

+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, MAY 12, 2024

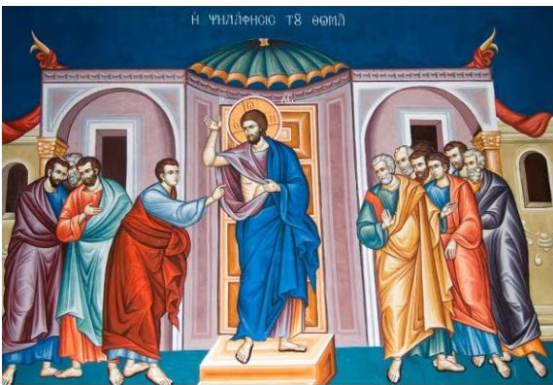
NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

GERMANOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; EPIPHANIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

قُداس الأَخد الجَدید، أَد الرسولِ توما الرسولِ الذی یُقَالُ لَهُ التَّوأم

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام



Thomas Sunday

On the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side. This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you."

Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

THE EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

الرسالة.

عَظِيمٌ هُوَ رَبُّنَا وَعَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ قُوَّتُهُ.

سَبِّحُوا الرَّبَّ فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، جَرَتْ عَلَى أَيْدِي الرُّسُلِ آيَاتٌ وَعَجَائِبُ كَثِيرَةٌ فِي الشَّعْبِ. وَكَانُوا كُلُّهُمْ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ فِي رِوَاقِ سُلَيْمَانَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْآخَرِينَ يَجْتَرِئُ أَنْ يُخَالِطَهُمْ، لَكِنْ كَانَ الشَّعْبُ يُعْظِمُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمَاعَاتٌ مِنْ رِجَالِ وَنِسَاءٍ يَنْضَمُّونَ بكَثْرَةٍ مُؤْمِنِينَ بِالرَّبِّ. حَتَّى إِنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا يَخْرُجُونَ بِالْمَرَضَى إِلَى الشُّوَارِعِ، وَيَضَعُونَهُمْ عَلَى فُرْشٍ وَأَسِرَّةٍ، لِيَقَعَ وَلَوْ ظِلُّ بُطْرُسَ، عِنْدَ اجْتِيَازِهِ، عَلَى بَعْضِ مِنْهُمْ. وَكَانَ يَجْتَمِعُ أَيْضًا إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ جُمُهورُ الْمُدُنِ الَّتِي حَوْلَهَا، يَحْمِلُونَ مَرَضَى وَمُعَذِّبِينَ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ نَجَسَةٍ، فَكَانُوا يُشْفَوْنَ جَمِيعُهُمْ. فَقَامَ رَئِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَهُمْ مِنْ شِيعَةِ الصَّدُوقِيِّينَ، وَامْتَلَأُوا غَيْرَةً. فَأَلْقَوْا أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَلَى الرُّسُلِ وَجَعَلُوهُمْ فِي الْحَبْسِ الْعَامِّ. فَفَتَحَ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ أَبْوَابَ السِّجْنِ لَيْلًا، وَأَخْرَجَهُمْ، وَقَالَ: أَمْضُوا وَقِفُوا فِي الْهَيْكَلِ، وَكَلِمُوا الشَّعْبَ بِجَمِيعِ كَلِمَاتِ هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (20:19-31)

