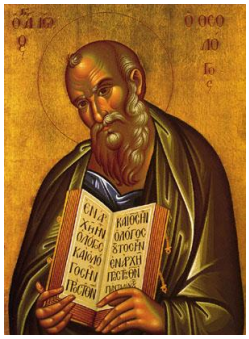


+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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 26, 2023

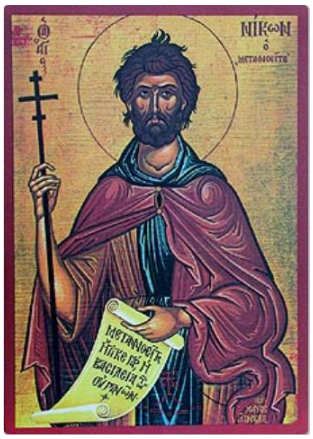
Tone 8 / Eothinon 3; Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost & Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Venerable Alypios the Stylite of Adrianople; Nikon the preacher of repentance; Venerable Stylianos of Paphlagonia

Venerable Alypios the Stylite and Righteous Father Nikon Repent-ye

On November 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Alypios the Stylite of Adrianople.

Alypios served as a deacon with Bishop Theodore in the church in Hadrianopolis. But, desirous of a life of solitude, prayer and meditation, Alypios withdrew to a Greek cemetery outside the city. This was a cemetery from which people fled in terror, because of frequent demonic visions seen there. Alypios set up a cross in the cemetery and built a church in honor of St. Euphemia, who had appeared to him in a dream. Beside the church, he built a tall pillar, climbed to the top of it, and spent 53 years there in fasting and prayer. Neither the mockery of men nor the evil of the demons could drive him away or cause him to waver in his intention. The courageous Alypios protected himself by the sign of the Cross and the Name of Jesus. Two monasteries were built beside his pillar, one for men and the other for women. This God-pleaser had so much grace that he was often illuminated in heavenly light, and a pillar of this light extended to the heavens above him. Alypios was a wonderful and mighty miracle-worker in life and after his repose. He lived for 100 years and entered into rest in 640.



On this day, we also commemorate our righteous Father Nikon Repent-ye. Forsaking his parents and homeland of Armenia, he passed throughout the parts of the East, crying to all, “Repent ye,” because of which he received this name. Finally, he came to Lacedaemonia of the Peloponnesus, where he built a church in honor of Christ our Savior. After having dwelt there many years in solitude, and having converted many from paganism, Nikon departed to the Lord about the end of the ninth century.

THE EPISTLE

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

الرسالة

صَلُّوا وأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إلهَنا.

اللهُ مَعْروفٌ في أَرْضِ يَهوذا؛ واسْمُهُ عَظيمٌ في إسْرائيل.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسالَةِ القِدّيسِ بولُسَ الرَّسولِ إلى أفَسُس.

يا إخْوَةُ، أطْلُبُ إلَيْكُمْ أنا الأسِيرَ في الرَّبِّ أنْ تَسْلُكُوا كَمَا يَحِقُّ لِلْدَعْوَةِ التي دُعيتُمْ بِهَا. بِكُلِّ تَواضُع ووَداعَةٍ وبطولِ أَناةٍ، مُحْتَمِلينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً بالمَحَبَّةِ. ومُجْتَهِدينَ في حِفْظِ وِحْدَةِ الرَّوح بِرِباطِ السَّلام. فإنَّكُمْ جَسَدٌ واحِدٌ وروحٌ واحِدٌ، كما دُعيتُمْ إلى رَجاءِ دَعْوَتِكُمُ الواحِد، رَبٌّ واحِدٌ، وإيمانٌ واحدٌ، ومعموديَّةٌ واحدةٌ، وإلهٌ أَبٌ لِلْجَميع واحدٌ، هُوَ فَوْقَ الجَميع وبالجَميع وفي جَميعِكُم. ولِكُلِّ واحِدٍ مِنّا أُعْطِيَتِ النِعْمَةُ على مِقْدارِ مَوْهَبَةِ المَسيح.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شَريفٌ مِنْ بِشارَةِ القِدّيسِ لوقا الإنْجيلِيّ البَشيرِ والتلْميذِ الطاهِر. (18:18-27)

