THE EPISTLE

*Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.*

*God is known in Judah;*

*His name is great in Israel.*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)**

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

## الرسالة

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا.

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا. اسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَّةَ.

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ خَلَاصَنَا الْآنَ أَقْرَبُ مِمَّا كَانَ حِينَ آمَنَّا. قَدْ تَنَاهَى اللَّيْلُ وَأَقْتَرَبَ النَّهَارُ، فَلْنَدْعُ عَنَّا أَعْمَالَ الظُّلْمَةِ وَنَلْبَسْ أَسْلِحَةَ النُّورِ. لِنَسْلُكَنَّ سُلُوكًا لَائِقًا كَمَا فِي النَّهَارِ، لَا بِالْقُصُوفِ وَالسُّكْرِ، وَلَا بِالْمَضَاجِعِ وَالعَهْرِ، وَلَا بِالخِصَامِ وَالْحَسَدِ، بَلِ الْبَسُوا الرَّبَّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ وَلَا تَهْتَمُّوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ لِقِضَاءِ شَهَوَاتِهَا. مَنْ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا فِي الْإِيمَانِ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ بِغَيْرِ مُبَاحَثَةٍ فِي الْآرَاءِ. مِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَعْتَقِدُ أَنَّ لَهُ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، أَمَّا الضَّعِيفُ فَيَأْكُلُ بَقَوْلًا. فَلَا يَزِدِرِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ مَنْ لَا يَأْكُلُ وَلَا يَدِينُ الَّذِي لَا يَأْكُلُ مَنْ يَأْكُلُ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدِ اتَّخَذَهُ. مَنْ أَنْتَ يَا مَنْ تَدِينُ عَبْدًا أجنبيًّا؟ إِنَّهُ لِمَوْلَاهُ يَثْبُتُ أَوْ يَسْقُطُ. لَكِنَّهُ سَيَثْبُتُ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يُثَبِّتَهُ.

## THE GOSPEL

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)**

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: إِنَّ غَفْرَتَكُمْ لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ أَبُوكُمُ السَّمَاوِيِّ أَيْضًا. وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، فَأَبُوكُمْ أَيْضًا لَا يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ زَلَّاتِكُمْ. وَمَتَى صُمْتُمْ، فَلَا تَكُونُوا مُعْبَسِينَ كَالْمُرَائِينَ. فَإِنَّهُمْ يُنَكِّرُونَ وَجُوهَهُمْ لِيُظْهِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ صَائِمِينَ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُمْ قَدْ أَخَذُوا أَجْرَهُمْ. أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَإِذَا صُمْتَ، فَأَدْهِنِ رَأْسَكَ وَاعْسِلِ وَجْهَكَ لئَلَّا تَظْهَرَ لِلنَّاسِ صَائِمًا، بَلْ لِأَبِيكَ الَّذِي فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ، وَأَبُوكَ الَّذِي يَرَى فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ يُجَازِيكَ عَلَانِيَةً. لَا تَكْنِزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، حَيْثُ يُفْسِدُ السُّوسُ وَالْآكِلَةُ وَيَنْقُبُ السَّارِقُونَ وَيَسْرِقُونَ. لَكِنْ اكْنِزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزًا فِي السَّمَاءِ حَيْثُ لَا يُفْسِدُ سَوْسٌ وَلَا آكِلَةٌ وَلَا يَنْقُبُ السَّارِقُونَ وَلَا يَسْرِقُونَ. لِأَنَّهُ حَيْثُ تَكُونُ كُنُوزُكُمْ، هُنَاكَ تَكُونُ قُلُوبُكُمْ.

### Love Your Neighbor

#### **March – Archdiocese Collection for Seminarian Fund on Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 24, 2024)**

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.

### House Blessing

Fr. Nicholas will be visiting parishioners for house blessings. You will receive a call from Fr. Nicholas or Evan to schedule. You may also call Fr. To schedule. God bless you all!

