

+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 24, 2024

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 9

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

(أحد الأول من الصوم الكبير (أحد الأورثوذكسية)

VENERABLE ZACHARIAH THE RECLUSE AND ARTEMON, BISHOP OF SELEUCIA

Sunday of Orthodoxy



On this day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

This restoration was accomplished in the year 843. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she

led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

الرسالة

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .
لَأَنَّكَ عَادِلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرِّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ .

يَا إِخْوَةُ، بِالْإِيمَانِ مُوسَى لَمَّا كَبُرَ أَبِي أَنْ يُدْعَى ابْنًا لِابْنَةِ فِرْعَوْنَ . مُخْتَارًا الشَّقَاءَ مَعَ شَعْبِ اللَّهِ عَلَى التَّمَتُّعِ الْوَقْتِيِّ بِالْخَطِيئَةِ . وَمُعْتَبِرًا عَارَ الْمَسِيحِ غِنَى أَعْظَمَ مِنْ كُنُوزِ مِصْرَ ، لِأَنَّهُ نَظَرَ إِلَى النَّوَابِ . وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضًا؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنَّ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ وَبَارَاقَ وَشَمَشُونَ وَيَفْتَاخَ وَدَاوَدَ وَصَمُوئِيلَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ . الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ ، وَعَمِلُوا الْبِرَّ ، وَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ ، وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسْوَدِ . وَأَطْفَأُوا حِدَّةَ النَّارِ ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ السَّيْفِ ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفِ ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ ، وَكَسَرُوا مُعْسَكَرَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ . وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أَمَوَاتَهُنَّ بِالْقِيَامَةِ . وَعَذَّبَ آخَرُونَ بِنَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ ، لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلَ . وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ وَالْجَلْدَ وَالْقَيْوَدَ أَيْضًا وَالسِّجْنَ . وَرُجِمُوا ، وَنُشِرُوا ، وَامْتَحِنُوا ، وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمِعِزٍ ، وَهُمْ مُعَوَّزُونَ مُضَائِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ ، (وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحَقًّا لَهُمْ) وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ وَالْجِبَالِ ، وَالْمَعَاوِرِ وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ . فَهَوْلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوْعِدَ . لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ ، أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بَدُونِنَا .

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ .

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ ، أَرَادَ يَسُوعُ الْخُرُوجَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ فَوَجَدَ فِيلِبُّسَ فَقَالَ لَهُ : اتَّبَعْنِي . وَكَانَ فِيلِبُّسُ مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا مِنْ مَدِينَةِ أَنْدَرَاوَسَ وَبَطْرُسَ . فَوَجَدَ فِيلِبُّسُ نَثْنَائِيلَ ، فَقَالَ لَهُ : إِنَّ الَّذِي كَتَبَ عَنْهُ مُوسَى فِي النَّامُوسِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَدْ وَجَدْنَاهُ ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ بْنُ يَوْسُفَ الَّذِي مِنَ النَّاصِرَةِ . فَقَالَ لَهُ نَثْنَائِيلُ : أَمِنْ النَّاصِرَةِ يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يَكُونَ شَيْءٌ صَالِحٌ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ فِيلِبُّسُ : تَعَالِ وَأَنْظُرْ . فَرَأَى يَسُوعُ نَثْنَائِيلَ مُقْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ ، فَقَالَ عَنْهُ : هُوَذَا إِسْرَائِيلِيُّ حَقًّا لَا غِشَّ فِيهِ . فَقَالَ لَهُ نَثْنَائِيلُ : مِنْ أَيْنَ تَعْرِفُنِي؟ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ ، وَقَالَ لَهُ : قَبْلَ أَنْ يَدْعُوكَ فِيلِبُّسُ وَأَنْتَ تَحْتَ النَّيْنَةِ رَأَيْتُكَ . أَجَابَ نَثْنَائِيلُ وَقَالَ لَهُ : يَا مُعَلِّمُ ، أَنْتَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ ، أَنْتَ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلِ . أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ : لِأَنِّي قُلْتُ لَكَ إِنَّي رَأَيْتُكَ تَحْتَ النَّيْنَةِ آمَنْتَ؟ إِنَّكَ سَتَعَايِنُ أَعْظَمَ مِنْ هَذَا . وَقَالَ لَهُ : الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ ، إِنَّكُمْ مِنَ الْآنَ تَرَوْنَ السَّمَاءَ مَفْتُوحَةً ، وَمَلَائِكَةُ اللَّهِ يَصْعَدُونَ وَيَنْزِلُونَ عَلَى ابْنِ الْبَشَرِ .

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.

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
Wednesday, March 20th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, March 22nd	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
Saturday May 4th	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Coffee Hours

March 24th	The Atallah, Khalil, Issa, Shahin Awwad families in memory of John Atallah. May his memory be eternal!
March 31st	Sponsor Needed
April 7th	Farradj and Adranly families on the occasion of the 40 day memorial for Nuha Adranly. May her memory be eternal!

