

+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
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

MARTYRS AKINDINOS, PEGASIOS, APHTHONIOS, ELPIDOPHOROS AND ANEMPODISTOS OF PERSIA



On November 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the contest of the holy Martyrs Akindinos, Pegasios, Anempodistos, Aphthonios, Elpidophoros and their companions of Persia.

The first three men were servants at the court of King Sapor in 355, but secretly served Jesus Christ. The king gave them over to harsh torture which they endured courageously and prayerfully. Angels and Christ Himself appeared to them. When one of the torturers, Aphthonios, saw that boiling lead did no harm to the martyrs, he believed in Christ. He was then immediately beheaded. Then the king commanded that his three servants be sewn into goat-skins and thrown into the sea. Aphthonios appeared from the other world with three shining angels, took the martyrs to dry land and set them

free. Elpidophoros was a courtier. When he revealed that he was a Christian and denounced the king, the king beheaded Elpidophoros along with about 7,000 other Christians. Then the three martyrs named earlier were thrown into a burning furnace, along with 28 soldiers and the king's mother, who had also come to faith in Christ.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, how magnified are Thy works.

In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

ما أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالَكَ يَا رَبُّ، كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ. (20-16:2)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِذْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَا يُبْرِرُ بِأَعْمَالِ الْنَامُوسِ، بَلْ إِنَّمَا بِالْإِيمَانِ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، آمَنَّا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ، لَا بِأَعْمَالِ الْنَامُوسِ، إِذْ لَا يُبْرِرُ بِأَعْمَالِ الْنَامُوسِ أَحَدٌ مِنْ ذَوِي الْجَسَدِ. فَإِنْ كُنَّا وَنَحْنُ طَالِبُونَ التَّبَرِيرَ بِالْمَسِيحِ، وَجِدْنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً خُطَاةً، أَفَيَكُونُ الْمَسِيحُ إِذَنْ خَادِماً لِلْخَطِيئَةِ؟ حَاشَى. فَإِنِّي إِنْ عُدْتُ أَبْنِي مَا قَدْ هَدَمْتُ، أَجْعَلُ نَفْسِي مُتَعَدِّياً. لِأَنِّي بِالْنَامُوسِ مُتُّ لِلْنَامُوسِ لِكَيْ أَخِياَ لِلَّهِ. مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ صُلِبْتُ فَأَخِياَ، لَا أَنَا، بَلْ الْمَسِيحُ يَحْيَا فِيَّ. وَمَا لِي مِنَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي الْجَسَدِ أَنَا أَخِياَ فِي إِيْمَانِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَحَبَّنِي، وَبَدَّلَ نَفْسَهُ عَنِّي.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ. (31-19:16)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: كَانَ إِنْسَانٌ غَنِيٌّ يَلْبَسُ الْأَزْجُوانَ وَالْبَزَّ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ تَنَعُّماً فَاخِراً. وَكَانَ مِسْكِينٌ اسْمُهُ لَعَازَرُ مَطْرُوحاً عِنْدَ بَابِهِ مُصَاباً بِالْفُروُجِ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَشْبَعَ مِنَ الْفُتَاتِ الَّذِي يَسْقُطُ مِنْ مَائِدَةِ الْغَنِيِّ. بَلْ كَانَتْ الْكِلَابُ تَأْتِي وَتَلْحَسُ قُرُوحَهُ. ثُمَّ مَاتَ الْمِسْكِينُ، فَنَقَلَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِلَى حِضْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. وَمَاتَ الْغَنِيُّ أَيْضاً، فَدُفِنَ فَرَفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ فِي الْجَحِيمِ وَهُوَ فِي الْعَذَابِ، فَرَأَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ وَلَعَازَرُ فِي حِضْنِهِ. فَنَادَى قَائِلاً: "يَا أَبَتِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ارْحَمْنِي وَأَرْسِلْ لَعَازَرَ لِيُعْمَسَ طَرْفَ إصْبَعِهِ فِي الْمَاءِ وَيُبْرِدَ لِسَانِي، لِأَنِّي مُعَذَّبٌ فِي هَذَا اللَّهيبِ." فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: "تَذَكَّرْ يَا ابْنِي أَنَّكَ نِلْتَ خَيْرَاتِكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ، وَلَعَازَرُ كَذَلِكَ بَلَايَاهُ. وَالْآنَ فَهُوَ يَتَعَزَّى وَأَنْتَ تَتَعَذَّبُ. وَعِلَاوَةً عَلَى هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَبَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ قَدْ أُثْبِتَتْ، حَتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، وَلَا الَّذِينَ هُنَاكَ أَنْ يَعْبُرُوا إِلَيْنَا." فَقَالَ: "أَسْأَلُكَ إِذَنْ يَا أَبَتِ أَنْ تُرْسِلَهُ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِي. فَإِنَّ