### Upcoming Events

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>Sunday, March 17 at 5pm</b>	Forgiveness Vespers
<b>Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Beginning of Lent بدء الصيام الكبير , Great Compline and canon of St. Andrew
<b>Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
<b>Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
<b>Saturday May 4th</b>	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
<b>September 28-29</b>	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

### Coffee Hours

<b>March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Mona Thayer in memory of Matilda & Nicola Messih. May their memory be eternal!
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	The Atallah, Khalil, Issa, Shahin Awwad families in memory of John Atallah. May his memory be eternal!
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed

### Memorial Services

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:** 10-year memorial for His Eminence Metropolitan Philip. May his memory be eternal!

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** Six-month memorial for John Atallah. May his memory be eternal!

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Vivian Srouji, Daniel Romley** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Gina Jaber and family in memory of **Charles Zayed**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Nuha Adranly**, the beloved sister of our Deacon Nicholas and our chanter George. Our condolences to the entire Adranly family. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Nabil Kawar**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of **Osama Mitry** (25 years). May his memory be eternal!

### 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, David Evans, Evan Kawar, Mason Kawar, Jonathan Juha and Maron Juha

- 
- † Epistle readers:  
Fairuz Freij - Arabic  
Sahar Juha - English

# FALAFEL & KA'AK SALE

Sunday, March 24TH

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 \$8



**Pre-orders are appreciated – by 3/20**

**Fadwa Samara at 510-909-0119 or Samar Wahbeh 510-909-2882**

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



## Fellowship Hall News

### Building Committee Update:

As you can see, two of the four sides of the zinc roofing have been completed and they look great! Additionally, the tile siding has been delivered and is on pallets ready to install. To get to the rest of the roof, some concrete must be poured and cured around the building for scaffolding to be erected to facilitate the next two sides of the roof. After that, we will begin installing the exterior tile sides.

The doors and windows are being sent over from Jordan and we are anxiously awaiting their arrival for installation soon after the exterior walls are complete.

### Parish Help Needed

Fellow parishioners, the fundraising committee is seeking your help in finding funding for our community hall. If you or anyone you know, has any experience with grants for charitable organizations, we would love to talk with you! We would like to apply for some grants, but don't know where to begin. This is an important step in fulfilling our financial goals for the hall. If you have any information, please email David Hanna at [davidnlisah@hotmail.com](mailto:davidnlisah@hotmail.com). Thank you!

### See's Candies

Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.

- Own a business and need to gift?
- Any gift?
- Easter chocolate??
- SEE'S just because it's SEE'S??

ANYONE can purchase!! Please find the link on our Facebook or ask anyone in the fundraising committee

<p><b>See's CANDIES</b> St John Orthodox Church Storefront</p>	
<p>Help Us Reach Our Goal!</p>	

### Zinc Shingles on the Roof!



# LORE

## COFFEE ROASTERS



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<p>Lore Coffee Roasters is a specialty coffee roastery owned and operated by two Orthodox families in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.</p>	<p>We focus on sourcing and roasting the highest quality coffee from all over the earth, striving to glorify Christ by treating our craft with respect and serving excellent coffee!</p>
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**BRINGING YOU INTO THE STORY BEHIND GOOD COFFEE.**



## Rocco's Ristorante

### Pizzeria

**DINE AND DONATE  
MARCH 14th.**

Dine in or take-out  
ALL DAY LONG

Mention ST. JOHN & show flyer  
2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek,  
CA 94598



## Meeting Urgent Needs and Planning for the Future

Active in the Middle East since the 1990s, IOCC is using its deep experience and relationships to provide aid during the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land. Since conflict began in October, IOCC has remained in close contact with partners and staff on the ground.

From food and water to baby formula and medicine, IOCC has supplied essential support to thousands of displaced refugees in Gaza. Read more about how IOCC is providing emergency relief while planning for long-term needs.

