

+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, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026; TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4

CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

FOREFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



On September 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, and commemorate the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God. Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is honored above all others. Constantine the Great constructed it at the place of Golgotha, where our Savior was crucified and buried, then arose. For a long time, this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honor of Christ God's Resurrection was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. Macarius exalted the venerable Cross and consecrated this temple in the year 336.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية. (6:11-18)

يا إخوة، أنظروا ما أعظم الكتابات التي كتبتها إليكم بيدي. إن كل الذين يريدون أن يرضوا بحسب الجسد يلزمونكم أن تختنوا، وإنما ذلك لئلاً يضطهدوا من أجل صليب المسيح. لأن الذين يختنوا هم أنفسهم لا يحفظون الناموس بل إنما يريدون أن تختنوا ليفتخروا بأجسادكم. أما أنا، فحاشي لي أن أفتخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح، الذي به صلب العالم لي وأنا صلبت للعالم. لأنه في المسيح يسوع ليس الختان بشيء ولا القلف بل الخليقة الجديدة. وكل الذين يسلكون بحسب هذا القانون، فعليهم سلام ورحمة وعلى إسرائيل الله. فلا يجلب علي أحد أتعاباً فيما بعد، فإني حامل في جسدي سمات الرب يسوع. نعمة ربنا يسوع المسيح مع روحكم أيها الإخوة. آمين.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (3:13-17)

قال الرب: لم يصعد أحد إلى السماء إلا الذي نزل من السماء، ابن البشر الذي هو في السماء. وكما رفع موسى الحية في البرية، هكذا ينبغي أن يرفع ابن البشر، لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به، بل تكون له الحياة الأبدية. لأنه هكذا أحب الله العالم حتى بذل ابنه الوحيد لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به بل تكون له الحياة الأبدية. فإنه لم يرسل الله ابنه الوحيد إلى العالم ليدن العالم، بل ليخلص به العالم.

Coffee Hour

Sept 13 th	Guajardo Family
Sept 20 th	Khalil Mounzer in memory of Carlos Suarez
Sept 27 th	Festival!
Oct 25 th	Charlene

Upcoming Events

Sept 14 th	Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast of the Elevation of the Cross عيد رفع الصليب المقدس at 6:00 pm!
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Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sandy Dudum, George Messih, George Adranly, Fred Addes, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Rocky Dudum** and **Norma Khalil**. Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Violet Jaber**. Many years!

† The Nino family in memory of **Maramize Nino**. May her memory be eternal!

† Khalil Mounzer in memory of **Carlos Suarez**. May his memory be eternal!

† Afaf Wahbeh in memory of **Seliman Manusour**. May his memory be eternal!

† Lisa Hanna for the good health of **David Hanna** following his knee surgery. Many years!

† Charlene for the good health of **Ziad, Nicole, Charlene** and **Elaina** on the occasions of their birthdays, and the good health of **Clair Abdo**. Many years!

† Cherlene in memory of **Blanche** and **Elias Nassoura, Robert Abdo** and **Alvera** and **Bill Hand**. May their 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!



† 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, Luke and Timothy Ernst, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

† Elevation of the Cross:



Flowers donated in loving memory of Stephen and Pauline Belevich, by Nick Nicola Jr. and Family

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Reminder that there will be no Sunday school this Sunday, September 13th because the children will sit at the front of the Church for a special homily about the Elevation of the Holy Cross and then participate in the procession.

Youth Group Events at St. Innocent in Pleasanton:

September 12th: Teens - Minigolf before Vespers

IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

Sunday November 1. This year, our parish is hosting the 34th annual IOCC Food & Wine Tour, one of IOCC's biggest fundraising events of the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Larissa Geleris by email lkgeleris@gmail.com or text 925-323-4924

Ladies Group Thank You

On behalf of the Ladies group Evleen wish to thank each and every one of you, our wonderful ladies and men, who donated monetary donations food items and and contribution of time and energy help to make for our very successful dancing under the stars. 140 tickets were purchased, and generated \$7430.51 net profit.

A heartwarming thank you. God bless you all

Love your Neighbor: September – Archdiocese collection for Seminarian Fund

Each year in the Fall, the Archdiocese asks parishes to take a collection to help support the Antiochian Orthodox students studying at the seminaries in our country, including St Vladimir's, St Tikhon's and Holy Cross Seminary.

Donations for Heritage Booth at Festival

During the past few Festivals, there were multiple inquiries about purchasing used Middle Eastern items/ souvenirs at the Heritage Booth. We would like to gather unwanted items from our parish. If you have anything to donate, please contact Dn. Nicholas Adranly at 510-207-1796 for more information.

