



# +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, OCTOBER 22, 2023**

**TONE 3 / EOTHINON 9**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

AVERKIOS THE WONDERWORKER, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND BISHOP OF HIERAPOLIS;  
THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS ("SEVEN SLEEPERS") MARTYRED IN EPHESUS; BISHOP EULALIOS

## Averkios the Wonderworker and the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus



On October 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Averkios the wonderworker, equal-to-the-Apostles and bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia.

During a boisterous festival, Averkios became inflamed with God's zeal and entered an idolatrous temple, smashing all the idols. When the enraged pagans sought to kill him, three young madmen, foaming at the mouth and howling, fell down before this man of God who drove the demons from them. This turned the pagans' anger into amazement at the wonderworker of Christ, and 500 of them immediately desired baptism. Once, holy Averkios journeyed to Rome with a man named Trophimos. Averkios had a wineskin that contained wine, vinegar and oil. When Averkios asked, it would pour forth each liquid unmingled with the other. But when Trophimos tried to steal from the wineskin, it

would give him a liquid for which he did not ask. In great old age, Averkios presented himself to his beloved Lord in the second century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Seven Holy Youths ("Seven Sleepers") martyred in Ephesus. The emperor Decius in the third century came to Ephesus and arranged idol worship and a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from this and earnestly prayed to God to save the Christians. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus and their names were Maximilian, Jamblichus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian, and Antoninus. They retreated to a hill outside Ephesus called Celion and hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be sealed off. More than 200 years then passed, when there was a great dispute about the Resurrection. Emperor Theodosius prayed to God that He would reveal the truth to men. The youths then awakened from their sleep, young and healthy, and Theodosios conversed with them. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the universal resurrection.



## THE EPISTLE

*O chant unto our God, chant ye.*

*Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

### **الرسالة**

*رَتَّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتَّلُوا. يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَقِّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.*

**فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ.**

يَا إِخْوَهُ، أُعَلِّمُكُمْ أَنَّ الْإِنْجِيلَ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُ بِهِ، لَيْسَ بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ. لِأَنِّي لَمْ أَتَسَلَّمْهُ أَوْ أَتَعَلَّمْهُ مِنْ  
إِنْسَانٍ، بَلْ بِإِعْلَانِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ. فَإِنَّكُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِسِيرَتِي قَدِيمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهُدُ  
كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأَدْمَرُهَا. وَأَزِيدُ تَقَدُّمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أَتْرَابِي فِي جِنْسِي، بِكُونِي أَوْفَرَ  
مِنْهُمْ غَيْرَةً عَلَى تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي. فَلَمَّا ارْتَضَى اللَّهُ، الَّذِي أَفَرَزَنِي مِنْ جَوْفِ أُمِّي وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ. أَنْ  
يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ فِيَّ لِأَبَشِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، لِسَاعَتِي لَمْ أُصْغِ إِلَى لَحْمٍ وَدَمٍ. وَلَا صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ  
الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي، بَلْ انْطَلَقْتُ إِلَى دِيَارِ الْعَرَبِ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ. ثُمَّ إِنِّي بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ،  
صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ لِأَزُورَ بَطْرُسَ، فَأَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَمْ أَرْ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرَّسُولِ سِوَى  
يَعْقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ.

## THE GOSPEL

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:26-39)

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

### الإنجيل

#### فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ لوقا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ.

في ذلكَ الزمانِ، أتى يسوعُ إلى كورةِ الجرجسيينَ، فاستقبلَهُ رَجُلٌ مِنَ المَدِينَةِ بِهِ شياطينُ مُنذُ زمانٍ طَوِيلٍ، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ يَلْبَسُ ثَوْباً وَلَا يَأْوِي إلى بَيْتٍ، بَلْ إلى القُبُورِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يسوعُ، صَاحَ وَخَرَّ لَهُ، وَقَالَ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ: "ما لي ولكَ يا يسوعُ ابنَ اللهِ العَلِيِّ؟ أَطَلُبُ إِلَيْكَ أَلَّا تُعَذِّبَنِي." فَإِنَّهُ أَمَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ مِنَ الإنسانِ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَدْ اخْتَطَفَهُ مُنذُ زمانٍ طَوِيلٍ، وَكَانَ يُرَبِّطُ بِسِلَاسِلٍ، وَيُحْبَسُ بِقُيُودٍ، فَيَقَطُّعُ الرُّبُطَ وَيُسَاقُ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ إلى البَراري. فَسَأَلَهُ يسوعُ قَائِلاً: "ما اسمُكَ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُ: "لَجِيونَ"، لِأَنَّ شياطينَ كَثِيرِينَ كانوا قَدْ دَخَلُوا فِيهِ. وَطَلَبُوا إِلَيْهِ أَنْ لَا يَأْمُرَهُمُ بِالذَّهَابِ إلى الهاوِيَةِ. وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ قَطِيعَ خَنَازِيرَ كَثِيرَةٍ تَرعى في الجَبَلِ. فَطَلَبُوا إِلَيْهِ أَنْ يَأْذَنَ لَهُمْ بالدُخُولِ فِيهَا، فَأَذِنَ لَهُمْ. فَخَرَجَ الشياطينُ مِنَ الإنسانِ، وَدَخَلُوا في الخَنَازِيرِ. فَوَتَّبَ القَطِيعَ عَنِ الجُرْفِ إلى البُحَيْرَةِ فَاحْتَنَقَ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى الرُّعَاةُ ما حَدَثَ، هَرَبُوا وَأَخْبَرُوا في المَدِينَةِ وفي الحُقُولِ. فَخَرَجُوا لِيَرَوْا ما حَدَثَ وَأَتَوْا إلى يسوعُ، فَوَجَدُوا الإنسانَ الَّذِي خَرَجَتْ مِنْهُ الشياطينُ جالِساً عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْ يسوعُ لا بِسَاسٍ صَحيحِ العَقْلِ، فَخَافُوا. وَأَخْبَرَهُمُ النَّاظِرُونَ أَيضاً كَيْفَ أُبْرِئَ المَجْنُونُ. فَسَأَلَهُ جَمِيعُ جُمُهورِ كورةِ الجرجسيينَ أَنْ يَنْصَرِفَ عَنْهُمْ لِأَنَّهُ اغْتَرَاهُمْ خَوْفٌ عَظِيمٌ. فَدَخَلَ السَّفِينَةَ وَرَجَعَ. فَسَأَلَهُ الرَّجُلُ الَّذِي خَرَجَتْ مِنْهُ الشياطينُ أَنْ يَكُونَ مَعَهُ. فَصَرَفَهُ يسوعُ قَائِلاً: "ارْجِعْ إلى بَيْتِكَ وَحَدِّثْ بِمَا صَنَعَ اللهُ إِلَيْكَ." فَذَهَبَ وَهُوَ يُنَادِي في المَدِينَةِ كُلِّهَا بِمَا صَنَعَ إِلَيْهِ يسوعُ.

