

# +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 30, 2025**

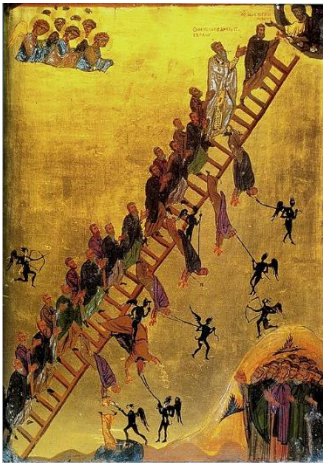
**TONE 7 / EOTHINON 7**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

NEW HIEROMARTYR ZACHARIAH, METROPOLITAN OF CORINTH; SOPHRONIOS, BISHOP OF IRKUTSK

## Sunday of St. John of the Ladder



On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent (or Climacus).

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year.

One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek".

## الرسالة

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لَشَعْبِهِ.

قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ. قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْدًا وَكَرَامَةً.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (20-13:6)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا وَعَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِذْ لَمْ يُمَكِّنْ أَنْ يُقَسِّمَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُ، أَقْسَمَ بِنَفْسِهِ. قَائِلًا: لِأَبَارِكْكَ بَرَكَاتٍ وَأَكْثِرْكَ تَكْثِيرًا. وَذَلِكَ إِذْ تَأْتَى، نَالَ الْمُوعَدَ. وَإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ يُقَسِّمُونَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُمْ، وَتَنْقُضِي كُلَّ مُشَاجِرَةٍ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقَسَمِ لِلتَّيْبِتِ. فَلِذَلِكَ، لَمَّا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ وَرَثَةَ الْمُوعَدِ بَيَانًا لِعَدَمِ تَحَوُّلِ عَزْمِهِ، تَوَسَّطَ بِالْقَسَمِ. حَتَّى نَحْصَلَ بِأَمْرَيْنِ لَا يَتَحَوَّلَانِ وَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْلَفَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمَا عَلَى تَعْزِيَةِ قَوِيَّةٍ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ التَّجَّأْنَا إِلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِالرَّجَاءِ الْمُوْضِعِ أَمَانًا. الَّذِي هُوَ لَنَا كَمِرْسَاةٍ لِلنَّفْسِ أَمِينَةٍ رَاسِحَةٍ تَدْخُلُ إِلَى دَاخِلِ الْحِجَابِ، حَيْثُ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَسَابِقِ لَنَا وَقَدْ صَارَ عَلَى رُبَّةٍ مَلَكِيصَادَقَ، رَيْسِ كَهَنَةٍ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

## THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

## الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٍ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَرْفُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ. (31-17:9)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ إِنْسَانٌ وَسَجَدَ لَهُ قَائِلًا: "يَا مَعْلَمُ، قَدْ أَتَيْتُكَ بَابْنِي، بِهِ رُوحٌ أَبْكَمٌ. وَحَيْثُمَا أَخَذَهُ يَصْرَعُهُ، فَيَزِيدُ وَيَصْرَفُ بِأَسْنَانِهِ وَيَبْيِسُ، وَقَدْ سَأَلْتُ تَلَامِيذَكَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوهُ فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ قَائِلًا: "أَيُّهَا الْجِيلُ غَيْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِلَى مَتَى أَكُونُ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ حَتَّى مَتَى أَحْتَمِلُكُمْ؟ هَلُمَّ بِهِ إِلَيَّ." فَأَتَوْهُ بِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَهُ لِلْوَقْتِ صَرَعهُ الرُّوحُ، فَسَقَطَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَتَمَرَّغُ وَيَزِيدُ. فَسَأَلَ أَبَاهُ: "مُنْذُ كَمْ مِنَ الزَّمَانِ أَصَابَهُ هَذَا؟" فَقَالَ: "مُنْذُ صِبَاهُ. وَكَثِيرًا مَا أَلْقَاهُ فِي النَّارِ وَفِي الْمِيَاهِ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. لَكِنْ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ شَيْئًا، فَتَحَنَّنْ عَلَيْنَا وَأَغْنِنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ، فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ." فَصَاحَ أَبُو الصَّبِيِّ مِنْ سَاعَتِهِ بِدُمُوعٍ وَقَالَ: "إِنِّي أُوْمِنُ يَا سَيِّدُ، فَأَغِثْ عَدَمَ إِيمَانِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ الْجَمْعَ يَتَّبِعُونَهُ إِلَيْهِ، انْتَهَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ قَائِلًا لَهُ: "أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ الْأَبْكَمُ الْأَصْمُ، أَنَا أَمْرُكَ أَنْ أُخْرِجَ مِنْهُ وَلَا تُعَدُّ تَدْخُلَ فِيهِ." فَصَرَخَ وَخَبَطَهُ كَثِيرًا وَخَرَجَ مِنْهُ، فَصَارَ كَالْمَيْتِ، حَتَّى قَالَ كَثِيرُونَ إِنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ. فَأَخَذَ يَسُوعُ بِيَدِهِ وَأَنْهَضَهُ، فَقَامَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتًا، سَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ: "لِمَاذَا لَمْ نَسْتَطِعْ نَحْنُ أَنْ نُخْرِجَهُ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ هَذَا الْجِنْسَ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالصُّومِ." وَلَمَّا خَرَجُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، اجْتَازُوا فِي الْجَلِيلِ، وَلَمْ يَرُدْ أَنْ يَدْرِيَ أَحَدٌ. فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يُعَلِّمُ تَلَامِيذَهُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ يُسَلَّمُ إِلَى أَيْدِي النَّاسِ، فَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَبَعْدَ أَنْ يُقْتَلَ، يَقُومُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ."