Festival Volunteers Needed

Our Annual Food Festival is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27! Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or a full shift, every helping hand makes a difference The more hands we have, the lighter the work—and the more enjoyable the weekend will be! There are **500+ volunteer slots** for the weekend. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside one another, build friendships, and support our church community. Please consider signing up using the link:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/60B0C4FA8A729A0F94-64807921-copy?useFullSite=false>

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to serve. We can't wait to see everyone there! God bless you all!

🎄 Save the Date! 🎄

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. More info to follow.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FESTIVAL PREP WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at 9:30 AM in our new kitchen!

August 1st — Sfeiha & Zatar Pies	September 12th Knafeh & Date Mamoul
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Please sign up for **any or all** workshops with Rula Adranly at rulaadranly@comcast.net or 510-508-0929

We're accepting pre-orders for grape leaves - will be available at the festival on September 25th & 26th or as early as June 27th. Delicious for your family to enjoy, for summer parties, graduations and more!!

- Large Tray - (approximately 180 leaves) \$200	- Small Tray - (approximately 90 leaves) \$100
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Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil

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Advertisement Form for 2026 Festival Ad Book
32nd Annual Middle Eastern Festival
Sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Festival Location: St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Grounds,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Dates: Saturday, September 26th & Sunday, September 27th

Advertiser: _____
Contact: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Advertisement (circle one)

Premium Page AD	Full Page AD	1/2 Page AD	1/4 Page AD
\$500 Plus	\$250	\$130	\$75

Note: If you wish to include a logo or special typeface, it's best to email it.

The 2026 Middle Eastern Festival will feature the finest Middle Eastern entertainment, delicious food, exotic desserts, live music, folk dancing, bazaar, Middle Eastern heritage exhibits, children's games & activities, and more.

The Festival Book, given to attendees, will include advertisements from local businesses and community supporters;

On behalf of the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church and members of the 2026 Festival Committee, we thank you for your support.

Checks payable to St. John Church Festival.
Earmark 2026 Festival Mail to:

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Office,
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA
Email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

IOCC FOOD & WINE TOUR

Hosted by St. John the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church
& the IOCC Metropolitan Committee of Northern California

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

VESPERS: 4:00 P.M. • DINNER: 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Come experience a tasting menu & wine pours from around
the world and learn about IOCC's latest humanitarian work

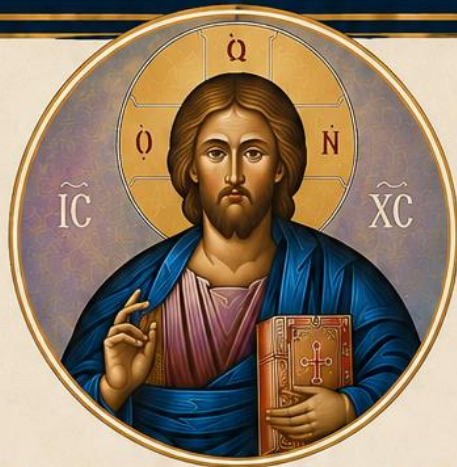
ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

501 Moraga Way | Orinda, CA 94563

Tickets: \$60 through Oct. 15, includes food and unlimited wine pours
\$70 after Oct. 15, includes food and wine
\$50 includes food only
\$35 student ticket
\$25 children 6–12 (*free 5 and under*)

Tickets and sponsorships at iocc.org/bayarea





ST. JOHN

THE EVANGELIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Youth Group

KICK-OFF MEETING

AGES 11+



MEET AT CHURCH ON
SEPTEMBER 12TH
AT **5PM** FOR VESPERS



FOLLOWED BY
pizza in the hall!



WE WILL GET TO KNOW
EACH OTHER WITH
GAMES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES!

RSVP AND
JOIN OUR
WHATSAPP GROUP

→ *for more info!* ←



PARENTS CAN
DROP OFF OR STAY

FAITH + FRIENDSHIP + FUN

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



MUSIC



FOOD



CULTURE

CELEBRATING
32
YEARS

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

501 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CA

SAT 11AM - 8PM | SUN NOON - 7PM

FREE ADMISSION

ORTHODOX
Thanksgiving
KIDS AND TEENS RETREAT

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.

