

# +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

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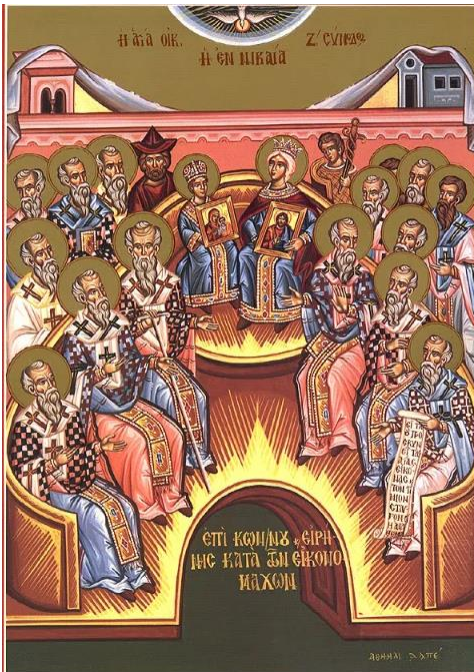
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**

**TONE 2 / EOTHINON 8**

**SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**& FOURTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

HIEROMARTYR LUCIAN OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE EUTHYMIOS THE YOUNGER OF ATHOS;  
SAVVINOS, BISHOP OF CATANIA



## Sunday of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

## THE EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.*

*For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)**

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

## الرسالة

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تِيطُسَ .

يا وُلْدِي تِيطُسَ، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَإِيَاهَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ تُقَرَّرَ حَتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ فِي الْقِيَامِ بِالْأَعْمَالِ الْحَسَنَةِ، فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَدْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُحَاكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةَ بَعْدَ الْإِنْذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ. عَالِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اعْتَسَفَ، وَهُوَ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. وَمَتَى أُرْسِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أُرْتِيمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولَسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أَمَّا زِينَا سَ مُعَلِّمُ النَّامُوسِ وَالْبُلُوسُ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَاهِبِينَ لِنَلَّا يُعَوِّزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلِيَتَعَلَّمْ دُونَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الصَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمِرِينَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ، سَلِّمِ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النِّعْمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.

## THE GOSPEL

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## الإنجيل

### فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ .

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، سَقَطَ بَعْضُ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ، فَوُطِئَ وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ عَلَى الصَّخْرِ، فَلَمَّا نَبَتَ بِيَسَ لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ بَيْنَ الشُّوكِ، فَتَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَقَهُ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، فَلَمَّا نَبَتَ أَثْمَرَ مِائَةَ ضِعْفٍ. فَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ. فَقَالَ: لَكُمْ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَأَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَبِأَمْثَالٍ، لِكَيْ لَا يَنْظُرُوا وَهُمْ نَاطِرُونَ، وَلَا يَفْهَمُوا وَهُمْ سَامِعُونَ. وَهَذَا هُوَ الْمَثَلُ: الزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالذِّينَ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إِبْلِيسُ وَيَنْزِعُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ لِنَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالذِّينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرَحٍ، وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَ لَهُمْ أَصْلٌ، وَإِنَّمَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجْرِبَةِ يَزْتَدُونَ. وَالذِّي سَقَطَ فِي الشُّوكِ، هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ ثُمَّ يَذْهَبُونَ فَيَخْتَنِقُونَ بِهِمُومِ هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَغِنَاهَا وَمَلَدَاتِهَا، فَلَا يَأْتُونَ بِثَمَرٍ. وَأَمَّا الَّذِي سَقَطَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ، فَهُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا فِي قَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ، وَيُثْمِرُونَ بِالصَّبْرِ. وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَادَى: مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ لَلْسَمْعِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ.

## Love Your Neighbor

### **October – (Youth Month) SOYO Special Olympics**

This ministry is sponsored by the North American Council of Teen SOYO and is the second longest running program of Special Olympics Pennsylvania, serving over 340 Special Olympics athletes, coaches, and staff each season. It is the premier SOYO outreach program, now in its 38th year of service. Each year SOYO teens raise the funds on Special Olympics Awareness Day.

#### **Sun. October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Epistle Reader: Sofia Simon  
Sermonette: Lia Simon

#### **Sun. October 8<sup>th</sup>:**

Epistle Reader: Tania Jeha  
Sermonette: Jonathan Jeha

#### **Sun. October 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Epistle reader: Evan Kawar

#### **Sun. October 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

Epistle Reader: Malak Khalileh

#### **Sun. October 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Epistle Reader: TBD

Ushers/ Tray Passers: All available teens



### **Youth Month in our Archdiocese!!**

October is here and we are about to start *Youth Month* across our Antiochian Archdiocese. During the month of October we give our teens more opportunities to serve in Church, including: Epistle reading, taking the collections, serving as ushers, and other additional activities in serving the parish community.

