



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America

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SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 10

SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

HIEROMARTYR EUTYCHIOS, BISHOP OF MELITENE; MARTYR HELICONIS OF THESSALONICA



Sunday of Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On this day, 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 (Sunday of the Holy Fathers)

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.

الرسالة (لأحد الآباء)

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا. فَإِنَّكَ عَدَلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فصلٌ من أعمال الرُّسُلِ القُدِّيسينِ الأطهارِ.

في تلكَ الأيامِ، ارتأى بولسُ أن يتجاوزَ أفسسَ في البحرِ لئلا يعرضَ له أن يبطئَ في آسية. لأنه كان يعجلُ حتى يكونَ في أورشليمَ يومَ العنصرةِ إن أمكنه. فمن ميليسَ بعثَ إلى أفسسَ، فاستدعى فسوسَ الكنيسةَ. فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: اأخذوا لأنفسكم ولجميعِ الرعيةِ التي أقامكم الروحُ القُدسُ فيها أساقفةً، لترعوا كنيسةَ الله التي اقتناها بدمه فاني أعلمُ هذا، أنه سيدخلُ بينكم بعدَ ذهابي ذئابَ خاطفةً لا تشفقُ على الرعيةِ ومنكم أنفسكم سيقومُ رجالٌ يتكلمونَ بأمرٍ مُلتويةٍ ليجتذبوا التلاميذَ وراءهم لذلك اسهروا، متذكرينَ أنني مدةً ثلاثِ سنينَ لم أكفُ لئلا ونهاراً أن أنصحَ كلَّ واحدٍ بدموعٍ والآن أستودعكم، يا إخوتي، الله وكلمةَ نعمتهِ القادرةِ أن تبنيكم وتمنحكم ميراثاً معَ جميعِ القديسينَ. إنني لم أشتهِ فضةً أو ذهباً أو لباسَ أحدٍ. وأنتم تعلمونَ أن حاجاتي وحاجاتِ الذين معي خدمتها هاتان اليدان. في كلِّ شيءٍ بيئتُ لكم أنه هكذا ينبغي أن نتعبَ لنساعدَ الضعفاءَ، وأن نتذكرَ كلامَ الربِّ يسوع. فإنه قال: إن العطاءَ هو مغبوطٌ أكثرَ من الأخذِ. ولما قالَ هذا، جثاً على رُكبتيه معَ جميعهم وصلّى.

THE GOSPEL (Sunday of the Holy Fathers)

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."

الإنجيل (لأحد الآباء)

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القُدِّيسِ يوحنا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ.

في ذلكَ الزمانِ، رَفَعَ يسوعُ عينيه إلى السَّماءِ وقال: يا أبَتِ قَدْ أَنْتَ السَّاعَةَ، مَجِّدِ ابْنَكَ لِيَمَجِّدَكَ ابْنُكَ أَيْضاً. كَمَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ سُلْطَاناً عَلَى كُلِّ بَشَرٍ لِيُعْطِيَ كُلَّ مَنْ أَعْطَيْتَهُ لَهُ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ، أَنْ يَعْرِفُوكَ أَنْتَ الْإِلَهَ الْحَقِيقِيَّ وَحَدَكَ، وَالَّذِي أَرْسَلْتَهُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ. أَنَا قَدْ مَجَّدْتُكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. قَدْ أَتَمَمْتُ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَعْمَلُهُ. وَالْآنَ مَجَّدَنِي 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 حَرَجْتُ، وَأَمَّنُوا 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، وَهُؤْلَاءِ هُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَأَنَا آتِي إِلَيْكَ. أَيُّهَا الْأَبُ الْقُدُّوسُ أَحْفَظْهُمْ 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 فَاِنِّي آتِي إِلَيْكَ. وَأَنَا أَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا فِي الْعَالَمِ لِيَكُونَ فَرِحِي كَامِلًا فِيهِمْ.

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.

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.

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.

Monthly Lunches for the Fellowship Hall

The Ladies' Committee would like to revive our monthly sponsored lunches to help raise funds for the new fellowship hall! The idea is to have two families pick a date and together provide a meal to serve after Sunday liturgy. The Ladies' Committee will sponsor a lunch at the church on Father's Day, but would love to have volunteers lined up for the months following. Please contact Fadwa Samara with any questions or to sign up at 510.909.0119 or fvsamara@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday May 24th	At 6:00 pm: Evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Ascension عيد الصعود
Sunday, June 4th, 2023	Ten-year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Loraine Remy, the late mother of Paula Farbarik. May her memory be eternal!
Sunday, June 25th	One-year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Helen Addes. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

May 28th	Bahij and Yardena Hanhan
June 4th	Sponsor Needed
June 11th	Omima Kanaan and her husband Rick on the occasion of the removing of their Crowns!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † Sue Gideon and the Addes Family in Memory of the one year Anniversary for **Helen Addes**. May her Memory be Eternal.

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 and David Evans

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

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*Rocco's Ristorante
Pizzeria*

ST. JOHN'S PIZZA DAY

Mention St. John and 25%
of proceeds will benefit
our building fund

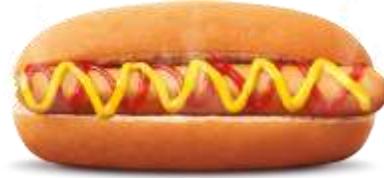
JUNE 1ST, 2023
**LUNCH AND DINNER
TAKE-OUT OR DINE- IN**

2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd,
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

St. John's Church
FATHER'S DAY PICNIC

Sunday, June 18th

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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 & a delectable homemade dessert bar!!!

Immediately following Divine Liturgy on the church grounds

\$15/adult

Kids 12 & under – FREE

Organized by the St. John Ladies

All proceeds to benefit the Building Fund!!



For more information contact Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net