— Psalm 107:1



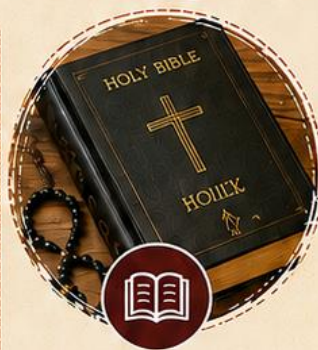
SUNDAY, NOV 15
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM



A fun and faith-filled afternoon for
kids and teens and their families to grow
closer to Christ and give thanks together!



WE WILL BE
MAKING
Holy Bread



BIBLE
STUDY



TEAM
BUILDING



DINNER
will be
PROVIDED

SUGGEST
\$40
DONATION 
per family

RSVP BY NOV. 1
— TO —
Rania Kashou
or
Irene Guajardo 

DONATIONS AND
VOLUNTEERS
ARE WELCOMED!

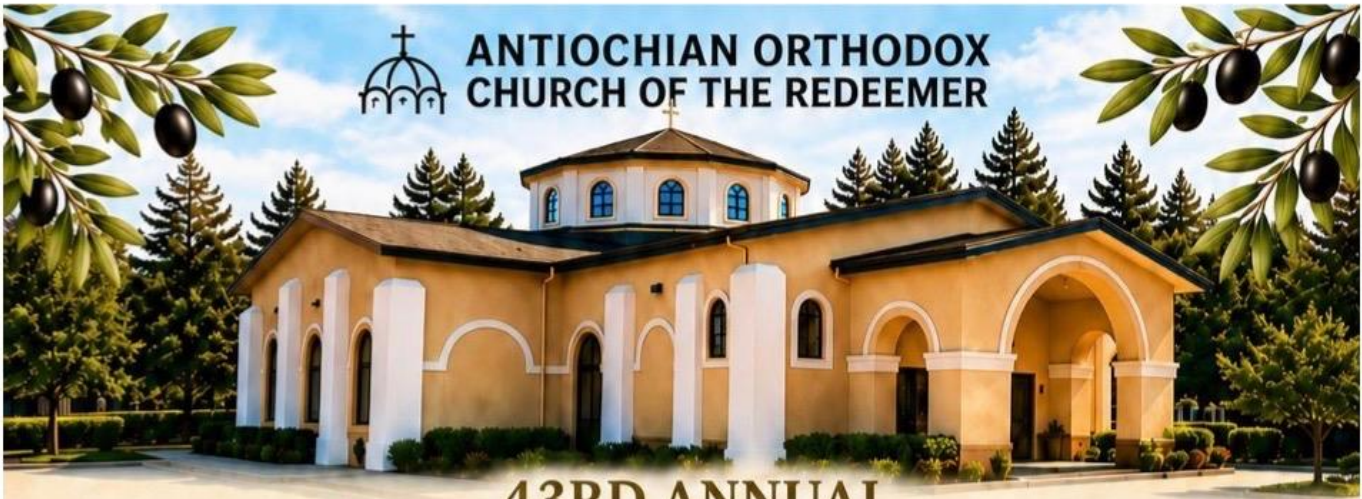


FAITH. FELLOWSHIP. THANKSGIVING.
Come grow in Christ and gratitude together! 





ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



43RD ANNUAL

Mediterranean Food Festival

FAITH • FAMILY • FOOD • COMMUNITY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
1:00 PM – 9:00 PM



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

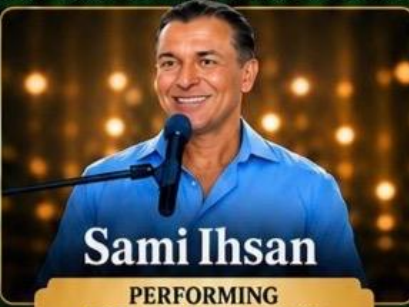
ADMISSION: \$5 | CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT



Joe Zain

SATURDAY ONLY



Sami Ihsan

PERFORMING
SATURDAY & SUNDAY



DJ Shad

LIVE DJ ALL WEEKEND



AUTHENTIC SHAWARMA
AND MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD
SERVED ALL WEEKEND



BEEF SHAWARMA WRAP



CHICKEN SHAWARMA WRAP



KNAFEH & DESSERTS



DABKE
PERFORMANCES



LOCAL
VENDORS



KIDS
ZONE



FAMILY
FUN



HOOKEH
LOUNGE

GRAND PRIZE
WIN A
TESLA
MODEL 3



FREE PARKING AT:

BRIDGES COMMUNITY CHURCH
625 MAGDALENA AVE, LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA

9 290 MAGDALENA AVE LOS ALTOS HILLS CA 94024