October is also a time for us, clergy and parishioners, to share our love and concern for the youth of our parish. Let us take a moment to thank a teenager for being present in Church. Thank them for their good works. Let them know that they are welcome and wanted in our parish!

### **Prison Ministry Cards: Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

We will be writing and decorating cards to send to prisoners after Liturgy on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please stay after Liturgy if you would like to help! These letters are a true blessing to prisoners!

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>October 13-15</b>	Fall Gathering at Saint James Church in Modesto (see flyer)
<b>October 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Archdiocesan Sunday for Antiochian House of Studies (see flyer)
<b>October 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Ikaros Fundraiser (see flyer)
<b>October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Family movie night (see flyer)
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	40 days memorial service for the servant of God Michael Jeha offered by his parents, Ron and Ruth Jeha and family. May his memory be eternal!
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Prisoner Ministry card writing workshop after Liturgy.
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Special Olympics Awareness Day (see flyer)
<b>November 5<sup>th</sup></b>	IOCC Food & Wine Tour (see flyer)
<b>November 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Jack's Diner Dine and Donate (see flyer)
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Christmas Cars Event (see flyer)
<b>Every Sunday at 7pm</b>	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer)

### **Coffee Hours**

<b>October 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Yardene Hanhan
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Ron and Ruth Jeha in memory of Mike Jeha. May his memory be eternal!
<b>October 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Paula Kassouf in memory of Samir Kassouf. May his memory be eternal!

### **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!
- † Ron and Ruth Jeha in memory of **Michael Jeha**. May his memory be eternal!
- † 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!
- † Rocky and Nada Dudum in memory **Helen Salameh** (Nada's sister). May her memory be eternal!

### **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 and Mason Kawar

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

You could use this QR code for your donation





IT'S TIME TO POP THE CORN!

# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

October 21, 2023 check-in 5pm  
movie will start promptly at 6:30pm  
Bring your snacks, blankets & chairs  
to come enjoy a movie outside.

FREE for everyone!

Featured movie: Encanto

Popcorn will be provided

Please let Irene Guajardo know

if you are planning on joining

[iyrini.nino@gmail.com](mailto:iyrini.nino@gmail.com)



# IKAROS

3268 Grand Avenue Oakland, CA 94610  
www.ikarosgr.com  
(510) 899-4400

## St. John's Fundraiser

Thursday, October 19, 2023  
11 am to 9:00 pm  
Mention St. John's or present flier and we will donate  
25% of your purchase



Reserve your table at  
[www.ikarosgr.com/reservations](http://www.ikarosgr.com/reservations)

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

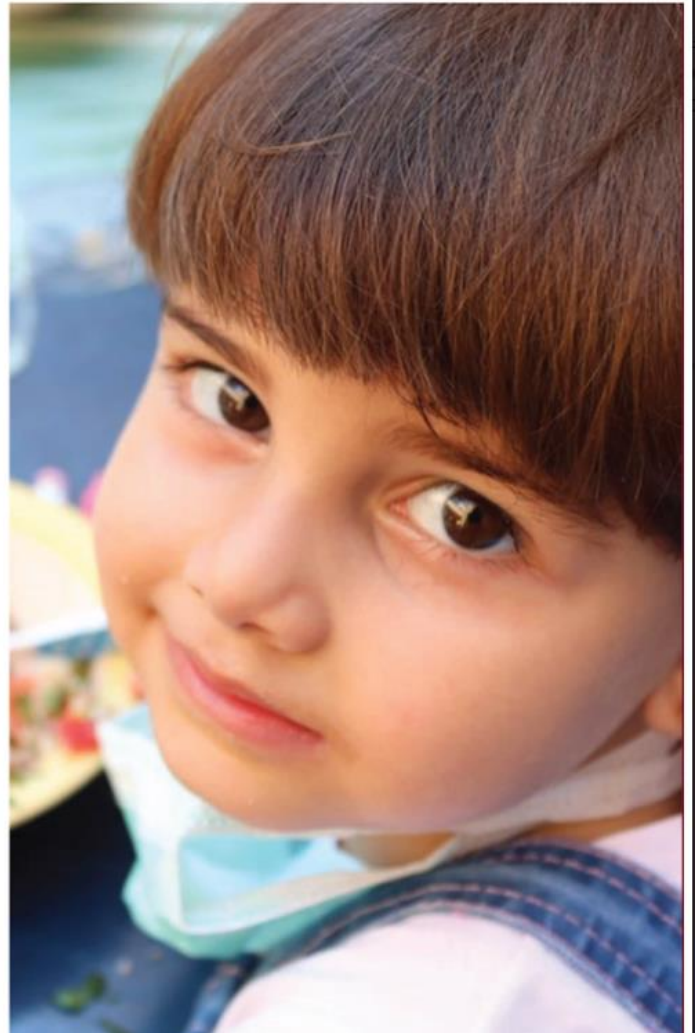
# IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

