



# +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 02, 2025**

**TONE 3 / EOTHINON 3**

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)**

MARTYR HESYCHIOS THE SENATOR; THEODOTOS, BISHOP OF CYRENE IN CYPRUS;  
VIRGIN-MARTYR EUTHALIA OF SICILY



## Forgiveness Sunday

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

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.*

*Clap your hands, all ye peoples.*

**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

رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا. يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَفِّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية. (14:4-13:11)

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 بِالْفُصُوفِ وَالسُّكْرِ، وَلَا بِالْمَصَاحِجِ وَالْعَهْرِ، وَلَا بِالْخِصَامِ وَالْحَسَدِ، بَلِ الْبَسُوا الرَّبَّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ وَلَا تَهَنَّمُوا بِأَجْسَادِكُمْ لِقَضَاءِ شَهَوَاتِهَا. مَنْ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا فِي الْإِيمَانِ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ بِغَيْرِ مُبَاحَثَةٍ فِي الْأَرَءَاءِ. مِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَعْتَقِدُ أَنَّ لَهُ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، أَمَّا الضَّعِيفُ فَيَأْكُلُ بُغُولًا. فَلَا يَزْدِرِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ مَنْ لَا يَأْكُلُ وَلَا يَدِينُ الَّذِي لَا يَأْكُلُ مَنْ يَأْكُلُ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ اتَّخَذَهُ. مَنْ أَنْتَ يَا مَنْ تَدِينُ عَبْدًا أجنبيًّا؟ إِنَّهُ لِمَوْلَاهُ يَنْبُتُ أَوْ يَسْقُطُ. لَكِنَّهُ سَيَنْبُتُ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يُنْبِتَهُ.

## 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. (21-6:14)**

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: إِنَّ عَقْرَتُمْ لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ أَبُوكُمْ السَّمَاوِيِّ أَيْضاً. وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ زَلَّاتِهِمْ، فَأَبُوكُمْ أَيْضاً لَا يَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ زَلَّاتِكُمْ. وَمَتَّى صُمْتُمْ، فَلَا تَكُونُوا مُعَبِّسِينَ كَالْمُرَائِينَ. فَإِنَّهُمْ يُنْكِرُونَ وَجُوهَهُمْ لِيُظْهِرُوا لِلنَّاسِ صَائِمِينَ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُمْ قَدْ أَخَذُوا أَجْرَهُمْ. أَمَا أَنْتَ فَإِذَا صُمْتَ، فَادْهَنْ رَأْسَكَ وَاغْسِلْ وَجْهَكَ لئَلَّا تَظْهَرَ لِلنَّاسِ صَائِماً، بَلْ لِأَبِيكَ الَّذِي فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ، وَأَبُوكَ الَّذِي يَرَى فِي الْخَفِيَّةِ يُجَازِيكَ عِلَانِيَةً. لَا تَكْنُزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزاً عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، حَيْثُ يُفْسِدُ السُّوسُ وَالْأَكَلَةُ وَيَنْقُبُ السَّارِقُونَ وَيَسْرِقُونَ. لَكِنْ اكْنُزُوا لَكُمْ كُنُوزاً 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 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.

### **Parish Meeting Success**

We had a great 2025 Parish Meeting and elected two new members, Andrew Thayer and Raif Rihani to the Parish council, and Fr. Nicholas appointed one member, Tania De Groot. Thank you all for your willingness to serve your church!

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Cheesefare Sunday احد مرفع الجين. Forgiveness Vespers at 12:30pm, after Coffee Hour
<b>Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Great Lent Begins
<b>Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	40 days memorial service for the servant of God George Wahbeh offered by Afaf Wahbeh and family. May his memory be eternal!
<b>Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Luncheon prepared by Mona Thayer, Siham Mitry and Fadwa Samara. Minimum donation \$20. Children under 6 years free.
<b>Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	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**

<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	In memory of Sal Freij (20 yr.) May his memory be eternal!
<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Afaf Wahbeh in memory of George Wahbeh.

### 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!

† Sue Gideon and Sandy Gangovi and family for the good health of grandson **Conner Gangovi**. And in memory of **Fred Gideon**, may his 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!

† Prayers are being offered by Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Family in beloved memory of **Jim and Rose Romley, Ray, Gloria** and **Brad Zachariah** and **Sig Dietzmann**. May their memory be eternal!

† Siham Mitri and family for the good health of **Michael Azoury**, his great nephew. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>

Arabic: Fairuz Freij

English: Deena Farrah

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



# IOCC Update: Gaza: Finding Relief and Community Amidst Crisis

Nora (not her real name) is a 14-year-old girl who has been displaced multiple times due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Her family originally lived in Gaza City but were forced to flee their home, finding refuge in a displacement camp. The upheaval caused Nora to lose her sense of safety, and she began to struggle with fear and anxiety.



While dealing with these problems, Nora and her family learned about a project implemented through IOCC, providing recreational activities for displaced children in Gaza. Nora decided to attend an event organized by IOCC, which gave her the opportunity to participate in fun and playful activities and to socialize in a lighthearted atmosphere.

Despite very difficult circumstances, Nora expressed how much happiness and relief she felt being able to play and experience a bit of joy again. She hopes to attend similar events in the future, and is grateful to IOCC for helping the youth in her community get together in a spirit of fun.



*Rocco's Ristorante*  
*Pizzreria*

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**THURSDAY MARCH 6th**

20% Give back, Dine in or take-out  
ALL DAY LONG

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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



# FUNDRAISER

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](http://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.