## 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

Sermonette: Mason Kawar

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

Epistle Reader: Malak Khalileh

Sermonette: Maron Juha (about special Olympics)

#### **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!

### **Questions from Parishioners**

**Question-** How far along is the construction of our Fellowship Hall?

**Answer-** Construction is about 45% complete. Since the August 27<sup>th</sup> event on the site, we have done a lot of work on paving the new parking area and now work has begun on plumbing work inside the hall. We are working with architects and contractors and HVAC designers on making changes to the HVAC system to ensure it will provide even heating and cooling throughout the building. This may involve a redesign of the type of coolers and ducting. If so, it may prove to be cheaper to install, operate, and maintain, but still look aesthetically pleasing.

At the current pace of work, we believe there are enough funds available to continue work on the hall through February. By then the building should be watertight. As our fund-raising efforts continue, we want to get as close as possible to the \$2.5 million we are working to raise so that we don't need to face the possibility of temporarily stopping construction in February. The building committee is working with the contractor to develop a list of specific items and costs that parishioners and friends can choose to donate toward this project. Items will range from doors and windows to kitchen equipment to furnishings and anything in between. We plan on this list being available soon. Many parishioners and friends of St. John have donated to this fund-raising effort in these ways:

- Supporting our recent festival
- Purchasing raffle tickets during the festival
- Attending the restaurant fund raisers
- Supporting parish sponsored events fund raisers, such as the Crab Feed and bake sales

As we offer thanks and appreciation for all these fund-raising efforts, we also urge everyone to appreciate and understand that we need more direct donations and pledges to the Building Fund to complete our Fellowship Hall without experiencing a construction pause.

Please continue sending questions about this project to Ron Nicola at [rnlm@aol.com](mailto:rnlm@aol.com)

### Upcoming Events

October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ikaros Fundraiser (see flyer)
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Family movie night (see flyer)
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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!
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Prisoner Ministry card writing workshop after Liturgy.
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Special Olympics Awareness Day (see flyer)
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	IOCC Food & Wine Tour (see flyer)
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jack's Diner Dine and Donate (see flyer)
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Cars Event (see flyer)
December 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Byzantine Chanting امسية ترتيل بيزنطي by Sons of Antioch
Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer)

### Coffee Hours

October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ron and Ruth Jeha in memory of Mike Jeha. May his memory be eternal!
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Paula Kassouf in memory of Samir Kassouf. May his memory be eternal!
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee hour and mercy meal in memory of John Atallah

### 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

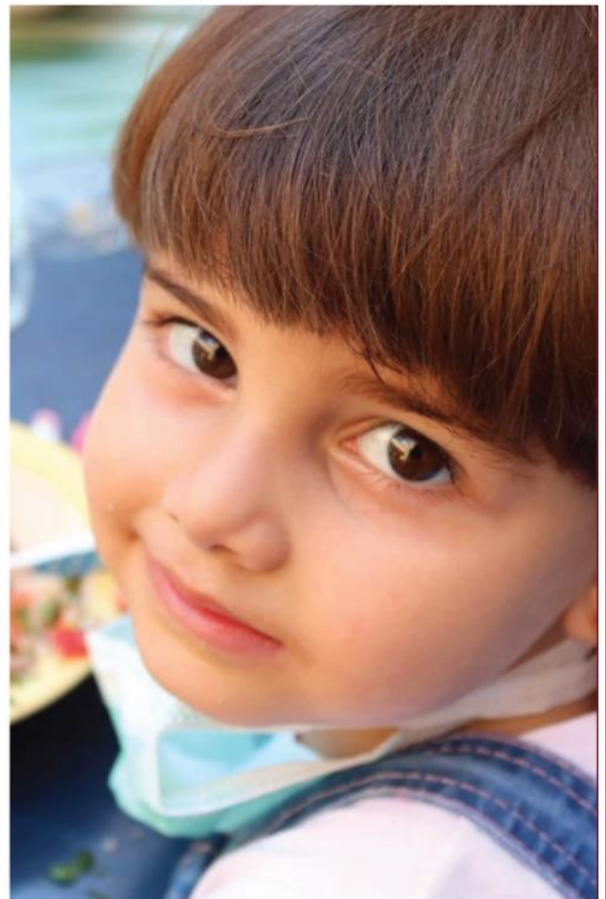
## IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

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





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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**  
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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**



# 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)**

Today, 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).

**Your donations make this ministry possible!**



## 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.