لِي خَمْسَةَ إِخْوَةٍ، حَتَّى يَشْهَدَ لَهُمْ لِي لَا يَأْتُوا هُمْ أَيْضاً إِلَى مَوْضِعِ الْعَذَابِ هَذَا. " فَقَالَ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: "إِنَّ عِنْدَهُمْ
مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءَ، فَلْيَسْمَعُوا مِنْهُمْ. " قَالَ: "لَا يَا أَبَتَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ، بَلْ إِذَا مَضَى إِلَيْهِمْ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ يَتُوبُونَ."
فَقَالَ لَهُ: "إِنْ لَمْ يَسْمَعُوا مِنْ مُوسَى وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، فَإِنَّهُمْ، وَلَا إِنْ قَامَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ، يُصَدِّقُونَهُ."

Christmas Volunteering

The joy of the season is upon us! ✨ Our church is preparing for the grand opening/ Christmas party, and we'd love your helping hands and hearts. Every bit of help makes a difference. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact Rania Kashou or David Hanna. Let's come together in the spirit of fellowship and make this a joyful celebration of Christ's birth! ❤️🎄

November 23 Thanksgiving Basket

Raffle 6 tickets for \$12. Please start bringing your gourmet items in the following 3 Sundays to give us enough time to make the best of a beautiful basket and maybe more. Please give your items to Rima.

Upcoming Events

Nov 9	Ladies meeting after coffee hour all are welcome to attend
November 16th	Prison Ministry Card Writing Workshop at coffee hour

Coffee Hour

Nov 2nd	Rula and Dn. Nicholas for good health
Nov 9th	Guajardo Family

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 for the good health of **Blanche Manneh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sue Gideon**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Hala (Sandra) Mitry**. Many years!
- † Fady and Jumana Najjar and family in memory of **Michel Najjar** on the occasion of his 14-year memorial. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. 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

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Dear parishioners,

Below is one of the sermonettes delivered by one of our youth, Malak Khalileh, as part of the youth month in October:

In Luke 8:26–39, the story of Jesus healing the demon-possessed man reveals a deep truth about human suffering, spiritual freedom, and the power of divine mercy. When Jesus arrives in the land of the Gerasenes, He meets a man who has been completely overtaken by evil spirits, living isolated among tombs, cut off from his community, and from hope itself. This resembles how whenever you feel like you are drowning in an ocean of stress, remember your savior walks on water. This man shows the brokenness that can exist within all people — the inner battles, fears, and darkness that seem impossible to escape. Yet when he encounters Jesus, everything changes. The demons immediately recognize Jesus' divine authority, proving that even the forces of darkness must submit to the power of God. When Jesus casts the demons out, the man is finally set free, sitting calmly at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind. This transformation shows that no person is too far gone for God's grace — He restores not only the body but also the mind and soul. However, the townspeople's fearful reaction reveals how uncomfortable people can be when faced with real spiritual power; instead of celebrating the miracle, they ask Jesus to leave. This insane idea leads me to things we experience today. During church why do we close our eyes when we pray, at home why do we close our eyes when we cry. It is because the most beautiful things are not seen by the eyes but felt by the heart. And those people tending the pigs weren't true witnesses because they didn't captivate the idea of healing in the heart. This moment reflects how humans sometimes choose comfort over transformation. A reminder that there is no growth in comfort, and no comfort in growth. Finally, Jesus tells the healed man to return home and share what God has done for him, turning his pain into a purpose. The story reminds readers that true freedom comes from surrendering to Jesus, and that once we are restored, our role is to spread hope and testify to the power of God's love that can bring light into even the darkest parts of life. Jesus heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds, you'll never know that God is all you need, until God is all you've got. But I want us as people to understand god is not like man, Gods love does not disappoint, it does not wound. If he brings correction he also brings healing; he doesn't leave you broken nor wounded forever. You won't ever understand what he is doing now but someday you will. Nothing was lost if Jesus was gained. When you seek God in everything, you will start to see God in everything. So, therefore, don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of you tomorrow too. Always live one day at a time. And, lastly, I want to leave you with an important message to "be a light" yes, truly be a light reflecting Jesus, some people don't know him as well as you might, but everyone is still learning and you never know who could need the Word of God.