HOSTED BY THE IOCC METROPOLITAN  
COMMITTEE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
AND THE GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 ~ 4:00-7:00PM

Come experience a tasting menu  
& wine pours from around the world,  
plus a live performance from  
the Orthodox chanting group, Eikona.

**Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross**  
900 Alameda | Belmont, CA 94002





# St. Anastasia's Fellowship

**A 12-Step Fellowship for Orthodox Christians seeking recovery from alcoholism and addiction in its many forms**



**Every Sunday @ 7pm**

**St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church**

**501 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563**

**Contact Joseph: (310) 227-9848**



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

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**DINE AND DONATE**



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

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

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VALID ALL DAY. DINE-IN AND TAKE-OUT, ONLY. NO TOAST, DOORDASH OR GRUBHUB.

**PLEASE PRESENT FLYER WHEN ORDERING / PICKING-UP**



ANTIOCHIAN  
HOUSE of STUDIES

# ARCHDIOCESAN SUNDAY FOR AHOS

(Antiochian House of Studies)

*With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA*

## Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS

will take place every year on the Sunday of the Parable of the Sower.

The purpose of Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS (Antiochian House of Studies) is to raise awareness to support the future clergy & lay leaders of our archdiocesan. We kindly ask you to bring an offering on this day.



**Sunday,  
October 15, 2023**

How can I  
**donate?**

Visit [www.ahos.edu](http://www.ahos.edu) or scan the  
QR code.



You can also donate by check  
sending directly to:

AHOS  
1020 Baseline Rd  
La Verne CA 91750

*AHOS is a 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible*





# 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





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## Awareness Day

AS NAC TEEN SOYO PREPARES TO SPONSOR THE 43RD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CAMP, WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELP IN MAKING THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE. APPROXIMATELY 300 ATHLETES AND COACHES PARTICIPATE IN OUR CAMP EACH YEAR. TEEN SOYO MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, TO LIVE IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND TO FULFILL THE CALL TO DO ALL THINGS.

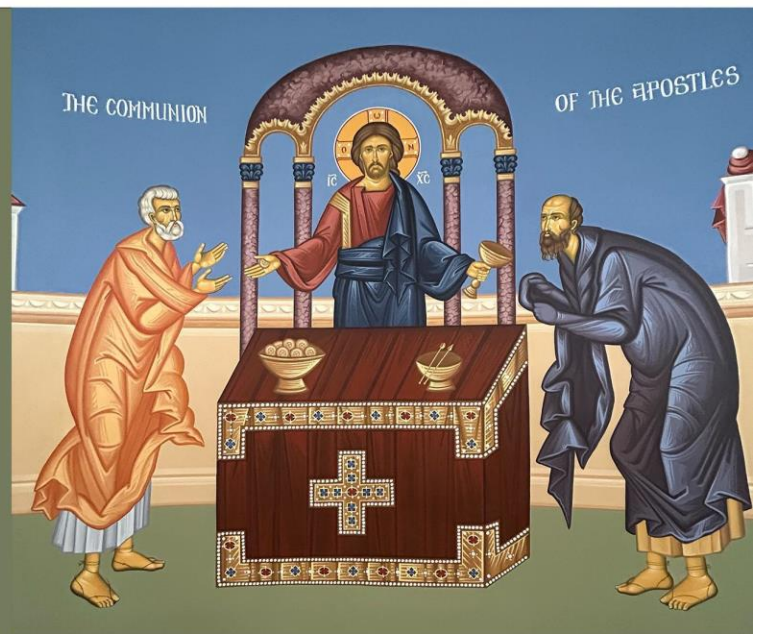
**"AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR MEN." (COL. 3:23)**

Next Sunday, October 22nd, our teens will request your financial donations to enable them to sponsor the 43rd Annual Special Olympics Sports Camp, which will be held at the Antiochian Village, in August of 2024. Your donations make it possible for every athlete to attend this event free of charge and also help Teen SOYO members travel to serve as Coaches at the camp.

