



+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 925-258-4255

www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026; TONE 6 / EOTHINON 10

SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



On May 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia. Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First

Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith—"The Creed"—which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.

فَإِنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فصلٌ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ. (20: 16-18، 28-36)

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، ارْتَأَى بُولُسُ أَنْ يَتَجَاوَزَ أَفْسُسَ فِي الْبَحْرِ لِنَلَّا يَعْرِضَ لَهُ أَنْ يُبْطِئَ فِي آسِيَةِ. لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ يَعْجَلُ حَتَّى يَكُونَ فِي أُورَشَلِيمَ يَوْمَ الْعَنْصَرَةِ إِنْ أُمَكَّنَهُ. فَمِنْ مِيلْيُشَسَ بَعَثَ إِلَى أَفْسُسَ، فَاسْتَدْعَى قُسُوسَ الْكَنِيسَةِ. فَلَمَّا وَصَلُوا إِلَيْهِ قَالَ لَهُمْ: اخْذَرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الرَّعِيَةِ الَّتِي أَقَامَكُمُ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ فِيهَا أَسَاقِفَةً، لِنَرْعُوا كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي اقْتَنَاهَا بِدَمِهِ فَإِنِّي أَعْلَمُ هَذَا، أَنَّهُ سَيَدْخُلُ بَيْنَكُمْ بَعْدَ ذَهَابِي ذِنَابٌ خَاطِفَةٌ لَا تُشْفِقُ عَلَى الرَّعِيَةِ وَمِنْكُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ سَيَقُومُ رِجَالٌ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِأُمُورٍ مُلْتَوِيَةٍ لِيَجْتَذِبُوا التَّلَامِيذَ وَرَاءَهُمْ لِذَلِكَ اسْهَرُوا، مُتَذَكِّرِينَ أَنِّي مُدَّةَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ لَمْ أَكْفُفْ لَيْلاً وَنَهَاراً أَنْ أَنْصَحَ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ بِدُمُوعٍ. وَالْآنَ أَسْتَوْدِعُكُمْ، يَا إِخْوَتِي، اللَّهَ وَكَلِمَةَ نِعْمَتِهِ الْقَادِرَةِ أَنْ تَبْنِيَكُمْ وَتَمْنَحَكُمْ مِيرَاثاً مَعَ جَمِيعِ الْقَدِيسِينَ. إِنِّي لَمْ أَشْتَهَ فِضَّةً أَوْ ذَهَباً أَوْ لِبَاسَ أَحَدٍ. وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ حَاجَاتِي وَحَاجَاتِ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ خَدَمَتُهَا هَاتَانِ الْيَدَانِ. فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ بَيِّنْتُ لَكُمْ أَنَّهُ هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَعَبَ لِنُسَاعِدَ الضُّعَفَاءَ، وَأَنْ نَتَذَكَّرَ كَلَامَ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ. فَإِنَّهُ قَالَ: إِنَّ الْعَطَاءَ هُوَ مَغْبُوطٌ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْآخِذِ. وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا، جَثَا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ مَعَ جَمِيعِهِمْ وَصَلَّى.

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Saint John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ يوحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (13-1:17)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، رَفَعَ يَسُوعُ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَقَالَ: يَا أَبَتِ قَدْ أَتَتْ السَّاعَةُ، مَجِّدِ ابْنَكَ لِيُجَدِّدَكَ ابْنُكَ أَيْضاً. كَمَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ سُلْطَاناً عَلَى كُلِّ بَشَرٍ لِيُعْطِيَ كُلَّ مَنْ أَعْطَيْتَهُ لَهُ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ، أَنْ يَعْرِفُوكَ أَنْتَ الْإِلَهَ الْحَقِيقِيَّ وَحْدَكَ، وَالَّذِي أَرْسَلْتَهُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ. أَنَا قَدْ مَجَّدْتُكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. قَدْ أَتَمَمْتُ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَعْمَلَهُ. وَالْآنَ مَجِّدْنِي أَنْتَ يَا أَبَتِ عِنْدَكَ بِالْمَجْدِ الَّذِي كَانَ لِي عِنْدَكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ كَوْنِ الْعَالَمِ. قَدْ أَعْلَنْتُ اسْمَكَ لِلنَّاسِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي مِنَ الْعَالَمِ. هُمْ كَانُوا لَكَ، وَأَنْتَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، وَقَدْ حَفِظُوا كَلَامَكَ. وَالْآنَ قَدْ عَلِمُوا أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي هُوَ مِنْكَ. لِأَنَّ الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي أَعْطَيْتَهُ لَهُمْ. وَهُمْ قَبِلُوا وَعَلِمُوا حَقّاً أَنِّي مِنْكَ خَرَجْتُ، وَأَمَنُوا أَنَّكَ أَرْسَلْتَنِي. أَنَا مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ أَسْأَلُ. لَا أَسْأَلُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْعَالَمِ، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، لِأَنَّهُمْ لَكَ. كُلُّ شَيْءٍ لِي هُوَ لَكَ، وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ هُوَ لِي، وَأَنَا قَدْ مُجِّدْتُ فِيهِمْ. وَلَسْتُ أَنَا بَعْدُ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَهَؤُلَاءِ هُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَأَنَا آتِي إِلَيْكَ. أَيُّهَا الْآبُ الْقُدُّوسُ احْفَظْهُمْ بِاسْمِكَ، الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، لِيَكُونُوا وَاحِدًا كَمَا نَحْنُ. حِينَ كُنْتُ مَعَهُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، كُنْتُ أَحْفَظُهُمْ بِاسْمِكَ. إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي قَدْ حَفِظْتَهُمْ، وَلَمْ يَهْلِكْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا ابْنُ الْهَلَاكِ، لِيَتِمَّ الْكِتَابُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ فَإِنِّي آتِي إِلَيْكَ. وَأَنَا أَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا فِي الْعَالَمِ لِيَكُونَ فَرَحِي كَامِلاً فِيهِمْ.