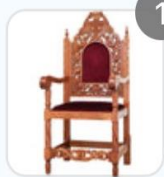
More sermonette letters in the coming weeks from Mason and Tania

Dear parishioners,

We ordered these items to continue beautifying our church. Your donations towards these items are greatly appreciated.

\$20, \$50, \$100 or more are accepted.

God bless you all!



Orthodox Bishop's Chair – Hand-Carved Wood with Icon

\$1,350.00



Hand-Carved Wood Chanter Psalter Stand with Cross Top

\$1,975.00

Subtotal

\$3,325.00

Shipping

\$122.62

Total

USD **\$3,447.62**

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

Hosted by the IOCC Metropolitan Committee of Northern California and St George Orthodox Cathedral

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

VESPERS: 4:00 PM • RECEPTION: 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Come experience a tasting menu & wine pours from around the world and learn about IOCC's latest emergency programs

ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1617 Southgate Ave | Daly City, CA 94015

Tickets: \$60 through Oct. 15, includes food and unlimited wine pours
\$70 after Oct. 15, includes food and wine
\$50 includes food only
\$35 students
\$25 children 6–12 (*free 5 and under*)

Tickets and sponsorships at **iocc.org/bayarea**



All Night Vigil

"With fiery lips the Cherubim sing Thy praise, O Christ God; and with incorporeal mouths the Choir of the Archangels never falleth silent from glorifying Thee. "

**November
7th
Friday, 7pm**



Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

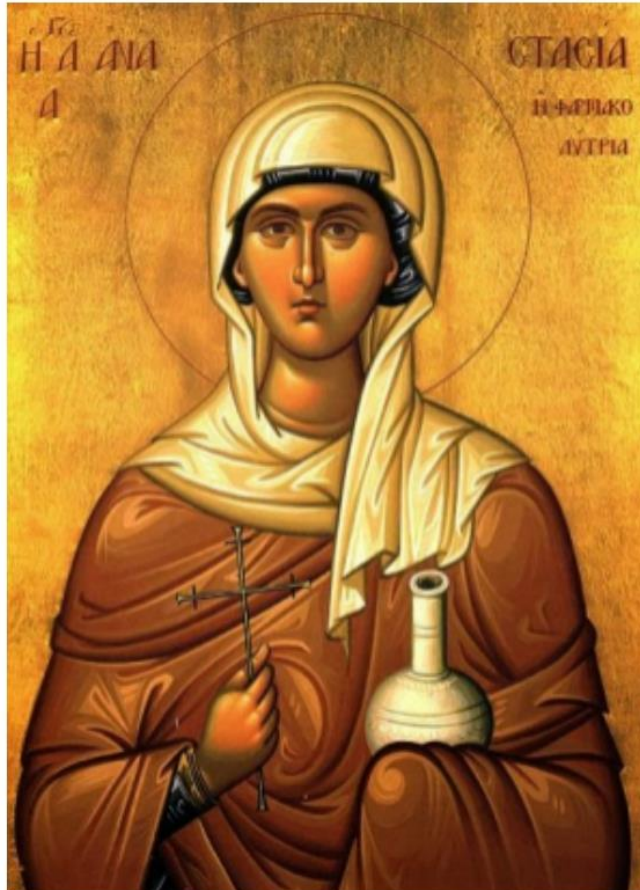
4593 Central Way,
Fairfield, CA 94534

St. Timothy
Antiochian
Orthodox Church

**VESPERS, LITY, ORTHROS
AND LITURGY**

St. Anastasia's Fellowship

A Support Group For Those Struggling With Or Affected By
Substance Abuse



**1st and 3rd Sunday:
6pm meeting; 7pm Readers Paraklesis**

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

**Please Contact:
John: (925) 383-0222
Joseph: (310) 227-9848**

SUNDAY FUNDAY

DAVE & BUSTER'S

AFTER
LITURGY

NOVEMBER 9TH

2075 Diamond Blvd Ste.
H180, Concord, CA 94520



USE OUR
ST. JOHN LINK

Get ready to jingle and mingle!

