

+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, MAY 26, 2024

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 5; FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

APOSTLE KARPOS OF THE SEVENTY; APOSTLE ALPHAEUS AND HIS CHILDREN, MARTYRS ABERCIUS AND HELEN

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام



Sunday of the Paralytic

On this day, the fourth Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the Paralytic and, as is right, we celebrate the miracle wrought for him. Jesus healed the Paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, located near the Sheep's Gate of Jerusalem, where people sacrificed their beasts and washed their insides. The pool had five sides, with a porch and arch on each. A number of people, afflicted with various diseases, passed through them, waiting at the water for an angel to come down and stir it. Once it moved, whoever stepped into the water first was instantly healed. One poor man, whose story is

recounted in today's Gospel lection in the Divine Liturgy, waited 38 years for someone to lower him into the water, because he was unable to move into the water himself. However, the Savior merely commanded the man to get up and walk, and he was healed.

THE EPISTLE

O chant unto our God, chant ye.

Clap your hands, all ye nations.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (9:32-42)

In those days, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: "Come to us without delay!" So Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body, he said: "Tabitha, arise!" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

الرسالة

رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا. يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَقِّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ (9:32-42)

في تلك الأيام، فيما كان بطرس يطوف في جميع الأماكن، نزل أيضاً إلى القديسين الساكنين في لُدَّة. فوجد هناك إنساناً اسمه أيناَس، مُضطجعاً على سريرٍ منذُ ثَماني سنين، وهو مُخلَع. فقال له بطرس: "يا أيناَس، يشفيك يسوع المسيح؛ فم وافترش لنفسك." فقام للوقت. وراه جميع الساكنين في لُدَّة وسارون فرجعوا إلى الرب. وكانت في يافا تلميذة اسمها طابيتا، الذي تفسيره ظبية، وكانت هذه مُمتلئة أعمالاً صالحةً وصدقاتٍ كانت تعملها. فحدث في تلك الأيام أنها مرضت وماتت. فغسلوها ووضعوها في العلية. وإذ كانت لُدَّة بفرب يافا، وسمع التلاميذ أن بطرس فيها، أرسلوا إليه رجلين يسألانه أن لا يبطين عن القدوم إليهم. فقام بطرس وأتى معهما. فلما وصل، صعدوا به إلى العلية، ووقف لديه جميع الأراميل يبكين، ويرينه أقمصاً وثياباً كانت تصنعها ظبية معهن. فأخرج بطرس الجميع خارجاً، وجثا على ركبتيه وصلى. ثم التقى إلى الجسد وقال: "يا طابيتا قومي". ففتحت عينيها. ولما أبصرت بطرس جلست. فناولها يده وأنهضها. ثم دعا القديسين والأراميل، وأقامها لديهم حية. فشاع هذا الخبر في يافا كلها، فأمن كثيرون بالرب.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (5:1-15)

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (5:1-15)

في ذلك الزمان، صعد يسوع إلى أورشليم. وإن في أورشليم عند باب الغنم بركة، تسمى بالعبرانية بيت حسدا، لها خمسة أروقة. كان مضطجعا فيها جمهور كثير من المرضى من عريان وعرج ويابسي الأعضاء، ينتظرون تحريك الماء. لأن ملاكاً كان ينزل أحيانا في البركة ويحرك الماء. والذي كان ينزل أولاً من بعد تحريك الماء، كان يبرأ من أي مرض اعتراه. وكان هناك إنسان به مرض منذ ثمان وثلاثين سنة. هذا إذ رآه يسوع ملقى، وعلم أن له زماناً كثيراً، قال له: "أتريد أن تبرا؟" فأجابته المريض: "يا سيدي، ليس لي إنسان متى حرك الماء يلقيني في البركة، بل بينما أكون آتياً، ينزل قبلي آخر." فقال له يسوع: "قم، احمل سريرك وامش." فلوقت برئ الرجل، وحمل سيره ومشى. وكان في ذلك اليوم سبت. فقال اليهود للذي شفى: "إنه سبت، فلا يحل لك أن تحمل السرير." فأجابهم: "إن الذي أبرأني هو قال لي 'احمل سريرك وامش.' فسألوه من هو الإنسان الذي قال لك 'احمل سريرك وامش؟' أما الذي شفى فلم يكن يعلم من هو. لأن يسوع اعتزل، إذ كان في الموضع جمع. وبعد ذلك وجدته يسوع في الهيكل، فقال له: "ها قد عوفيت، فلا تعد تخطئ لئلا يصيبك شر." فذهب ذلك الإنسان، وأخبر اليهود أن يسوع هو الذي أبرأه.