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sandy Dudum, George Messih, George Adranly, Fred Addas, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Rocky Dudum and Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Daniel McLellan**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **John Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Norma Khalil**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Violet Jaber**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Laila Adranly**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Bradley Yowakim**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rocky Dudum**. 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 Kavar, Mason Kavar, Jonathan Juha, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

Coffee Hour

May 24th	Sponsor Needed
June 14th	Mona Thayer for the good health of Thayer and Messih Families
June 28th	Samara Family in honor of Fadwa's birthday

Upcoming Events

May 20th	Wednesday 6:00 PM: Vespertal Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast of the Ascension عيد الصعود
1st and 3rd Sundays	St. Anastasia's Fellowship for those struggling with substance abuse. 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. 6pm meeting; 7pm Readers Paraklesis at St. John's. Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



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Announcements

Dave & Buster's Promotion

Dave & Buster's promotion is almost over. Quick way to give back. How it works:

1. Order: Place an order using the link below
2. Support: **50%** of each Dave & Buster's Power Card purchased is donated back to St. John's.
3. Enjoy: Visit any Dave & Buster's location to pick up your Power Card and start playing!

Please pass link to friends and family. Use this link:

https://www.groupraise.com/oc/59958?utm_campaign=ocmp_copy_url&utm_medium=social&utm_source=offers_promo&fbclid=IwDGRjcARDIzIjbGNrBEOXNWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHhm1OoePvkG_0fm8xawxQJ43Le3RvnyPqfiFnV5Zkdm5K4TwtTfLnYRofAfG_aem_Yb1xQra0Y8JUGO4-9Ra67w

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Dave & Buster's Outing

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Dave & Buster's outing! We're grateful for your support and fellowship. Together, we raised \$470, bringing our total to \$1,370. We still have 30 days left before the promotion expires—let's keep the momentum going!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FESTIVAL PREP WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at 9:30 AM in our new kitchen!

June 27 th	Grape leaves	July 11 th	Spinach & Cheese Pies
August 15 th	Sfeiha & Zatar Pies	September 12 th	Knafeh & Date Mamoul

Please sign up for **any and all** workshops with Rula Adranly 510-508-0929



Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

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St. John's Church FATHER'S DAY PICNIC Sunday, June 21st



Let's treat all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers & Uncles to a delicious BBQ Lunch complete with burgers, hot dogs, salad, chips, cold drinks & delectable homemade desserts!!!

Immediately following Divine Liturgy on the church grounds

\$20/adult minimum donation

Kids 12 & under – FREE

Organized by the St. John Ladies

All proceeds to benefit the Playground Rebuilding project!!



RSVP to Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net so we can have plenty for everyone to enjoy!!

“Love your Neighbor”

A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Proposed monthly collection calendar for 2026 is shown below and is subject to change.

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.

June - Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve - FOCUS North America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve exists to support the growth of Orthodox Christian service efforts by providing engagement opportunities that reveal Christ in our neighbor and serve community needs within our five ministry areas of Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter.

July - Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA

An Orthodox Christian Monastery for Women, with its home on the banks of the Napa River in Calistoga, California, Holy Assumption Monastery welcomes faithful pilgrims and visitors of all backgrounds. Mother Melania, the Abbess of the Monastery has given talks at our church and many other groups.

August – Orthodox Christian Missions Center – OCMC

As the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States it is OCMC's mission to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church.

September – Archdiocese collection for Seminarian Fund

Each year in the Fall, the Archdiocese asks parishes to take a collection to help support the Antiochian Orthodox students studying at the seminaries in our country, including St Vladimir's, St Tikhon's and Holy Cross Seminary.

October – (Youth Month) SOYO Special Olympics

This ministry is sponsored by the North American Council of Teen SOYO and is the second longest running program of Special Olympics Pennsylvania, serving over 340 Special Olympics athletes, coaches, and staff each season. It is the premier SOYO outreach program, now in its 38th year of service. Each year SOYO teens raise the funds on Special Olympics Awareness Day.

November – International Orthodox Christian Charities – IOCC

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond. We envision that, by God's grace, IOCC will enable those suffering and in need to continue to improve their own lives and communities and to have means to live with dignity, respect, and hope.

December – Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need. We distribute food directly to low-income people at community sites and make food available for other nonprofit organizations serving the ill, needy and infants.



Congratulations Class of 2026

Dear parents of graduates,

This year, we are honoring our graduates by putting their names and photos in the bulletin. We are very proud of them! We ask the Lord Jesus Christ to be with them in the next step in their lives.

We can post a picture and short biography of your graduate here!
Please send their information to our email:

st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com



Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria

DINE AND DONATE
THURSDAY MAY 28th

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

Mention ST. JOHN & show flyer
2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek
CA 94598



FAMILY FIELD TRIP



OAKLAND ZOO

Sunday June 14th
Right after liturgy
*No Sunday school

Pack a lunch

Everyone is Welcome

Admission

Everyone purchases
their own tickets

