

+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, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 1; JOHN THE ALMSGIVER, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA

NEILOS THE FASTER OF SINAI; NEILOS THE MYRRH-STREAMING OF THE GREAT LAVRA ON ATHOS;
MARTIN THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF TOURS



St. John the Almsgiver

On November 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate father among the saints John the Almsgiver, patriarch of Alexandria.

Born on Cyprus, John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. John was also known as “the merciful.” He said: “If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood, but in virtues, for this is true nobility.” Once, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, the patriarch met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch’s escorts became bored by the woman’s lengthy complaint, and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman’s story afterward.

John said to them: “And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?” He would not leave until he heard the widow’s complaint to the end. Thus John embodied the Beatitude: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” John entered eternal rest in 620.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Neilos the Faster of Sinai; Neilos the myrrh-streaming of the Great Lavra on Athos; and Martin the wonderworker, bishop of Tours. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE (For St. John the Almsgiver)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:6-11)

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

الرسالة (للقدّيس يُوحنا الرّحيم)

كريم بين يدي الرب موت أبراره. بماذا نكافئ الرب عن كل ما أعطانا.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس. (6:9-11)

يا اخوة إن من يزرع شحيحاً فشحيحاً أيضاً يحصدُ ومن يزرع بالبركاتِ فبالبركاتِ أيضاً يحصدُ. كلُّ واحدٍ كما نوى في قلبه لا عن ابتئاسٍ أو اضطرارٍ. فإنَّ الله يُحبُّ المُعطي المتهلِّئ. والله قادرٌ أن يزيِدكم كلَّ نعمةٍ حتى تكونَ لكم كلُّ كفايةٍ كلَّ حينٍ في كلِّ شيءٍ فتزدادوا في كلِّ عملٍ صالحٍ. كما كتبت: إنه بددَ أعطى المساكينَ فبره يومٌ إلى الأبد. والذي يزرعُ الزارعَ زرعاً وخُبزاً للقوتِ يزرعُكم زرعكم ويكثره ويكثره غلالاً بركم. فتستغنون في كلِّ شيءٍ لكلِّ سخاءٍ خالصٍ يُنشئُ شُكراً لله.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع ناموسى وقال، مُجرباً له: يا معلّم، ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية. فقال له: ماذا كتبت في التاموس؟ كيف تقرأ؟ فأجاب وقال: أحبب الرب الهك من كل قلبك، ومن كل نفسك، ومن كل قدرتك، ومن كل ذهنك، وقربك كنفسك. فقال له: بالصواب أجبت. إعمل ذلك فتحيأ. فأراد أن يركب نفسه فقال لیسوع: ومن قريبي؟ فعاد يسوع وقال: كان إنسانٌ مُنحدرًا من أورشليم إلى أريحا، فوقع بين لصوص. فعروه وجرحوه وتركوه بين حى وميت. فاتفق أن كاهناً كان مُنحدرًا في ذلك الطريق، فأبصره وجاز من أمامه. وكذلك لاوي، وأتى إلى المكان، فأبصره وجاز من أمامه. ثم إن سامرياً مسافراً مرّ به، فلما رآه تحنن. فدنا إليه وضمد جراحاته، وصب عليها زيتاً وحمراً، وحمّله على دابته، وأتى به إلى فندق، واعتنى بأمره. وفي الغد، فيما هو خارج، أخرج دينارين وأعطاهما لصاحب الفندق وقال له: اعتن بأمره، ومهما تنفق فوق هذا فأنا أدفعه لك عند عودتى. فأى هؤلاء الثلاثة تحسب صار قريباً للذي وقع بين اللصوص؟ قال: الذي صنع إليه الرحمة. فقال له يسوع: امض فاصنع أنت أيضاً كذلك.

Love Your Neighbor

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.

Fellowship Hall Updates

Question- Beside my donation, is there anything I can do to help?