Christmas

FORMAL

Enjoy a live performance by Waseem and his band,
a delicious dinner, and celebration of Christmas and
the hall grand opening

6TH DECEMBER, 2025

at 4:45pm Ribbon cutting and prayer

5 o'clock for cocktails

6 o'clock for dinner

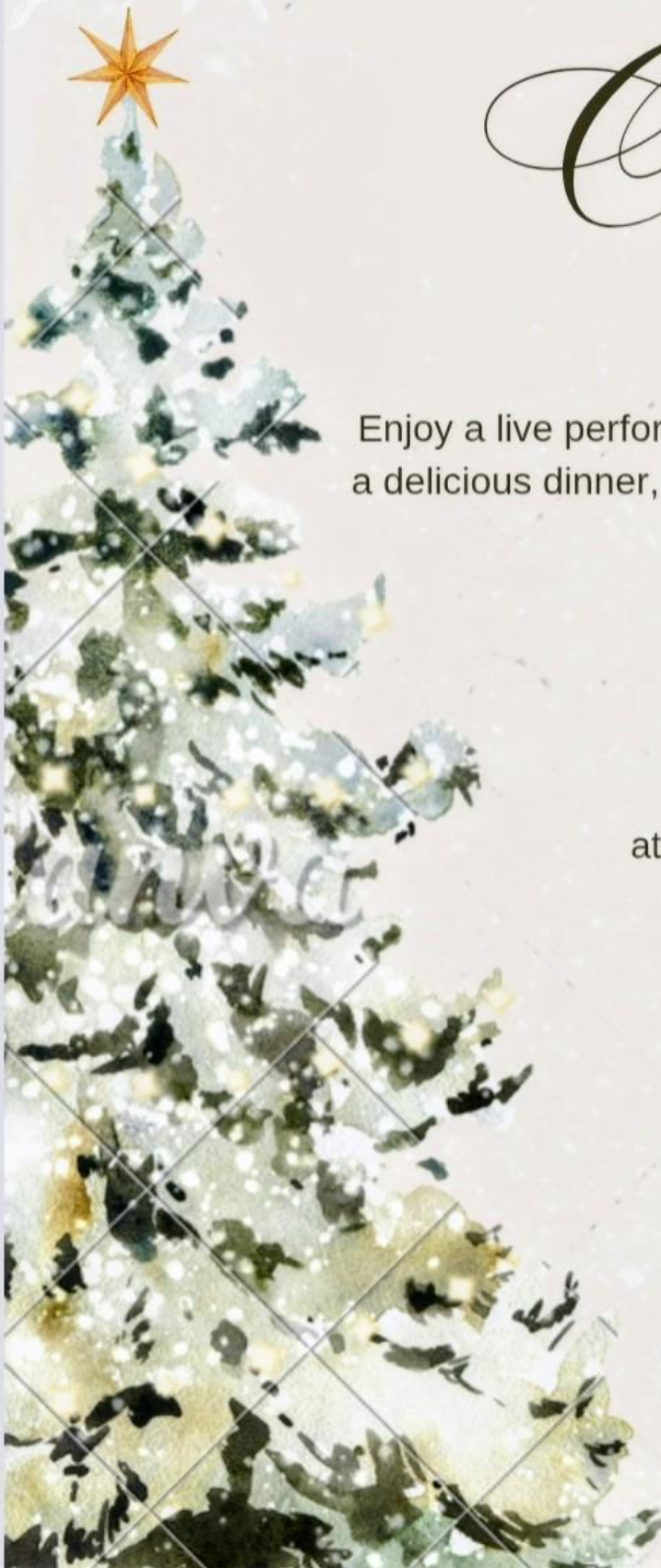
Followed by dancing

ST. JOHN BANQUET HALL

501 Moraga Way, Orinda

Tickets \$110 per adult
\$40 per child(13 or younger)

Purchase by Nov.21
Rania Kashou 415.722.0774





Christmas Event

DECORATE THE TRUNK OF
YOUR CAR FOR ALL TO ENJOY

14
SUNDAY

DECEMBER

AFTER LITURGY

BRING A TREAT TO PASS TO
ALL THE KIDS
(IF IT RAINS THIS EVENT
WILL BE MOVED INSIDE)

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE
CONTACT: RANIA KASHOU





Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens to Support St. John Church



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\$15
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