# FAMILY FIELD TRIP

OAKLAND ZOO

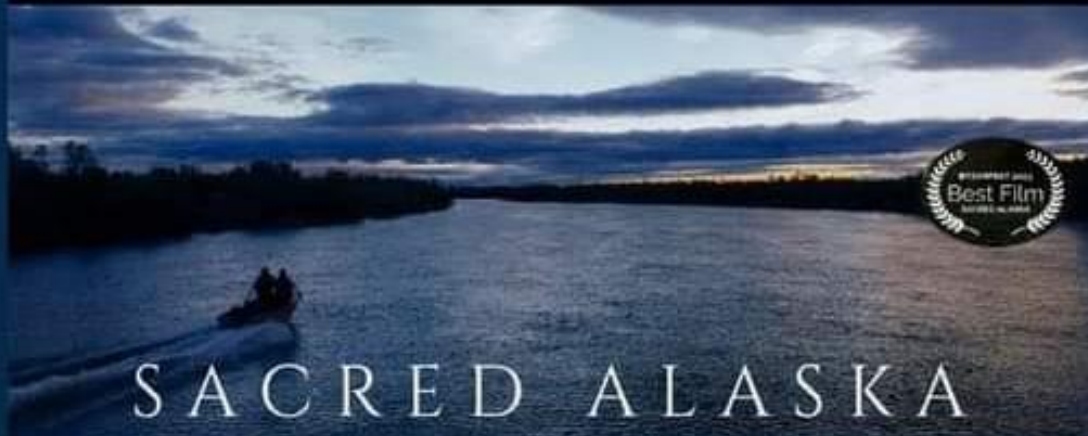
Sunday March 24th  
Right after liturgy  
\*No Sunday school

Pack a lunch

Everyone is Welcome

**Admission**  
Everyone purchases their own tickets

RESURRECTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PRESENTS



Special Double Feature

and Q&A with the Filmmakers

Tuesday, March 26 | 6:30 PM

The Chabot Theater, Castro Valley

*Amphilochios Saint of Patmos* explores the life and spiritual legacy of Saint Amphilochios (1889-1970) from the Greek island of Patmos. St. Amphilochios was a tireless spiritual father, missionary, and founder of orphanages and monasteries.

*Sacred Alaska* showcases the profound influence of Orthodoxy, introduced by Russian monks in the late 18th century, on Alaskan Society and how Alaskans have woven their indigenous beliefs with Orthodox traditions.

