



+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

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 10

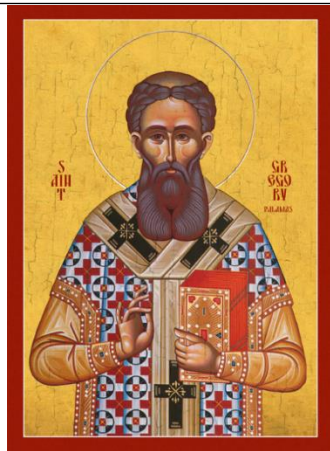
SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

HYPATIOS THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF GANGRA; PROPHET JOEL

الأحد الثاني من الصوم الكبير

تذكُرُ أبينا الجليل في القديسين غريغوريوس بالاماس رئيس أساقفة تسالونيكية



Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

On the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a theologian, a hierarch and a miracle-worker, who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius,

St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

الرسالة

قَوْتِي وَتَسْبِخَتِي الرَّبِّ. أَدَبًا أَتَّبَنِي الرَّبِّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

"أنت يا رب في البدءِ أَسَسْتَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ هِيَ صُنْعُ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى وَكُلُّهَا تَبْلَى كَالثُّوبِ. وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ فَتَتَغَيَّرُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسِنُوكَ لَنْ تَقْنَى." وَلِمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ قَطُّ "اجْلِسْ عَنِ يَمِينِي حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ؟" أَلَيْسُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ أَرْوَاحًا خَادِمَةً تُرْسَلُ لِلْخِدْمَةِ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ سَيَرِثُونَ الْخَلَاصَ؟ فَلِذَلِكَ يَجِبُ عَلَيْنَا أَنْ نُصْغِيَ إِلَى مَا سَمِعْنَاهُ إِصْغَاءً أَشَدَّ لئَلَّا يَسْرَبَ مِنْ أَدْهَانِنَا. فَإِنَّهَا إِنْ كَانَتْ الْكَلِمَةُ الَّتِي نُطَقُ بِهَا عَلَى أَلْسِنَةِ مَلَائِكَةٍ قَدْ تَبَتَّتْ، وَكُلُّ تَعَدٍّ وَمَعْصِيَةٍ نَالَ جَزَاءً عَدْلًا. فَكَيْفَ نُفَلِّتُ نَحْنُ إِنْ أَهْمَلْنَا خَلَاصًا عَظِيمًا كَهَذَا؟ قَدْ ابْتَدَأَ النُّطْقُ بِهِ عَلَى لِسَانِ الرَّبِّ، ثُمَّ تَبَتَّهُ لَنَا الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوهُ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَفَرْنَا حَوْمَ وَسَمِعَ أَنَّهُ فِي بَيْتِهِ. فَلِلْوَقْتِ اجْتَمَعَ كَثِيرُونَ، حَتَّى أَنَّهُ لَمْ يَعْذُ مَوْضِعٌ وَلَا مَا حَوْلَ الْبَابِ يَسَعُ، وَكَانَ يُخَاطَبُهُمْ بِالْكَلِمَةِ. فَأَتَوْا إِلَيْهِ بِمُخْلَعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةٌ. وَإِذْ لَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يَقْتَرِبُوا إِلَيْهِ لِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ، كَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ حَيْثُ كَانَ. وَبَعْدَ مَا تَقَبَّوهُ، دَلُّوا السَّرِيرَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخْلَعُ مُضْطَجِعًا عَلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "يَا بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." وَكَانَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْكُتَّابَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ "مَا بَالُ هَذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَكَذَا بِالتَّجْدِيفِ؟ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟" فَلِلْوَقْتِ عَلِمَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِهَذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ "مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ" أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ "قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ"؟ وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. فَقَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ "لَكَ أَقُولُ، قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَاذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ لِلْوَقْتِ وَحَمَلَ سَرِيرَهُ وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشَ كُلُّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ "مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا قَطُّ."

We had a Great Trip to the Zoo!

We had an incredible trip to the Oakland Zoo filled with unforgettable memories. Everyone's excitement made it more special! 18 kids and multiple families!! We are all looking forward to another fieldtrip.



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 27th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM
Friday, March 29th	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 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!

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!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Frida Cawog**. 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 and Maron Juha

-
- † Epistle readers:
Eveleen Salem- Arabic
Lubna Sweiss- English

Memorial Services

June 9th: 10-year memorial service for the servant of God Fakhry Farhan Kawar, offered by Ramsey and Kian Kawar and family. May his memory be eternal!



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.

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 davidnlishah@hotmail.com. Thank you!

