



+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
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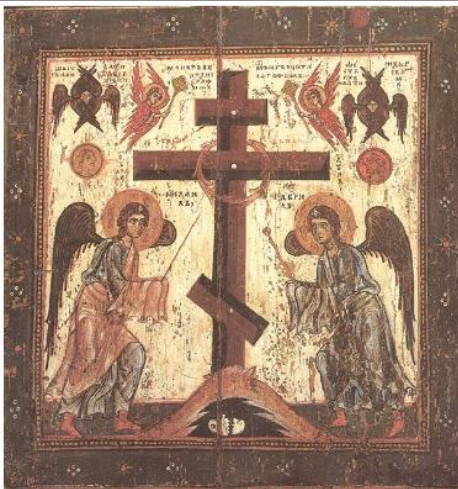
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 6 ; THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

VENERABLE-MARTYR NIKON OF SICILY AND WITH HIM 199 DISCIPLES

الأحد الثالث من الصوم الكبير (السجود للصليب الكريم المحيي)



Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

On the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek".

الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ. إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (6:5-14:4)

"يا إخوة، إذ لنا رئيس كهنة عظيم قد اجتاز السموات، يسوع ابن الله، فلنتمسك بالإعتراف. لأن لنا رئيس كهنة غير قادر أن يرثي لأوهاننا، بل مجرب في كل شيء مثلنا ما خلا الخطيئة. فلنقبل إذن بثقة إلى عرش النعمة، لننال رحمة ونجد ثقة للإغاثة في أوانها. فإن كل رئيس كهنة متخذ من الناس يقام لأجل الناس فيما هو لله، ليقرّب تقادم ودبائح عن الخطايا، في إمكانه أن يشفق على الذين يجهلون ويضلون، لكونه هو أيضاً متلبساً بالضغف. ولهذا يجب عليه أن يقرب عن الخطايا لأجل نفسه كما يقرب لأجل الشعب. وليس أحد يأخذ لنفسه الكرامة، بل من دعاه الله كما دعا هارون. كذلك المسيح لم يمجد نفسه ليصير رئيس كهنة، بل الذي قال له "أنت ابني وأنا اليوم ولذتك." كما يقول في موضع آخر "أنت كاهن إلى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْفَسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّمْذِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ. (1:9-34:8)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبِعَنِي فَلْيَكْفُرْ بِنَفْسِهِ وَيَحْمِلْ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبِعَنِي، لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفْسَهُ يُهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِ وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ يُخَلِّصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يَنْتَفِعُ الْإِنْسَانُ لَوْ رِيحَ الْعَالَمِ كُلَّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطَى الْإِنْسَانُ فِدَاءً عَنِ نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَحْيَ بِي وَبِكَلَامِي فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ الْخَاطِئِ. يَسْتَحْيَ بِهِ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ مَتَى آتَى فِي مَجْدٍ أَمَّا مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ قَوْمًا مِنَ الْقَائِمِينَ هَهُنَا لَا يَذُوقُونَ الْمَوْتَ حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ قَدْ آتَى بِقُوَّةٍ.

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.

Help with the Easter Egg Hunt

Our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt is fast approaching, coming up on April 19th! We are looking for some volunteers and donations to help make this event a memorable one for all of our youth at St. John's! Please review the SignUp Genius link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A8A929AA8-55762312-stjohns/>) and sign-up to donate some items or volunteer to help set-up/tear down and during the event!

We have created an Amazon Wishlist for the event, please take a look if you are able to help purchase any items: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/348DHSRHZJR8?ref=wl_share

Please reach out to Rania or Kimberly if you have any questions:

raniamariakashou@gmail.com

kimberlynicola@gmail.com

Thank you!

Kimberly Bailey

Upcoming Events

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|---|---|
| Friday, March 21st | Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM |
| Monday, March 24th | Vespers for the feast of the Annunciation عيد البشارة at 6:00pm instead of the Great Compline. |
| Tuesday, March 25th | Fr. Nicholas will be celebrating the feast of the Annunciation عيد البشارة. On Tuesday morning At the Annunciation Greek Cathedral in San Francisco. You may all join him! |
| Wednesday, March 26th | Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM |
| Friday, March 28th | 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! |

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!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nabil Tovil**. Many years!
- † Mona and Daniel Thayer for the good health of the **Thayer and Messih families**. Many years! Also, in memory of **Nicola** and **Matilda Messih**. May their memories 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!



- † 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: Dalal Yowakim
- English: Amy McLellan

- † Thank you to Ziad and Charlene Nassoura for donating the communion wine. God bless you and your children!



- † 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'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
OR KIMBERLY BAILEY**

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



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