As an expression of gratitude for your donation to this effort, teens will be handing out bookmarks with the icon of the Communion of the Apostles.

Thank you for considering the support of this wonderful ministry that allows our children to be a witness and blessing to others!

Please make checks payable to your local Teen SOYO group with "SOAD 2023" in the memo. Donations can also be made online at [www.teensoyo.org/special-olympics](http://www.teensoyo.org/special-olympics).



## DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, NAC Teen SOYO covers the cost of the camp, approximately \$75,000, through the generosity of our fellow parishioners. Through the years, we have hosted more than 8,500 athletes and coaches. Around 1,200 of our teens have had the unique experience of being a coach or volunteer at the camp.

### **Sermonette by Lia Simon, on October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Today's Gospel of Luke is about being kind. God teaches us to love our enemies, to do good and to lend without expecting anything in return. I'll admit sometimes it's very difficult to forgive people who don't treat me well. And I'm sure many of you have experienced the same. But there are some good reasons for loving our enemies:

- It demonstrates the love of God to others,
- It sets a good example for others to follow,
- It helps us make an effort to understand our enemies, and
- It can turn our enemies into friends.

Prayer can help prepare us to forgive others. It strengthens us for what we face and allows God to work through us when we're willing to seek Him for strength. On the night before He was crucified, Jesus went to the mountain to pray. While Jesus was hanging on the cross to die, he prayed for those who persecuted him. "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus lived out, even with his dying breath, the perfect example of his teaching. When another person hurts us, it can upend our lives. Sometimes the hurt is very deep, for example when a spouse, parent or friend betrays our trust, or when we are victims of crime, or when we've been harshly bullied. Anyone who has suffered a grievous hurt knows that when our inner world is badly disrupted, it's difficult to concentrate on anything other than our internal pain. Perhaps we can try not to honk when someone cuts us off in traffic, or hold our tongue when a friend or loved one snaps at us, and extend a hug instead. There is nothing as effective as forgiveness for healing deep wounds.

Forgiveness is about goodness, about extending mercy to those who've harmed us. It is not about finding excuses for the offending person's behavior or pretending it didn't happen. If you are struggling with forgiveness, that doesn't mean you're a failure at forgiveness. Forgiveness is a process that takes time, patience, and determination. Try to respond to yourself as you would to someone whom you love deeply. Surround yourself with good and wise people who support you and who have the patience to allow you time to heal in your own way. Also, practice humility—not in the sense of putting yourself down, but in realizing that we are all capable of imperfection and suffering.

Try to develop courage and patience in yourself to help you in the journey. When we overcome suffering, we gain a more mature understanding of what it means to be humble, courageous, and loving in the world. We may be moved to create an atmosphere of forgiveness in our homes and workplaces, to help others who've been harmed overcome their suffering, or to protect our communities from a cycle of hatred and violence. All of these choices can lighten the heart and bring joy to our lives.

Some people may believe that love for another who's harmed or hurt you is not possible. But, most people who forgive eventually find a way to open their hearts. By replacing bitterness with love in its place, we open ourselves to love more widely and deeply.

### **Sermonette by Jonathan Juha on October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Sermon of Hope

Today, I want to share a powerful story of hope found in the Gospel of Luke. We witness Jesus encountering a grieving widow in the town of Nain. She had just lost her only son, and her heart was heavy with sorrow. But in the midst of her despair, hope arrived: Jesus. Filled with compassion, Jesus approached the procession and said to the widow, "Do not weep." He then touched the coffin, and miraculously, the young man came back to life.

This story teaches us that even in our darkest moments, hope is never lost. Jesus, the embodiment of hope, has the power to bring life where there is death, joy where there is sorrow, and restoration where there is brokenness.

Just as Jesus brought hope to the widow in Nain, He offers hope to each one of us today. No matter what challenges we face, whether it be loss, disappointment, or uncertainty, we can find comfort in the fact that Jesus is with us today, ready to breathe new life into our circumstances.

Hope is not merely wishful thinking; it is a confident expectation that God is at work, even when we cannot see it. It is a firm belief that He has the Power to turn our mourning into dancing and our despair into hope-filled testimonies.

Let us hold onto this hope, knowing that Jesus is always near, ready to bring restoration and renewal to our lives. May we find comfort in His presence and share the hope we have received with others who are in need. Let us remember the words St. Paul said in Romans chapter 15: verse 13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." May this hope sustain us, uplift us, and guide us in all aspects of our lives.

Amen.