

# +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

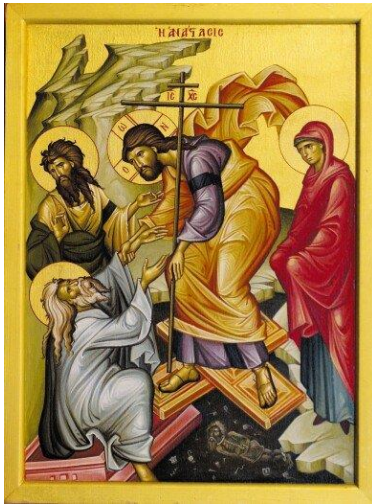
[www.stjohnorinda.org](http://www.stjohnorinda.org) email: [st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Sunday of Great and All-Holy Pascha

*Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام*

## Great and Holy Pascha



Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body.

Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

## THE EPISTLE

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-8).**

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

### **الرسالة.**

هَذَا هُوَ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ الرَّبُّ، فَلْنَفْرَحْ وَنَتَهَلَّلْ بِهِ.

اعْتَرَفُوا لِلرَّبِّ، فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ وَإِلَى الْأَبَدِ رَحْمَتُهُ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

إِنِّي قَدْ أَنْشَأْتُ الْكَلَامَ الْأَوَّلَ يَا ثاوفيلسُ فِي جَمِيعِ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي ابْتَدَأَ يَسُوعُ يَعْمَلُهَا وَيُعَلِّمُ بِهَا. إِلَى الْيَوْمِ الَّذِي صَعِدَ فِيهِ، مِنْ بَعْدِ أَنْ أَوْصَى بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ الرُّسُلَ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَاهُمْ. الَّذِينَ أَرَاهُمْ أَيْضاً نَفْسَهُ حَيًّا بَعْدَ تَأْلَمِهِ بِبَرَاهِينٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَهُوَ يَتَرَاءَى لَهُمْ مُدَّةَ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا، وَيُكَلِّمُهُمْ بِمَا يَخْتَصُّ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ مُجْتَمِعٌ مَعَهُمْ، أُوصَاهُمْ أَنْ "لَا تَبْرَحُوا مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ، بَلِ انْتَظِرُوا مَوْعِدَ الْآبِ الَّذِي سَمِعْتُمُوهُ مِنِّي. فَإِنَّ يَوْحَنَّا عَمَدًا بِالْمَاءِ، وَأَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَسَتَعْمَدُونَ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، لَا بَعْدَ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ بكَثِيرٍ." فَسَأَلَهُ الْمُجْتَمِعُونَ قَائِلِينَ: "يَا رَبُّ، أَفِي هَذَا الزَّمَانِ تَرُدُّ الْمُلْكَ إِلَى إِسْرَائِيلَ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "لَيْسَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا الْأَزْمَنَةَ أَوْ الْأَوْقَاتِ الَّتِي جَعَلَهَا الْآبُ فِي سُلْطَانِهِ. لَكِنِّكُمْ بَسْتَنَالُونَ قُوَّةَ بَحُلُولِ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ عَلَيْكُمْ، وَتَكُونُونَ لِي شُهَدَاءَ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَفِي جَمِيعِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَالسَّامِرَةِ، وَإِلَى أَقْصَى الْأَرْضِ."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:1-17).**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own, and his own received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John bore witness to him, and cried, "This is he of whom I said, 'he who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'" And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## الإنجيل

### فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي الْبَدْءِ كَانَ الْكَلِمَةُ، وَالْكَلِمَةُ كَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، وَالْهِيَ كَانَتْ الْكَلِمَةُ. هَذَا كَانَ فِي الْبَدْءِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. كُلُّ بِهِ كَانَ، وَبَعِيْرَهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْءٌ مِمَّا كُوْنُ. بِهِ كَانَتْ الْحَيَاةُ، وَالْحَيَاةُ كَانَتْ نُوْرَ النَّاسِ. وَالنُّوْرُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ يُضِيءُ، وَالظُّلْمَةُ لَمْ تُدْرِكْهُ. كَانَ إِنْسَانٌ مُرْسَلٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ اسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا. هَذَا جَاءَ لِلسَّهَادَةِ لِيَشْهَدَ لِلنُّوْرِ، لِكَيْ يُوْمِنَ الْكُلُّ بِوِاسِطَتِهِ. لَمْ يَكُنْ هُوَ النُّوْرَ بَلْ كَانَ لِيَشْهَدَ لِلنُّوْرِ. كَانَ النُّوْرَ الْحَقِيقِيُّ الَّذِي يُنِيرُ كُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَتَى إِلَى الْعَالَمِ. فِي الْعَالَمِ كَانَ، وَالْعَالَمُ بِهِ كُوْنُ، وَالْعَالَمُ لَمْ يَعْرِفْهُ. إِلَى خَاصَّتِهِ أَتَى، وَخَاصَّتُهُ لَمْ تَقْبَلْهُ. أَمَّا كُلُّ الَّذِينَ قَبَلُوهُ، فَأَعْطَاهُمْ سُلْطَانًا أَنْ يَكُونُوا أَوْلَادًا لِلَّهِ، الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاسْمِهِ، الَّذِينَ لَا مِنْ دِمٍ، وَلَا مِنْ مَشِيئَةِ لَحْمٍ، وَلَا مِنْ مَشِيئَةِ رَجُلٍ، لَكِنْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وُلِدُوا. وَالْكَلِمَةُ صَارَ جَسَدًا وَجَلَّ فِيْنَا، وَقَدْ أَبْصَرْنَا مَجْدَهُ، مَجْدَ وَحِيدٍ مِنَ الْآبِ مَمْلُوءًا نِعْمَةً وَحَقًّا. وَيُوْحَنَّا شَهِدَ لَهُ، وَصَرَخَ قَائِلًا: "هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي قُلْتُ عَنْهُ إِنَّ الَّذِي يَأْتِي بَعْدِي صَارَ قَبْلِي لِأَنَّهُ مُتَقَدِّمِي." وَمَنْ مِلَّئِهِ نَحْنُ كُنَّا أَحَدْنَا، وَنِعْمَةٌ فَوْقَ نِعْمَةٍ. لِأَنَّ النَّامُوسَ بِمُوسَى أُعْطِيَ، وَأَمَّا النِّعْمَةُ وَالْحَقُّ فَبِيْسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ حَصَلَا.

### 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.



#### **Flowers for The Bier نِعْشُ الْمَسِيحِ of Christ .**

Offered by Jack and Sylvia Dudum and family in memory of John and Misadeh Dudum and family; Elias and Nahiel Nazzal and family; Butros and Nabihah Dudum and family. Many years!

Offered by Sam Khoury for the continued good health of Sam, Yessie, Sam Jr. and Sofia Khoury.

Many years!

Also, by Sonia and Raif Rihani and family in memory of Mousa, Mary, Maryate Mar'ashly, Victor, and Jameeleh Rihani, Raidah, Jeries, Widad, and Yousef Nesheiwat, and Sam Khouri. Many years! Also, for the good health of Raif, Hani, Sami, and Fadi Rihani, Sonia Nesheiwat and the Rihani and Nesheiwat families. Many years!

Also offered by Tony and Rita Nino and family.

### Memorial Services

**June 9<sup>th</sup>:** 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 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 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

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>Saturday May 4th</b>	Egg hunt after Divine Liturgy
<b>September 28-29</b>	Annual Middle Eastern Festival

### Coffee Hours

<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter / Pascha
<b>May 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Lunch (Chinese Food), hosted by Maureen and Jeane in thanksgiving for her conversion to Holy Orthodoxy.
<b>May 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed

### Holy Week Schedule

<b><u>May 1<sup>st</sup></u>: Holy Wednesday</b>	Holy Unction صلاة الزيت المقدس at 6:30 pm
<b><u>May 2<sup>nd</sup></u>: Holy Thursday</b>	Vesperal Liturgy and Washing of the Feet at 10:00am Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm
<b><u>May 3<sup>rd</sup></u>: Holy Friday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal Hours, Vespers and Taking the Body from the Cross – 2:30 pm</li> <li>Lamentations تقاريط الجناز at 6:30 pm</li> <li>Vigil at Christ's Tomb at 9:00pm</li> </ul>
<b><u>May 4<sup>th</sup></u>: Holy Saturday</b>	Vesperal Liturgy at 10:00am Rush Service 10:30 pm followed by the Divine Liturgy
<b><u>May 5<sup>th</sup></u>: Great and Holy Pascha</b>	Agape Vespers at 1:00pm

### 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!

### 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

- 
- † Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum and Family** in loving memory of John, Misadeh, Audie and Mary Dudum and Jim and Rose Romley. May their memory be eternal!



