

+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

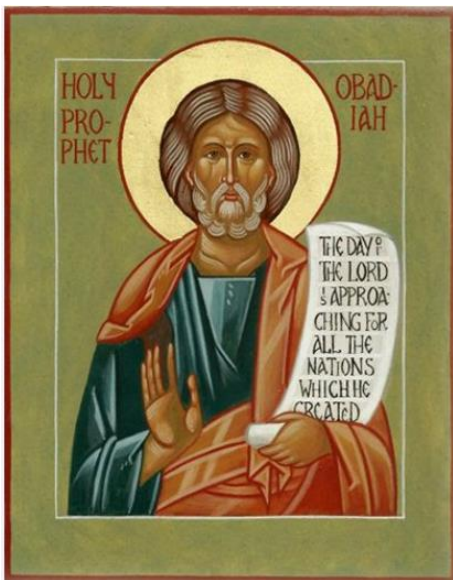
www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

**TONE 7 / EOTHINON 2; TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

THE HOLY PROPHET OBADIAH; MARTYR BARLAAM OF ANTIOCH;

MARTYR AZI THE WONDERWORKER OF ISAURIA IN ASIA MINOR AND 150 SOLDIERS WITH HIM



Holy Prophet Obadiah

On November 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Prophet Obadiah.

Obadiah lived at the court of King Ahab of Israel, but when the king turned away from true worship and bowed down to idols, Obadiah did not follow the king, but continued to serve the one, true God. When the evil Queen Jezebel raised a persecution against all the prophets of God, Obadiah gathered one hundred of them, hid them in two caves, and fed them to the end of the persecution (1 Kings 18:4). A contemporary of the great Prophet Elias, Obadiah revered him greatly and served him in all things, as his follower and disciple. He lived 900 years before Christ and entered peacefully into rest.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Barlaam of Antioch. Because of his faith in Christ the Lord, an impious judge tortured him harshly. He took Barlaam to the pagan temple and set a burning coal

on his palm and incense on the coal. The judge thought that the pain would cause the martyr to shake the coal and incense off his hand before the idols, and thus involuntarily cense them. However, the soldier of Christ heroically held the burning coal on his palm with no thought of casting it before the idols, until his fingers were burned through and fell off and his palm was completely burnt. After that, elder Barlaam's whole body fell to the ground and his soul went to the eternal rest of our Lord the Savior. This glorious, heroic elder suffered in 304.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

الرسالة
الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لِسَعْبِهِ.
قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَفَسُسَ. (22-14:2)

يا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ سَلَامُنَا، هُوَ جَعَلَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ وَاحِدًا، وَنَقَضَ فِي جَسَدِهِ حَائِطَ السِّيَاحِ الْحَاجِزِ، أَيِ الْعِدَاوَةِ. وَأَبْطَلَ نَامُوسَ الْوَصَايَا فِي فِرَائِضِهِ، لِيَخْلُقَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ فِي نَفْسِهِ إِنْسَانًا وَاحِدًا جَدِيدًا بِإِجْرَائِهِ السَّلَامِ. وَيُصَالِحُ كِلَيْهِمَا فِي جَسَدٍ وَاحِدٍ مَعَ اللَّهِ فِي الصَّلِيبِ، بِقَتْلِهِ الْعِدَاوَةَ فِي نَفْسِهِ. فَجَاءَ وَبَشَّرَكُمْ بِالسَّلَامِ، الْبَعِيدِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَالْقَرِيبِينَ. لِأَنَّ بِهِ لَنَا كَلِمَاتُ التَّوَصُّلِ إِلَى الْآبِ فِي رُوحٍ وَاحِدٍ. فَلَسْتُمْ غُرَبَاءَ بَعْدَ وَزُلَاءَ، بَلْ مُوَاطِنُو الْقَدِيسِينَ وَأَهْلُ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ. وَقَدْ بُنِيتُمْ عَلَى أَسَاسِ الرُّسُلِ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَحَجَرِ الزَّوَايَةِ هُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ نَفْسُهُ الَّذِي بِهِ يُنْسَقُ الْبُنْيَانُ كُلُّهُ، فَيَنْمُو هَيْكَلًا مُقَدَّسًا فِي الرَّبِّ، وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُبْنُونَ مَعًا مَسْكَنًا لِلَّهِ فِي الرُّوحِ.

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

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (21-16:12)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ غَنِيٌّ أَحْصَبَتْ أَرْضُهُ. فَفَكَّرَ فِي نَفْسِهِ قَائِلًا "مَاذَا أَصْنَعُ؟ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لِي مَوْضِعٌ أَحْزُنُ فِيهِ أَثْمَارِي." ثُمَّ قَالَ، "أَصْنَعُ هَذَا: أَهْدِمُ أَهْرَائِي وَأَبْنِي أَكْبَرَ مِنْهَا، وَأَجْمَعُ هُنَاكَ كُلَّ غَلَاتِي وَخَيْرَاتِي. وَأَقُولُ لِنَفْسِي، يَا نَفْسُ إِنَّ لَكَ خَيْرَاتٍ كَثِيرَةً فَاسْتَرِيحِي وَكُلِّي وَاشْرَبِي وَافْرَحِي." فَقَالَ لَهُ اللَّهُ: "يَا جَاهِلٌ! فِي هَذِهِ اللَّيْلَةِ تُطَلَّبُ نَفْسُكَ 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.