Ladies Meeting

Dear Ladies: A brief Ladies meeting will be held this coming Sunday to discuss the Clergy Wives Coffee Hour, Father's Day and Graduation BBQ and also the ladies account. Your attendance is important and appreciated. Thank you!
In Christ, Fadwa Samara

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.

\$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.

Dear parents of graduates,

We at St. John's, would like to recognize our graduates by publishing their names, photos and biographies in the church bulletin. This way, we can all know who they are and what is next for them in life. We are proud of them. Please help us to do this by submitting their pictures and bio via email.

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.
June 23rd	Festival committee meeting after Coffee Hour.
September 28-29	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

Coffee Hours

May 26th	Sponsor Needed
June 2nd	Women's ministry coffee hour for Clergy Wives
June 9th	Ramsey and Kian Kawar in memory of Ramsey's father Fakhry Farhan Kawar.

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 **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!



- † 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 Financial Snapshot

Year to Date Actual Finances as of 04/30/2024

INCOME	2024 Year To Date	% of Total Income	2023 Year to Date	
Membership Pledges	\$ 54,739	32%	\$ 84,724	
Tray Collections	\$ 5,116	3%	\$ 3,912	
Preschool Contribution*	\$ 83,109	48%	\$ 96,114	Includes transfer of preschool net income in October 2022 to date, to support hall loan payments
Crab Feed and Festival	\$ 22,149	13%	\$ 17,166	
Ladies Contribution	\$ -	0%	\$ -	
Other**	\$ 7,606	4%	\$ 11,186	
Total Income	\$ 172,719	100%	\$ 213,102	
Total Expenses	\$ 134,028		\$ 79,217	
YTD Net Income	\$ 38,692	22%	\$ 133,884	

* In addition to the above, preschool payments to the church include \$400 per month to offset expenses paid by the church and \$4,883.33 per month towards the building fund (deposited directly into building fund)

**Other includes bookstore, candles, flowers, palms, coffee hour, memorials, Amazon Smile program, weddings, prior year pledges

Building Fund Balance **\$ 1,298,269.30**

Those who wish to see the full financial statement should contact Parish Council Treasurer Matthew Simon

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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See's CANDIES

St John Orthodox Church Storefront

Help Us
Reach Our Goal!



See's Candies

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!



St. John's Church
FATHER'S DAY PICNIC
Sunday, June 16th

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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

Kids 12 & under – FREE

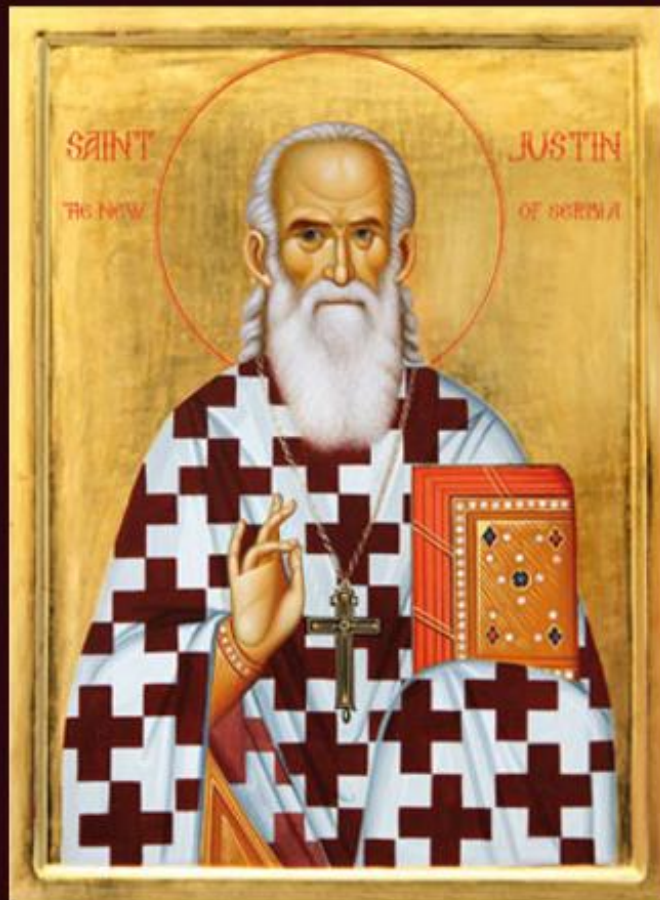
Organized by the St. John Ladies

All proceeds to benefit the Building Fund!!