Answer- Absolutely! The Building and Fundraising Committee are working hard with the Parish Council on a number of items that will need to be in place as we look to complete the hall. Currently we are looking for volunteers to form (and lead) a committee on policies and procedures for the hall rental. We have three volunteers so far, as well as several examples of local sister church hall rental agreements, but the project needs a number of people with varying ideas to put together a package for the use of the hall. The committee will make recommendations to the Parish Council for final approval. If you are interested or know of someone who would be in serving on this committee, please contact our Parish Council President Tania DeGroot at: tania.degroot@gmail.com

The building and fundraising committee will be providing more updates in the weeks to come for this column, but if you have specific questions, please contact Ron Nicola at RNLM@aol.com

Upcoming Events

November 14th	Jack's Diner Dine and Donate (see flyer)
November 26th	Prison Ministry Card Writing Workshop after Divine Liturgy
December 3rd	Christmas Cars Event (see flyer)
December 9th and 10th	Evening Byzantine Chanting امسية ترتيل بيزنطي by Sons of Antioch
Sunday, December 17th	Rose's Christmas Bake Sale
Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer)

Coffee Hours

November 12th	Coffee hour and mercy meal in memory of John Atallah, offered by George and May Atallah, Faris and Nawal Khalil and Mike and Naila Issa.
November 19th	Luncheon hosted by Samia Shaheen, Mona Thayer and Nelly Nassif. \$15 donation.
November 26th	Coffee hour sponsored by Adranly, Farraj and Hobaika families in memory of Marwan, Nahid, Alain & Sleiman Tarazi. May their memory be eternal!
December 3rd	 Borbara بربارة pudding in celebration of the feast of St. Barbara, prepared by Fairouz Freij and family.

Memorial Services

Sunday, November 12: 40 days memorial for the servant of God John Atallah, by the Atallah families. May his memory be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Haseeb Keileh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Ghassan** and **Vivian Sruji**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **John Atallah**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Elias Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Yasmeen Rafidee** on her patron saint's day (St. John the Merciful/Almsgiver). 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!



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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

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



SUPPORT **ST. JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH**

DINE AND DONATE



ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
LET JACK'S DO THE COOKING
AND HELP EARN MONEY FOR **ST. JOHN**

JACK'S RESTAURANT & BAR
60 CRESCENT DRIVE | PLEASANT HILL
(925) 849-6195 | ILOVEJACKS.COM

VALID ALL DAY. DINE-IN AND TAKE-OUT, ONLY. NO TOAST, DOORDASH OR GRUBHUB.
PLEASE PRESENT FLYER WHEN ORDERING / PICKING-UP



JOLLY CHRISTMAS CARS

DECORATE THE TRUNK OF
YOUR CAR FOR ALL TO ENJOY



3
SUNDAY

DECEMBER
AFTER LITURGY

BRING A TREAT
TO PASS TO ALL
THE KIDS

TO PARTICIPATE
PLEASE CONTACT:
RANIA KASHOU



DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST TEEN SOYO NEWSLETTER

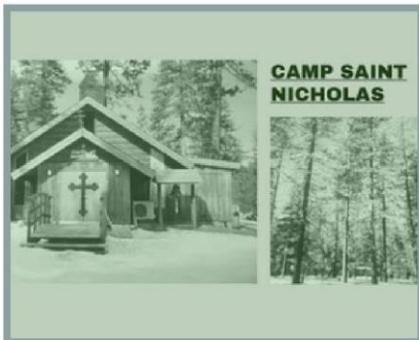
OCTOBER, 2023 | VOLUME 08



St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer

"Saint Demetrios, born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 270 AD, was a high-ranking officer in the Roman Army and a devout missionary. He preached the Gospel and converted pagans to Christianity. Emperor Maximian captured him and ordered him to be sent to prison. Despite being imprisoned, Saint Demetrios continued preaching the gospel. His follower, Nestoras, visited him in jail and asked for his blessing to fight in a gladiator games. With Saint Demetrios' blessing, Nestoras killed Leo, a giant, leading to the emperor's beheading. Saint Demetrios was executed by spear on October 26, 306 AD, and Christians named him Mirovlitis or "The Myrrh Gusher" due to his beautiful scent."

MAKE SURE TO REGISTER FOR WINTER CAMP!



Register here:

<https://www.campstnicholas.com/site/home/>

FALL GATHERING RECAP!!

Add a little bit of The Fall Gathering in Modesto was a success, with many DLAW teen SOYO youth participating. Fr. Nebojsa shared the importance of God's presence and the power of relationships. The SOYO had a great time participating in games, hearing more about SOYO and many activities. The youth also learned about other events like Special Olympics in Pennsylvania, Camp Saint Nicholas, and Youth Month.