## 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.

## Thank you for a Successful Ladies Luncheon

A special thank and appreciation from the heart to all who supported the ladies luncheon last Sunday we raised \$1,400. The next luncheon is in June and we encourage all our parishioners to attend and support us, the minimum donation is \$20 children 6 and under are free and it is much cheaper than going out to have lunch at a restaurant. We look forward to have more families to come forward and sponsor future luncheons in 2025. All the proceeds of 2025 luncheons will be towards the building fund. Thank you

## 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/348DHSJRJZJR8?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/348DHSJRJZJR8?ref=wl_share)

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

[raniamariakashou@gmail.com](mailto:raniamariakashou@gmail.com)

[kimberlynicola@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlynicola@gmail.com)

Thank you!  
Kimberly Bailey

## PROJECT MEXICO & ST. INNOCENT ORPHANAGE

At St. John's, many of our teens have had the opportunity to volunteer to build homes for communities in need in Northern Mexico, just across the US border (about 30 minutes from San Diego). We have some interest in taking a group down this summer, June 12-18th. This is a wonderful, transformative volunteer experience as part of "a mission to build hope, one home at a time" and has been a blessing to participate in. <https://www.projectmexico.org/homebuilding#g>

The homebuilding program is open to all teens 14 years & above or adults of any age!!! Younger teens under 14 can join along with a parent chaperone. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Rula Adranly [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net) or Nadine Potts [nbhpotts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nbhpotts@sbcglobal.net).



## Flowers for The Bier نِعْش المسيح of Christ.

We are asking for donations for the flowers for the Bier of Christ. Please let Fr. Nicholas know if you can donate flowers.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
<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!
<b>Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
<b>Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Great Compline صلاة النوم الكبرى at 6:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
<b>Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30 PM
<b>March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b>	Prison Ministry Easter Card Writing Workshop after Divine Liturgy.

## Coffee Hour

<b>March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	The Husary family for the good health of Chris, Tony and Mike.
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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 **Nabil Tovil**. 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 30<sup>th</sup>  
Arabic: Nelly Nassif  
English: Lisbeth Gallegos

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

† Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum and Family** in loving memory of John, Misadeh, Audie and Mary Dudum, Jim and Rose Romley and Naim Nazzal. May their memory be eternal!



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

You could use this QR code for your donation



## URGENT CALL TO ACTION

# 7 YEAR OLD GAZAN GIRL IN THE US NEEDS A STEM CELL DONOR NOW



*Your stem cells could save her life*  
*or the life of any searching patient*

## ETHNICITY IMPACTS COMPATIBILITY

**A donor match for this Palestinian child is  
most likely an 18-40 year old Arab person in the U.S.**

**[my.nmdp.org/Swab4Palestine](https://my.nmdp.org/Swab4Palestine) | text Swab4Palestine to 61474**

*NMDP will send you a free buccal swab kit by mail. NMDP was founded in 1987 as Be the Match  
and follows the strictest privacy protocols - all data is anonymized and secure*

**PLEASE SEND THIS TO 10 ARAB PEOPLE**



**ST. JOHN'S**  
**PASCHA**  
**EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 19TH, 2025 | AFTER MORNING LITURGY**

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

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

## 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](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.

**FORCE  
4 GOOD**  
FUNDRAISING



FUNDRAISER