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

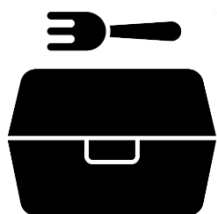
Join clergy, chanters, and faithful from around the region for Vespers, Orthros and Divine Liturgy in honor of Sts. Justin Martyr and Justin Popovich.



ALL-NIGHT VICIL

*Relics of the Saints will be present
for veneration*

**Resurrection Greek Orthodox
Church, Castro Valley
May 31, 2024 7:00 p.m.--1:00 a.m.**



DELICIOUS BOX LUNCH SALE

**SUNDAY JUNE 2nd
after Divine Liturgy**

Each year the Antiochian Women (AOWNA) hold a fundraiser for the widowed clergy wives endowment fund through each parish. This ministry is to support our dear widowed Khouria's with a supplemental monthly stipend.

This year, a generous donor in the Archdiocese has pledged a dollar-to -dollar matching donation for up to \$150,000.00.

God bless everyone's efforts and keep our clergy families in His care.

Suggested donation \$15

Please come to support this beautiful ministry!
Plan on eating your picnic lunch here or easy to take home too.

Thoughts on the Fullness of Life, Part One

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

In man, in every human being, there is an inner longing towards that which is perfect, but often, he is not aware of what that is. Man longs for fulfillment. He has an insatiable desire to get rich from everything. He wants to grow and increase in everything he loves, or in everything he believes is useful or necessary to him. He is never satisfied with anything in this world. You see him always striving, with all his energy and ability, for what is more plentiful and more abundant, but his desire is never quenched or satisfied. He considers the quest to be his salvation, the source of the joy and reassurance for which he longs.

He considers money to be his savior, so he strives, collects, and accumulates, never reaching the point of satisfaction with what he has obtained, but rather his greed increases. He aspires to high positions, searching for proof of existence and self-realization there. This may begin as a service to others and end up being self-serving. He is captivated by the love of power; power is tempting, whether it is in the realm of the family, administration, or church. The love of power infiltrates the most sacred places and situations. A person sees it as self-protection and satisfaction of ego without limits. He sees the desires of life as the meaning of his existence. He kisses her passionately, until she possesses him and enslaves him. He moves through it from one stage to another, until he discovers that he has spent his life chasing dreams that gave him no comfort.

Man fears death. This is his biggest problem. He is familiar with life, but he fears death because he does not know what it is. What man does not know is his enemy. He runs away from it, avoids it, circumvents it, does not want to confront it, or even remember that it is coming. For him, he no longer sees anything other than the present life as the way to search for the truth, or to absorb what he imagines is the truth. The idea of immortality has accompanied man in all times and civilizations, and still does. Despite his discovery that this earthly life is unfulfilling for him, he does not want to replace it with what he does not know.

How can this limited and mortal man have this longing for the limitless and the immortal? How can he dream of immortality when he does not see an immortal being around him, when even modern scientific theories claim the very universe is not eternal? Why does it hurt him when someone else gets what he wants, making

him envious, hateful, and desperate, possessed by an inferiority complex? Why does he want fullness in everything, when there is nothing in front of him and around him except deficiency, defect, and corruption?

He longs for a better life, thinking it is about this thing or something else, but he soon discovers that he was wrong, and disappointment strikes him. Disappointment is characteristic of the modern man. He begins his youth with great enthusiasm, high ideals, and an amazing energy for change, only to discover after a number of years that he was too dreamy, and reality is full of disappointments. Even if he has reached sublimity in human thought, he still hopes he will do what is within his power. Most people will settle for small victories while losing hope of the possibility of changing the world.

Christianity interprets all of this as a yearning for the divine image within us to return to its origin. Human beings are created in God's image (which we need to constantly purify from our attachments to sinful passions). Human beings are also called to grow in His image until they reach the fullness that satisfies the soul. They are inherently drawn to their unlimited, infinite, and eternal Creator. In this pursuit, humans would find the sea insufficient, even if they were to drink it all. As long as they haven't discovered within themselves the original image of their Creator, unblemished by sin and corruption that befell it through their fall from their original paradise, they will keep seeking this origin in every other thing, field or path.