في ذلكَ الزَّمانِ، دَنا إلى يَسوعَ إنْسانٌ مُجَرِّباً لهُ وقائِلاً: "أيُّها المُعَلِّمُ الصَّالِحُ، ماذا أَعْمَلُ لِأَرِثَ الحَياةَ الأَبَدِيَّة؟" فَقالَ لَهُ يسوعُ: "لِماذا تَدْعوني صالِحاً؟ وما صالِحٌ إلاَّ واحِدٌ وَهُوَ اللهُ. إنَّكَ تَعْرِفُ الوَصايا: لاتَزْنِ. لا تَقْتُل. لا تَسْرِق. لا تَشْهَدْ بالزُورِ. أَكْرِمْ أَباكَ وأُمَّكَ." فَقالَ: "كُلُّ هَذا قَدْ حَفِظْتُهُ مُنْذُ صِبائي." فَلَمّا سَمِعَ يسوعُ ذلكَ، قالَ لَهُ: "واحِدَةٌ تَعْوَزُكَ بَعْدُ. بِعْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ وَوَزِّعْهُ على المَساكينِ، فَيَكونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ في السَّماءِ، وتَعالَ اتْبَعْني." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ ذَلِكَ، حَزِنَ لأَنَّهُ كانَ غَنِيّاً جِداً. فَلَمَّا رآهُ يَسوعُ قَدْ حَزِنَ، قالَ: "ما أَعْسَرَ على ذَوي الأَمْوالِ أَنْ يَدْخُلُوا مَلَكوتَ اللهِ. إنَّهُ لَأَسْهَلُ أنْ يَدْخُلَ الجَمَلُ في ثَقْبِ الإبْرَةِ مِنْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ غَنِيٌّ مَلَكوتَ الله." فَقالَ السَّامِعونَ: "فَمَنْ يَسْتَطيعُ إذَنْ أنْ يَخْلُص؟" فقالَ: "ما لا يُسْتَطاعُ عِنْدَ الناسِ، مُسْتَطاعٌ عِنْدَ الله."

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!

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
Sunday, November 26th	Prison Ministry Card Writing Workshop after Divine Liturgy in the Church Office
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 26th	Coffee hour sponsored by Adranly, Farraj and Hobaika families in memory of Marwan, Nahid, Alain, Farajallah, Elaine & Sleiman Tarazi and baby Jowel Al-Amash. May their memory be eternal!
December 3rd	Borbara بربارة pudding in celebration of the feast of St. Barbara, prepared by Fairouz Freij and family.
December 10th	Sponsor Needed
December 17th	Sponsor Needed
December 24th	Rihani family in memory of Victor Rihani. May his memory be eternal!

Memorial Services

Sunday, November 26th: 40 days memorial service for the servants of God Marwan, Nahid, Alain, Farajallah, Elaine & Sleiman Tarazi and baby Jowel 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!

† 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

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Mendocino Farms

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GIVE BACK.

FUNDRAISER FOR

St John's Orthodox Church

January 18, 2024 | 2PM - close

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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.

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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 DECEMBER
SUNDAY AFTER LITURGY