St. John's Family Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 9th at 6:00pm, immediately following the Sons of Antioch Nativity Concert. Please join us for a Lenten Meal and fellowship in the church hall. Your generous donations will be accepted to aid the children of Gaza through the Middle East Children's Alliance MECA. Questions?...see Rula Adranly or Suzanne Taovil. Let us all pray for peace!

Thank you for your Generosity

Dear Parishioners, thank you for your generosity. We were able to collect \$1,359 to send to the archdiocese Palestine fund last week. God bless you all!

Fellowship Hall Updates

Question- What is the funding strategy for the Fellowship Hall, and are we on track?

Answer- The Parish Council, Building and Fundraising Committees proposed at the (2022) Parish meeting that we move forward with building the Fellowship Hall knowing that we had not secured full funding to complete the project. The parish voted to proceed. This was the funding strategy:

At the start of the project, we had:

- Approximately \$2,000,000 in building fund – comprised of parishioner and preschool contributions and funds.
- Obtained a \$2,500,000 equity loan 30 year amortized with a 5-year adjustable at .5% above prime.
- Begun an aggressive \$2,500,000 capital campaign to complete a \$7,000,000 project (Hall, retaining walls, paving, etc.)

The funding to pay the mortgage on the new loan is being paid from the church operating funds – which, of course, come from parishioners' monthly and weekly contributions to the parish as well as the preschool contributions. We have been and will continue to meet this arrangement.

The \$2,500,000 loan funding has been spent on the project first and has covered the grading, paving, retaining walls, foundation, rough plumbing and electrical, and framing of the walls and roof of the building. To date we have paid 8 invoices to the contractor, totaling \$2.88 Million. The difference in the amount was covered by Preschool funds which were to be designated for that purpose.

The \$2 million in the building fund at the start of the project will be spent next and will cover the current phase of construction such as the final roofing products, exterior wall treatment, HVAC systems, doors, windows and continuation of utilities and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems as well as a built-in walk-in cooler/freezer. This will bring us to a point where the building will be secure from potential adverse winter weather.


The money raised to date toward our \$2,500,000 goal will be spent last and will be for the finishing touches of the hall (which will still be major items) such as the kitchen, flooring, wall treatments, interior doors, hardscape and landscape, lighting, furnishings, and kitchen and serving supplies.

We will be providing an update on the fundraising progress shortly, thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 15th	Advent Begins
Monday, November 20th	Evening Divine Liturgy at 6pm for the feast of the presentation of the Theotokos to the temple
Sunday, November 26th	Prison Ministry Card Writing Workshop after Divine Liturgy
Sunday, 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

Coffee Hours

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 and baby Jewel Al-Amash. May their memory be eternal!
December 3rd	 Borbara بربرة pudding in celebration of the feast of St. Barbara, prepared by Fairouz Freij and family.

Memorial Services

Sunday, November 26th: 40 days memorial service for the servants of God Marwan, Nahid, Alain & Sleiman Tarazi and baby Jewel Al-Amash. May their memory be eternal!

Sunday, January 14th: One year memorial for the servant of God Dwight Underhill. 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 for the good health of **Elias Freij**. Many years!
- † Siham Mitry and daughters in memory of **Osama Mitry and family: Wadia, Habib, Nabiha, Evelyn, Margaret, Leila, Mitry, and Eugenia**.

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



St. John Financial Snapshot
Year to Date Actual Finances as of 10/31/2023

INCOME	2023 Year To Date	% of Total Income	2022 Year to Date	
Membership Pledges	\$ 164,774	36%	\$ 138,167	
Tray Collections	\$ 9,534	2%	\$ 9,439	
Preschool Contribution*	\$ 248,081	54%	\$ 78,640	Includes transfer of preschool net income in October through December, to support hall loan payments
Crab Feed and Festival	\$ 17,166	4%	\$ 57,681	
Ladies Contribution	\$ -	0%	\$ -	
Pot of Gold	\$ -	0%	\$ 163,309	
Other**	\$ 18,171	4%	\$ 15,733	
Total Income	\$ 457,725	100%	\$ 299,661	
Total Expenses	\$ 206,145		\$ 211,302	
YTD Net Income	\$ 251,580	55%	\$ 88,359	

* In addition to the above, preschool payments to the church include \$400 per month to offset expenses paid by the church and \$4,833.33 per month towards the building fund (deposited directly into building fund)

**Other includes bookstore, candles, flowers, palms, coffee hour, memorials, Amazon Smile program, weddings, prior year pledges

Building Fund Balance \$ **1,329,841.35**

Those who wish to see the full financial statement should contact Parish Council Treasurer Matthew Simon


Mendocino Farms

EAT HAPPY. GIVE BACK.



FUNDRAISER FOR

St John's Orthodox Church

January 18, 2024 | 2PM - close

1895 Ygnacio Valley Rd #28, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Order online for pickup or delivery using the promo code or show this flyer in restaurant, and we'll donate **20%** back to your cause.

promo code:

GIVEBACK

Discounts, coupons or offers are not valid during the fundraiser. For orders to count towards fundraiser, supporters must show flyer at register or enter code at checkout for online orders at order.mendocinofarms.com. Gift cards, catering, and 3rd party delivery orders are not eligible. Tax, tip, and delivery fee will not be included in donation. \$250 minimum event net sales required to receive any donation. All orders must be placed for pickup between 2PM - close on event date.



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



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