**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:

Work the last few weeks has been on the roof, siding and hardscape, as well as some more rough electrical on the inside of the building. The next phases we can expect to see are stucco material going onto the walls, which once thoroughly cured will be the last phase before installing tiles on the exterior wall.

Additionally, framing for concrete work is underway for the service driveway, electrical pad and the trash enclosure. This will not be easily visible as it is all on the Hall Drive side of the building.

### 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](mailto: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

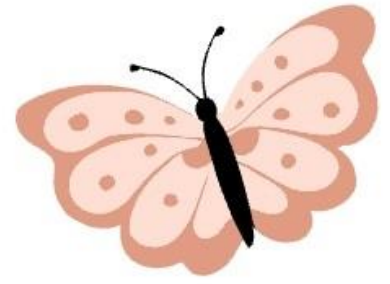
Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.

- 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 .

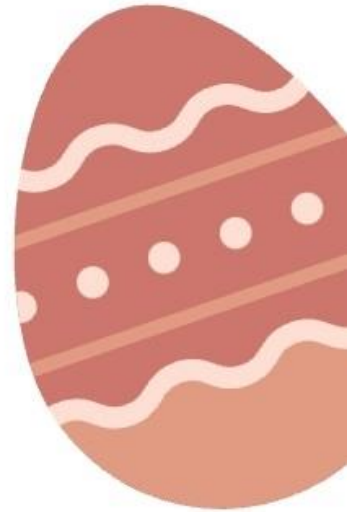
## Zinc Shingles on the Roof!





ST. JOHN'S

# PASCHA EGG HUNT



*Saturday May 4th  
after morning service*

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

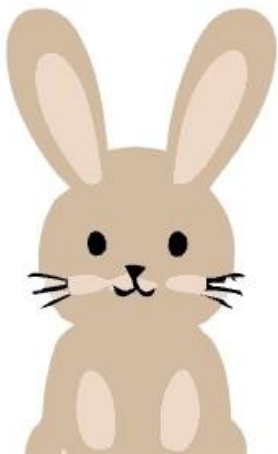
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His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** 157/2024

Palm Sunday  
April 28, 2024

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

May you have much joy on this glorious feast of Palm Sunday!

Today we see Christ riding triumphantly into the Holy City of Jerusalem and the crowds welcoming Him with praise and loving service, as they shout “Hosanna!” and lay down palm branches and even their own clothes as a carpet for His entrance. Let us likewise open our hearts to Him and welcome Him into our lives. Let us praise Him not just with hymns at church but also by confessing His goodness in our daily prayers and in our conversations with others. Let us lay down for Him a welcoming carpet of generous deeds toward our neighbors and faithful obedience toward Him. May we thus receive Him to rule in our hearts as our delivering King, and may we remain loyal to Him in word and deed—not betraying and abandoning Him, like the crowds in Jerusalem long ago.

As is our custom in this archdiocese, today we also remember our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch John X, and all our brothers and sisters of the Patriarchate of Antioch in its historic homeland of the Middle East. As we proclaim this ancient Faith in the New World, they are keeping it alive in the apostolic and historic places of its beginnings. Yet many of them continue to suffer from the aftermath of wars, disasters, and economic collapse. For this reason, we invite you to contribute today toward the patriarchate and its humanitarian work. Through your donations you can provide some comfort to our brothers and sisters in need, showing solidarity with them as one Body in Christ. Please give generously.

Wishing you all a deeply meaningful Holy Week and a glorious Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Saba".

✠ 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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# FUNDRAISER

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church**

**Thursday, May 16**

**All day**

**The Kebab Shop**

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To participate in this fundraiser, show this flyer during checkout at the store or order online at [order.thekebabshop.com](http://order.thekebabshop.com) using the fundraiser coupon code below.

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**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.

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