

# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America  
Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America  
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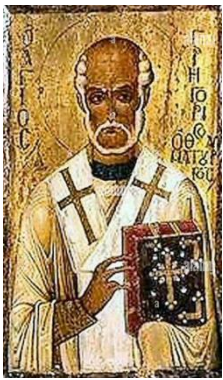
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 10**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

**GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF NEO-CAESAREA**

GENNADIOS AND MAXIMOS, PATRIARCHS OF CONSTANTINOPLE; NIKON THE WONDERWORKER, DISCIPLE OF SERGIOS OF RADONEZH; HILDA, ABBESS OF WHITBY



## St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea

On November 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Gregory the wonderworker, bishop of Neo-Caesarea.

The miracle-working Gregory was called a second Moses. Although born a pagan, he became aware of the meagerness and insufficiency of pagan philosophy. Gregory then turned to Christian teachers with whom he studied and from whom he received baptism. To dedicate himself solely to Christ God, Gregory withdrew to the wilderness and lived in rigorous asceticism. Bishop Phaedimus of Amasea wanted to consecrate him Bishop of Neo-Caesarea. The clairvoyant Gregory perceived this intention and hid from the bishop's emissaries. Finally, Phaedimus consecrated him in absentia, and Gregory had to accept the office of bishop. The Most-holy Theotokos and St. John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and gave him the Symbol of Faith—"The Creed"—which the First Ecumenical Council ratified. He died around the year 270 in great old age. When he arrived in Neo-Caesarea as bishop, he found only seventeen Christians in that pagan city. At the end, Gregory left the city Christian, with only seventeen pagans.

## 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.

## الرسالة

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

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

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَا يُبَرَّرُ بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ، بَلْ إِنَّمَا بِالْإِيمَانِ بِبِسْوَغِ الْمَسِيحِ، أَمَّا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً بِبِسْوَغِ الْمَسِيحِ لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ، لَا بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ، إِذْ لَا يُبَرَّرُ بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ أَحَدٌ مِنْ ذَوِي الْجَسَدِ. فَإِنْ كُنَّا وَنَحْنُ طَالِبُونَ التَّبَرِيرَ بِالْمَسِيحِ، وَجَدْنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً خُطَاةً، أَفَيَكُونُ الْمَسِيحُ إِذَنْ خَادِماً لِلْخَطِيئَةِ؟ حَاشَى. فَإِنِّي إِنْ عُدْتُ أَبْنِي مَا قَدْ هَدَمْتُ، أَجْعَلُ نَفْسِي مُتَعَدِّياً. لِأَنِّي بِالنَّامُوسِ مُتُّ لِلنَّامُوسِ لِكَيْ أَحْيَا لَلَّهِ. مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ صُلِبْتُ فَأَحْيَا، لَا أَنَا، بَلْ الْمَسِيحُ يَحْيَا فِيَّ. وَمَا لِي مِنَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي الْجَسَدِ أَنَا أَحْيَا فِي إِيمَانِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَحَبَّنِي، وَبَدَّلَ نَفْسَهُ عَنِّي.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

### **الإنجيل**

#### **فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (12:16-21)**

فَفَكَّرَ فِي نَفْسِهِ قَائِلًا "مَاذَا أَصْنَعُ؟ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لِي مَوْضِعٌ أَخْزُنُ. قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ غَنِيٌّ أَحْصَبَتْ أَرْضُهُ وَأَقُولُ لِنَفْسِي، "ثُمَّ قَالَ، "أَصْنَعُ هَذَا: أَهْدِمُ أَهْرَائِي وَأَبْنِي أَكْبَرَ مِنْهَا، وَأَجْمَعُ هُنَاكَ كُلَّ غَلَاتِي وَخَيْرَاتِي. فِيهِ أَثْمَارِي فَقَالَ لَهُ اللَّهُ: "يَا جَاهِلٌ! فِي هَذِهِ اللَّيْلَةِ تُطَلَّبُ نَفْسُكَ. يَا نَفْسُ إِنَّ لَكَ خَيْرَاتٍ كَثِيرَةً فَاسْتَرِحِي وَكُلِّي واشْرَبِي وَأَفْرَحِي مِنْكَ. فَهَذِهِ الَّتِي أَعَدَدْتَهَا لِمَنْ تَكُونُ؟" فَهَكَذَا مَنْ يَدَّخِرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَلَا يَسْتَعْنِي بِاللَّهِ. وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَادَى: مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ لِلسَّمْعِ، فَلْيَسْمَعْ.

### **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.

### **Thanksgiving Basket November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Let's be generous and bring our good gourmet items to Rima Kashou on November 3 and 10 and if we have enough money will include \$\$ for your thanksgiving Turkey meal. The prize is 6 tickets for \$10. Thank you in advance.

### **Rose Bake Sale**

It is that time of the year for the Christmas Rose bake sale. Ladies: Please contact Denise Dudum at 925 360-3350 and let her know of your special sweets which you will bring for the bake sale, also those who suggested to bring already baked and boxed cookies to also inform Denise. Thanks!

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting.
<b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Prison Ministry Christmas Card writing workshop after Coffee Hour
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Evening Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the temple عيد دخول السيدة العذراء إلى الهيكل. At 5 pm, followed by bible study/book discussion of On the Incarnation by St. Athanasius.
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	General Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy to entertain the idea of obtaining a loan to finish the fellowship hall.

### Coffee Hours

<b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Fadwa Samara
<b>November 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Sponsor Needed
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Siham Mitry in memory of her brothers, sisters & nephews who have passed away
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Fairouz Freij in memory of Angel & Emily. Also for the good health of the Freij family and Rania Shuhaiber and family.
<b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Rose's Bake Sale – No Coffee Hour

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Henriette Hilal** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † Rocky and Nada Dudum for the good health of **Sandy Dudum Bennett**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Ron Jeha**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of Yasmeen Kasouf on her name's day. 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, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

### Building Committee Update:

As discussed in our Parish meeting a couple weeks ago, the Building Committee is actively involved with Petra, our contractor, to determine final costs and schedules to complete the building. Once this information is finalized, it will be distributed to the parish at large.

In the meantime, some work on the building is being completed. This includes the playground fencing, the PG&E electrical transformer along with distribution to the existing buildings on campus, and the stair handrails and guardrails -which are currently being manufactured and will be delivered and installed soon.

At that point, the building fund will have been depleted (as was expected and explained at the beginning of the project 2 years ago), and with the exception of funds raised at the fundraising gala, work will need to conclude until further funds are raised. Again, as discussed at the recent parish meeting, the Parish Council is recommending increasing our loan amount with Summit Bank by \$1 Million. Without this loan, or some other source of funding, work will cease on the project.

The building is close to 90% complete, but the remaining items are critical to the use of the hall, and include, but are not limited to: kitchen, bathrooms, acoustic ceiling finishes, flooring, paint and finalizing mechanical, electrical and plumbing fixtures.

It is important to note, that even with certain changes made to the plans for the betterment of the campus at large, the project is still within budget!



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