**Admission is free. Pre-registration is Required at:**

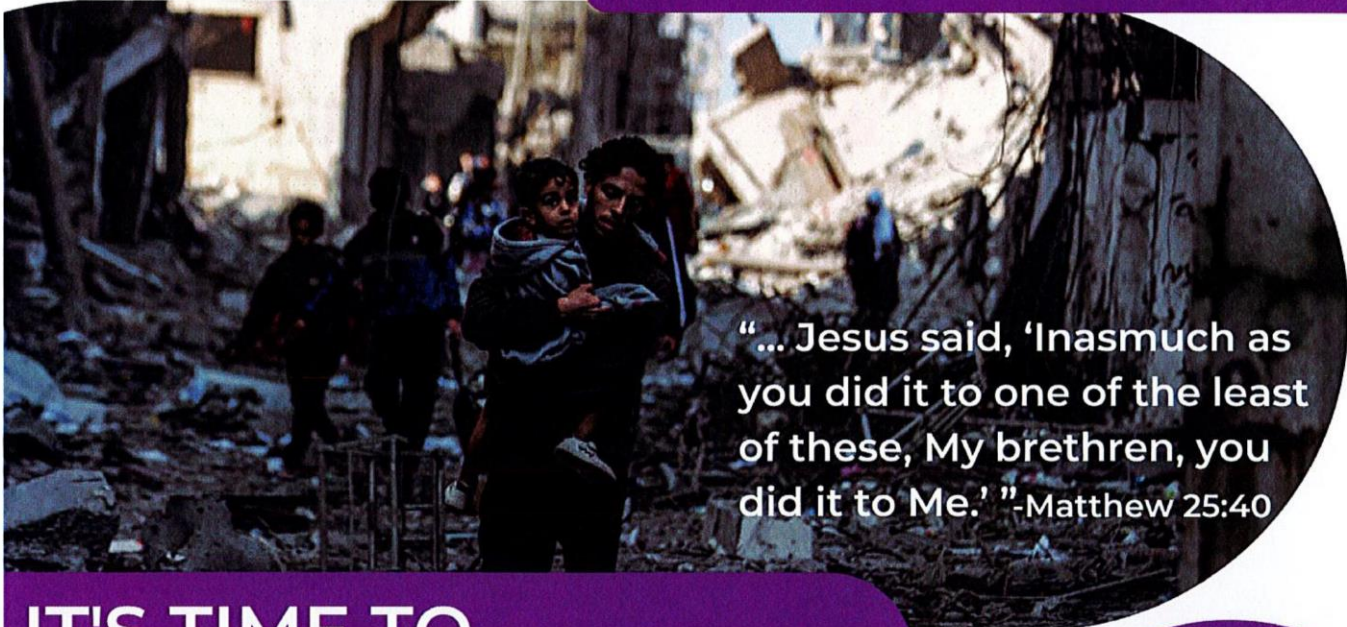
<https://bit.ly/Mar26Registration>

Questions? (510) 581-8950 | [office@resurrectiongoc.com](mailto:office@resurrectiongoc.com)

  
**BASILICA OF ST. MARY**  
Antiochian Orthodox Church • Livonia, MI



## GREAT LENT PROJECT



“... Jesus said, ‘Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”-Matthew 25:40

## IT'S TIME TO **DONATE** GAZA TENT SPONSORSHIPS

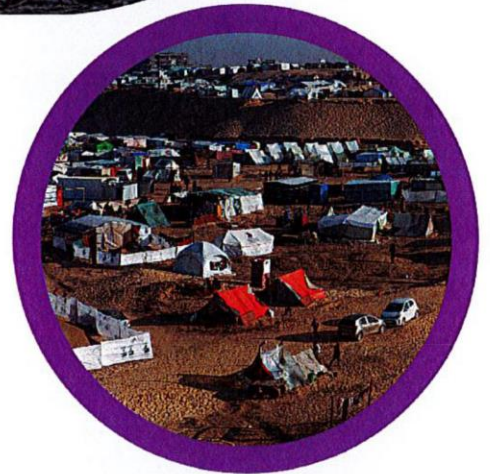
We have partnered with an aid agency that is providing tents for families whose homes have been destroyed amid the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. Tents are furnished and can house a whole family.

Help us to reach our target of 100 tents throughout the Lenten season

**\$350.00** PER TENT

Checks can be mailed to our office, payable to St. Mary Church- Gaza Tent Project. Or donate online at the link below, or by scanning the QR code

**[WWW.STMARYLIVONIA.COM](http://WWW.STMARYLIVONIA.COM)**



18100 Merriman Rd. Livonia, MI 48152 734-422-0010



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 049/2024

Great Lent, 2024

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN**

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

During this holy season of repentance, we strive with renewed focus to live rightly, being “doers of the word and not just hearers” (James 1:22). Along with increasing our prayers and abandoning self-indulgence, we especially focus on caring for the needs of others. As we hear on Meatfare Sunday, we will be judged by God on how we have responded to the sufferings of the “least of these” (Matthew 25), so we must strive to give attention to their needs as we would to Christ’s.

Although our Lord Jesus Christ taught and exemplified this law of love in the most perfect way, it is also beautifully stated in the Old Law, where God commands, “If one of your brothers happens to be in need . . . , you will not harden your heart nor shut your hand to your needy brother. You will surely open your hands to him” (Deuteronomy 15:7–8). Such giving is not just some humanitarian project but a relational act: opening our hearts and hands to our brothers and sisters. It is a determination to actually see the homeless woman we pass on the street and to remember the friend or acquaintance who has fallen on hard times. Although the magnitude of suffering in the world tempts us to insulate ourselves against the needs of others, the law of love reminds us that each person is a treasure and that his need is not a problem but an opportunity to embrace him.

As we have for 50 years now, we again encourage you to open your hearts and hands to the needy by contributing to our Food for Hungry People program this Lent. We appeal to your well-known generosity and ask the blessing of Almighty God on all who participate in this worthy effort.

With prayers for an edifying and enriching Great Lent and a glorious celebration of Pascha, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a small icon of a cross followed by the text "SABA".

✠ SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F