YOUTH MONTH RECAP

October was Youth Month, focusing on Orthodox Church youth's participation in church activities and services. The success of SOYO youth was recognized, and they were encouraged to continue their service to the church. Many new Teen SOYO boards were inducted, and it was a beautiful month to see youth engaged in various ways.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@DLAWSOYO

Christmas in San Francisco

in a live concert
with

Father Peter Hanna

November 29 | 7:30 pm

Our Lady of Lebanon Church
&
The Good Shepherd ACC

invite you to this first time event
at

Saint Dunstan Church
1133 Broadway, Millbrae CA 94030

The concert Followed
by reception at the church hall

Ticket prices:
Adult: 45
Under 18: 25
Under 12: free
For reservation
(650) 741-6342



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.: 397/2023

November 1, 2023

My sons and daughters in our protected parishes, in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America,

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit may be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Beloved Faithful,

Following the call of the Holy Synod of Antioch, which beckons all its children to dedicate a Sunday following the Synod's conclusion to collect aid for our brethren at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and to partake in the relief of their suffering while demonstrating the Christian communion of humanity in times of affliction, we hereby announce that the upcoming Sunday, falling on November 12, shall be designated as the day for collecting aid throughout our Archdiocese. We kindly request all parishes to send their collections to the Archdiocesan headquarters. The Archdiocese will continue to collect aid for one month starting from November 12th.

In response to some of your questions regarding the inclusion of petitions in the Divine Liturgy for the sake of peace and mercy in the Holy Land, I would like to clarify:

The practice of introducing new petitions into the Divine Liturgy does not depend on a personal decision by a bishop or priest. Following the Holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church, at the end of the Great Entrance while processing with the Holy Gifts, the priest offers the people's supplications and mentions names and regions that are going through turbulent events. This is what we hope for from all of you in these days when humanity is in dire need of divine mercy.

Furthermore, we recommend that the service of the *Paraklesis* (Supplicatory Canon) be held in the churches to the extent possible for the faithful to offer supplications

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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and entreaties, seeking mercy and peace in the Holy Land, especially in Gaza at this time.

We hope, and as we have witnessed in every crisis, that each and every one of you will wholeheartedly contribute to this humanitarian and fraternal duty. In closing, I am sharing two prayers for you to use during these times.

May you always be guarded by God's care.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T" and a period after the first name.

+**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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**Prayer from the Akathist to the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Mother
of God – “Softener of Evil Hearts”**

Who shall not call thee blessed, O Virgin full of grace! Who shall not hymn thy loving-kindness toward the race of men! We pray unto thee, we beseech thee: Leave us not to perish in misfortunes; melt our hearts with love, send thine arrow to our enemies, so that love may wound our hearts with peace toward those who persecute us. Even as the world hateth us, do thou extend thy love toward us, and even as the world persecuteth us, do thou accept us and grant us the God-given power of patience to endure without complaint the temptations encountered in this world. O Mistress! Soften the hearts of wicked men who rise up against us, lest their hearts should perish in iniquity, but, O Full of Grace, do thou entreat thy Son and our God to visit their hearts with peace, so that the devil, the father of evil, may be put to shame. And we, singing thy loving-kindness toward us, lowly and vile as we are, shall hymn thee, O most wondrous Mistress, O Virgin full of grace: Hearken unto us in this hour, as our hearts are heavy, guard us with peace and love toward one another and toward our enemies, eradicate every wickedness and hostility that we have, as we sing to thee and to thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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“A Prayer to the People of Gaza”
by His Eminence Metropolitan George (Khodr)

"O Jesus Christ, O King of Peace, our people in Gaza doth yearn for Thy abundant mercy. Take their children in Thine hands and extend Thy care to all their people. Wipe away every tear from their eyes, replacing sorrow with joy. O Lord, Thou who consolest every heart, place Thy Spirit in the troubled hearts, so they may find comfort in Thee and Thy compassion. Be a source of rest for the wounded and a healing balm. Ease their pains and deliver them from all fear. Take their burdens upon Thy shoulders and have mercy on those who have gone to Thee.

O God, cleanse their land from all defilement, and greed. Feed the people of the city with all they need, and let them not know death, oppression, or injustice, for in Thee, there is only justice and life.

Pour out upon all nations a sense of Gaza's suffering and a spirit of solidarity with them, striving for peace.

These are Thy children, all of them. Do not allow them to be displaced or struck again, so that we may live with them as brothers, building ourselves and the world with the spirit of forgiveness and tolerance.

Protect Thy Church there and shield it from torment. Put an end to this tragic ordeal, and encourage peace-loving nations to rebuild the city anew. Accept the prayers of the ancient Gazan saints who enriched the Church with deep spirituality and golden words. O God, end this war, for Thy people have grown weary. Embrace, O Lord, this martyred city until it glorifies Thee, and we glorify Thee with it as we stand in solidarity.

To Thee be honor, worship, and glory, together with Thy Father and Thy Holy Spirit. Amen."

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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