BRING A TREAT TO PASS TO ALL THE KIDS

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CONTACT:
RANIA KASHOU

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST

THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Winter Retreat

January 12-15, 2024

@ Camp St Nicholas ~ Frazier Park, CA

Building Relationships through Christ

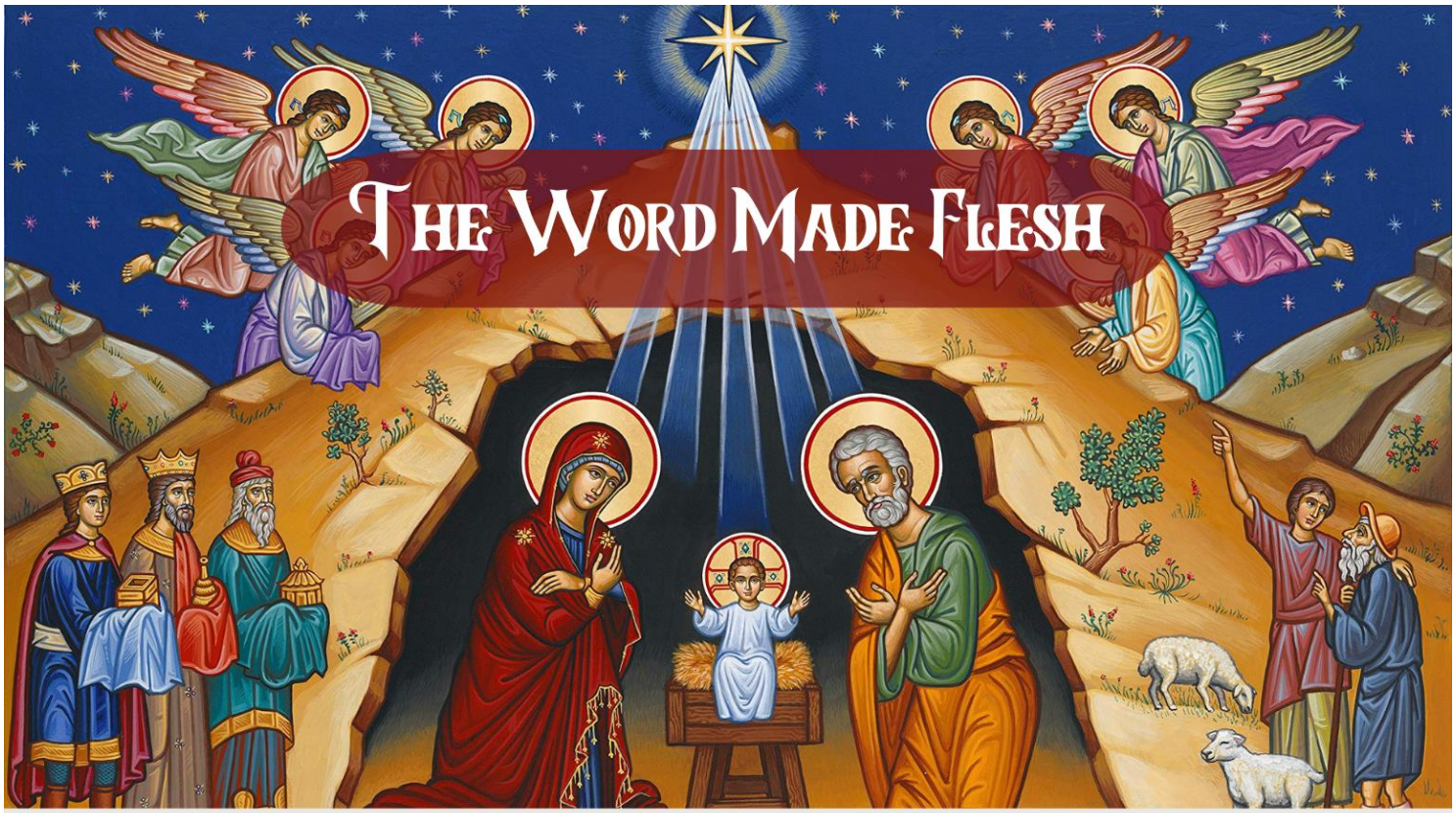
Keynote Speakers:

Rev Fr George & Kh Miray Katrib

Early Bird Registration (ends 11/28) ~ $225

General Registration (ends 12/29) ~ $260

register with QR Code



A Byzantine Nativity
Concert Series by the

SONS OF ANTIOCH

Byzantine Choir

Dec 8th at 6 pm

St. Nicholas
Antiochian Orthodox Church
San Francisco, CA

Dec 9th at 5 pm

St. John the Evangelist
Antiochian Orthodox Church
Orinda, CA

Dec 10th at 1 pm

Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian
Orthodox Church
West Sacramento, CA