لَمَّا كَانَتْ عَشِيَّةُ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ، وَهُوَ أَوَّلُ الْأَسْبُوعِ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ حَيْثُ كَانَ التَّلَامِيزُ مُجْتَمِعِينَ خَوْفًا مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، جَاءَ يَسُوعُ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ". فَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا أَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَجَنْبَهُ، فَفَرَّخَ التَّلَامِيزُ حِينَ أَبْصَرُوا الرَّبَّ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ ثَانِيَةً: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ، كَمَا أَرْسَلَنِي الْآبُ كَذَلِكَ أَنَا أَرْسَلُكُمْ". وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَفَخَ فِيهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "خُذُوا الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ. مَنْ غَفَرْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ تُغْفَرْ لَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ أَمْسَكَتُمْ". أَمَّا تَوْمَ أَحَدُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ النَّوْمُ فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَهُمْ حِينَ جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ التَّلَامِيزُ الْآخَرُونَ "إِنَّا قَدْ رَأَيْنَا الرَّبَّ"، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنْ لَمْ أَعَيْنِ أَثَرَ الْمَسَامِيرِ فِي يَدَيْهِ، وَأَضَعُ إصْبَعِي فِي أَثَرِ الْمَسَامِيرِ، وَأَضَعُ يَدِي فِي جَنْبِهِ لَا أُوْمِنُ". وَتَعَدَّ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَيَّامٍ كَانَ تَلَامِيزُهُ أَيْضًا دَاخِلًا وَتَوْمًا مَعَهُمْ، فَآتَى يَسُوعُ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ"، ثُمَّ قَالَ لَتَوْمًا: "هَاتِ إصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هَهُنَا وَعَيْنِي يَدِي، وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ وَضَعْهَا فِي جَنْبِي، وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ مُؤْمِنًا". أَجَابَ تَوْمًا وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَالْهَى". قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي يَا تَوْمًا أَمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَأَمَنُوا". وَأَيَّاتٌ أُخْرَى كَثِيرَةٌ صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيزِهِ لَمْ تُكْتَبْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَأَمَّا هَذِهِ، فَقَدْ كُتِبَتْ لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكِي تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا أَمَنْتُمْ، حَيَاةً بِاسْمِهِ.

Love Your Neighbor

May – Project Mexico/ St Innocent Orphanage

Project Mexico is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that performs works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing education and shelter for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

Thanks for a Great Easter Egg Hunt!

Thank you enough for all who participated in our Egg Hunt Event. Everyone's presence lighted up our fellowship areas.

About **45-50** kids of all ages running around with family and friends all around was great to see.

Collectively we raised **\$900** to contribute to Gaza Tent Sponsorship held by Basicilia of St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Livonia, MI.

We also contributed to our local communities but making a **150** homeless packages that are going to be given to shelters nearby.

Happy Pascha!! TRULY He is Risen!



Thank You to All Who Helped During Holy Week!

Thanks to all who labored, chanted, cooked, served, donated and participated during this Holy Week. We could not have done it without you. Thank you.

Fr. Nicholas

\$100,000 Challenge

Dear Parishioners,

A parishioner and his family are challenging us to raise \$100,000 for our Fellowship Hall. If we raise that money, they will match it.

Let's do it and try to finish our project.

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!

June 23rd: by Fairouz Freij : one year memorial for Khalid Haddad, 30 years for Angel Freij and 20 years for Emilie Haddad . May their memory be eternal

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
May 19th	Festival meeting after Coffee Hour.
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Coffee Hours

May 12th	Sponsor Needed
May 19th	Lunch (Chinese Food), hosted by Maureen and Jeane in thanksgiving for her conversion to Holy Orthodoxy.
May 26th	Sponsor Needed
June 2nd	Women's ministry coffee hour for Clergy Wives
June 9th	Sponsor Needed

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 for the good health of **Frida Cawog**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Karim Nino**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Carol Syariani**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † Siham Mitry and family in memory of **Elaine Samara**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Henriette Hilal**. 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!



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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

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:

Our Fellowship Hall continues to make progress. Recently the roof was completed, and two coats of stucco have gone up around the exterior walls. These need to cure for a while before the final phase of putting on the exterior tiles.

Work is continuing on the outside of the building most noticeably in the area of the corner of Moraga Way and Hall Drive. New low retaining walls and greenery will be put there allowing for some expansion of the pre-school playground area as well as a more inviting and professional first view of our property when approaching on Moraga Way. Once these walls are in place, we will install fencing and continue with the planning and moving of the preschool playground into its permanent position in the corner.

Doors, windows and cabinets are still enroute, and we will provide updates and timing once they arrive.

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!



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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 scan the QR code, find the link on our Facebook, or ask anyone in the fundraising committee .

Zinc Shingles on the Roof!



FUNDRAISER

JOIN US!



**IS GIVING
50% BACK TO:**

**St. John Orthodox
church**

**Thursday, May 16
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.

Fundraiser Code:

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

Orthodox Church of the Redeemer
380 Magdalena Ave. Los Altos Hills, CA



***Please Join us For a
Blessed Pascha Celebration
On Bright Saturday***

May 11th @ 3:00 PM

Organized By The Parish Council

Donation: \$ 25 Per Person

***All The Donations Will Be For The
Building Matching Fund Drive***

***Food, Drinks, Kids
Games and Music***