Memorial Services

March 24th: 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!
- † 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!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of nephew **Osama Zabneh**. 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:
Hala yowakeem- Arabic
Deena Farrah- 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. Thank you!

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St John Orthodox Church Storefront

Help Us
Reach Our Goal!



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

Zinc Shingles on the Roof!

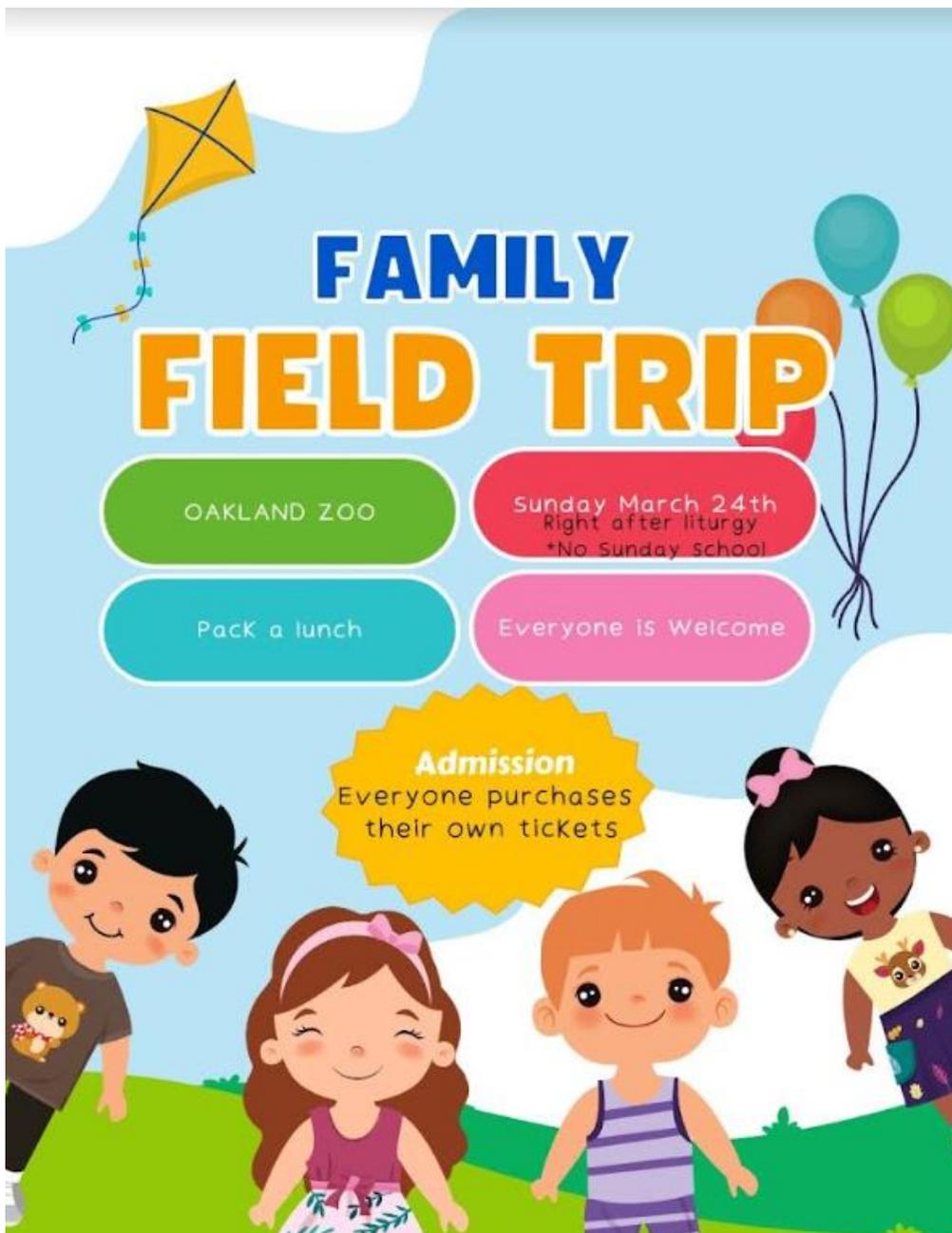




Meeting Urgent Needs and Planning for the Future

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

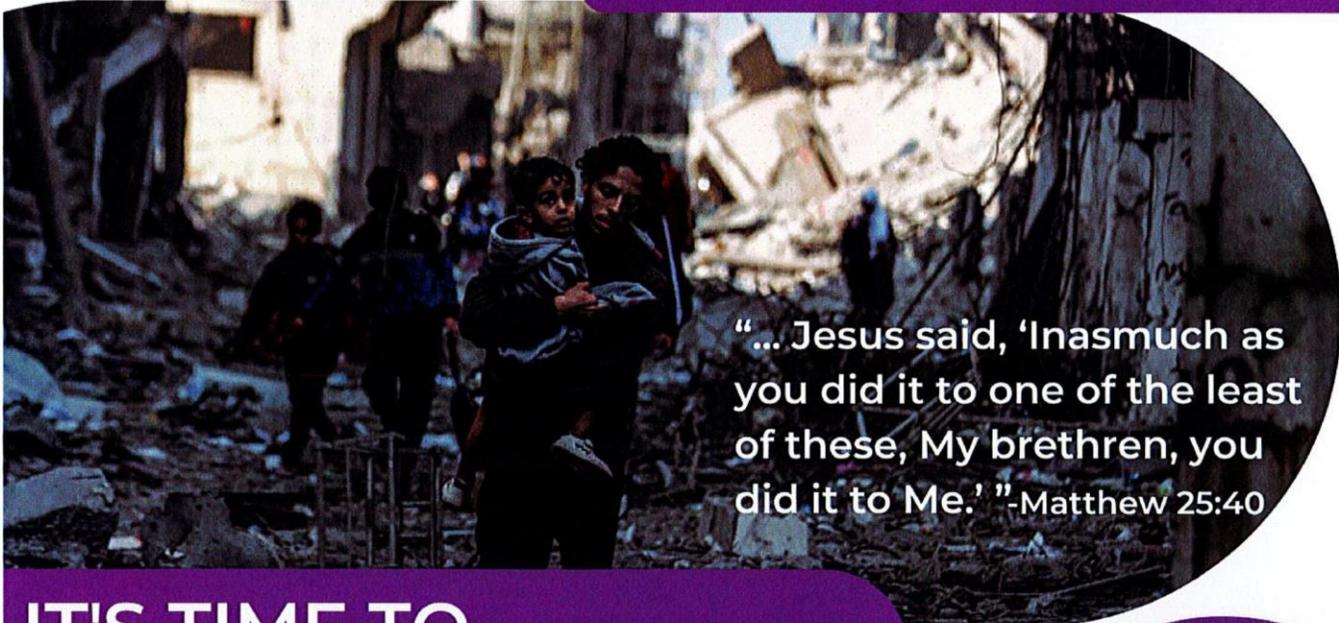
Pack a lunch

Everyone is Welcome

Admission
Everyone purchases their own tickets



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

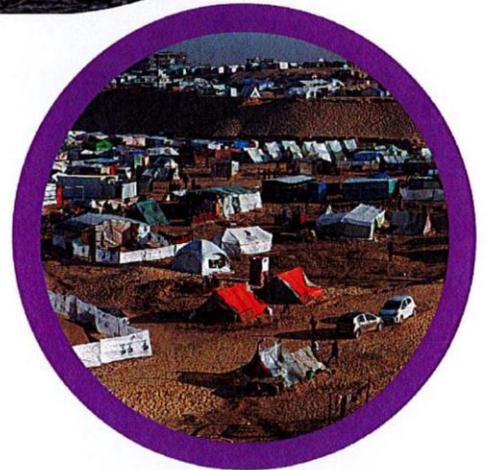