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St John Orthodox Church Storefront

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See's Candies

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- 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

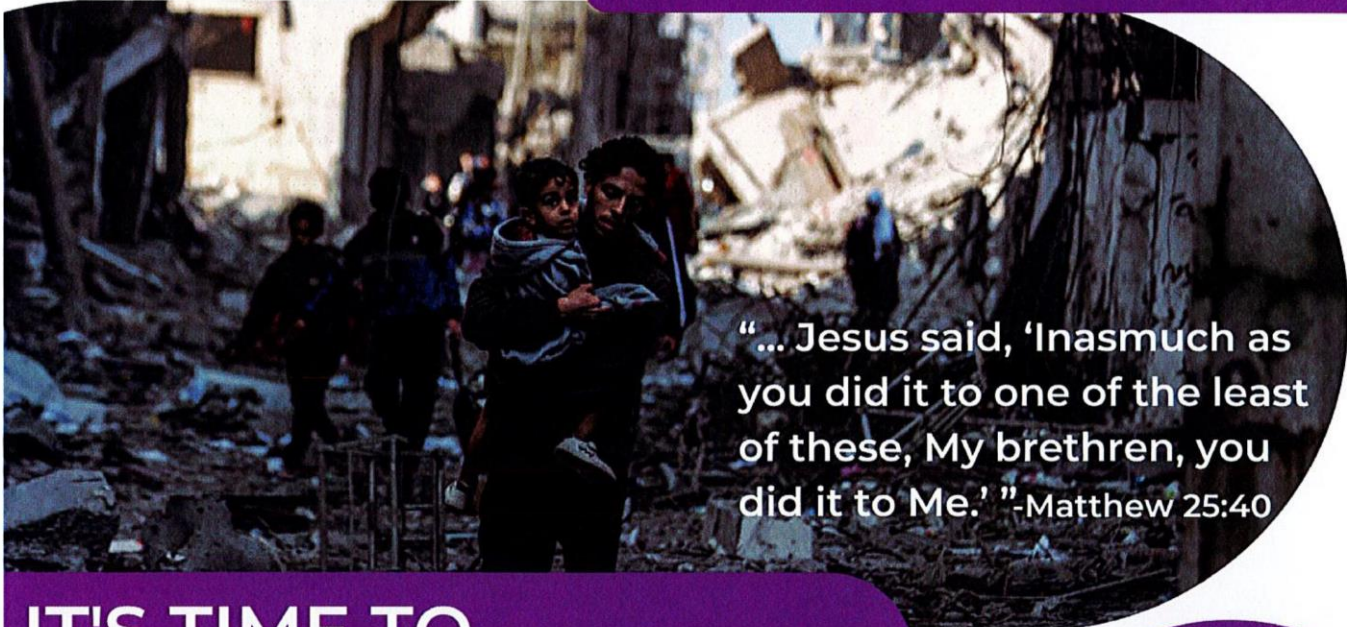
Zinc Shingles on the Roof!




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

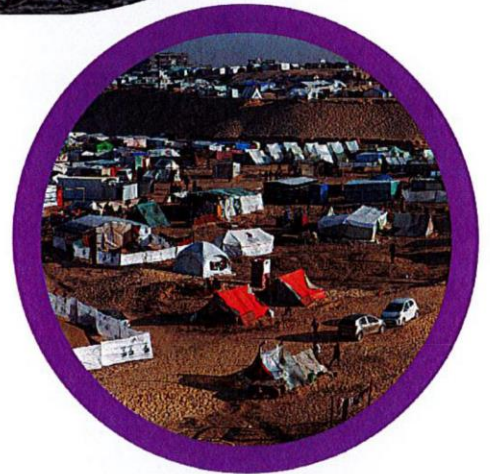
We have partnered with an aid agency that is providing tents for families whose homes have been destroyed amid the ongoing atrocities in Gaza. Tents are furnished and can house a whole family.

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



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,

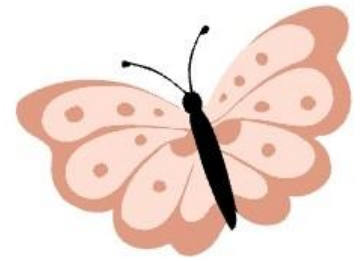
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive script.

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

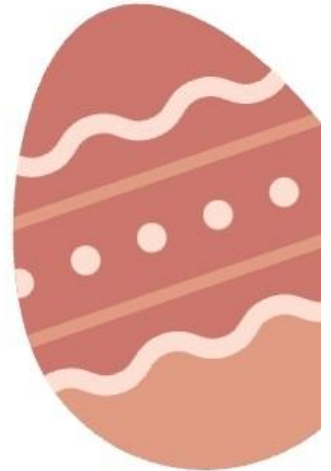
“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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ST. JOHN'S

PASCHA EGG HUNT



*Saturday May 4th
after morning service*

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

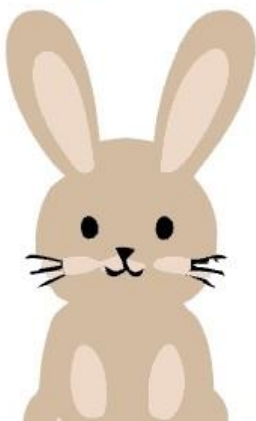
*** RAFFLE BASKETS ***

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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.

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ROSE'S ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH



Please contact Denise Dudum at 925-360-3350 if you'd like to contribute your special baked goods or if you'd like to pre-order