We have partnered with an aid agency that is providing tents for families whose homes have been destroyed amid the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. Tents are furnished and can house a whole family.

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



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,

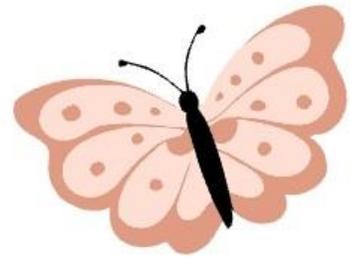
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style.

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

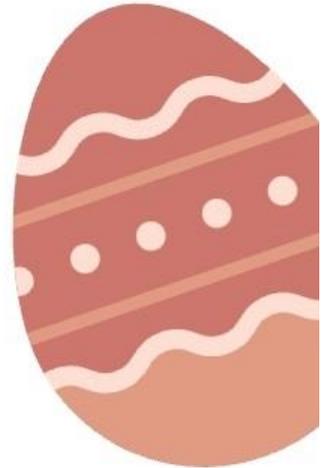
“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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ST. JOHN'S

PASCHA EGG HUNT

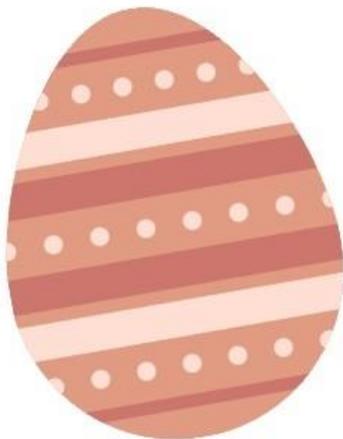


*Saturday May 4th
after morning service*

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

*** RAFFLE BASKETS ***

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
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