



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

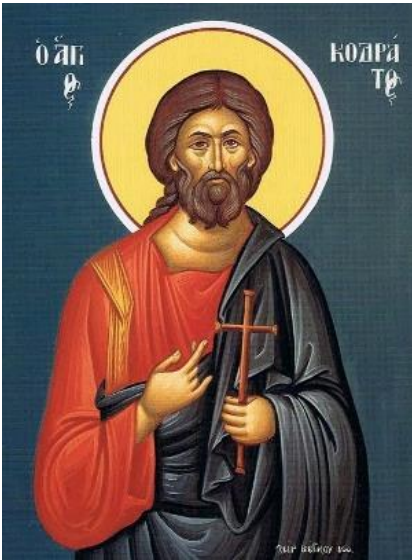
Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America
V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor
Dn. Nicholas Adranly

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

LEAVE-TAKING SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

APOSTLE QUADRATOS OF THE SEVENTY; PROPHET JONAH



On September 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the celebration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. On this day, we commemorate the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle Quadratos of the Seventy. He preached the Gospel in Athens, and was at first bishop in Athens after St. Publius, and then in the city of Magnesia. Quadratos was considered a “morning star among the clouds,” shining forth the light of Christ to the Hellenes in the midst of their dark paganism and evil practices. But darkness always hates the light, and the pagans hated holy Quadratos. They first stoned him, and then imprisoned him, leaving him without bread until his holy soul left his body and entered into the Kingdom of Christ his God in 130. Before that, Quadratos wrote a defense of Christianity and gave it to the pagan Emperor Hadrian, who was so moved that he decreed that Christians should not be persecuted without special cause. On this day, we also commemorate the Prophet Jonah.

THE EPISTLE

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Clap your hands all ye peoples.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, knowing that a person is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we sought to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? God forbid! For if I build up again those things which I destroyed, I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me.

الرَّبُّ قَدْ مَلَكَ فَلْتَسَخَطِ الشُّعُوبُ. رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا لِزَفْعُوا الرَّبِّ إِلَهِنَا وَاسْجُدُوا لِمَوْطِي قَدَمَيْهِ، فَإِنَّهُ قُدُّوسٌ.
يا جميع الأمم صَفِّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةِ. (20-16:2)

يا إِخْوَةُ، إِذْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَا يُبَرِّرُ بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ، بَلْ إِنَّمَا بِالْإِيمَانِ بِبِسْوَاعِ الْمَسِيحِ، آمَنَّا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً بِبِسْوَاعِ الْمَسِيحِ لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ لَا بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ، إِذْ لَا يُبَرِّرُ بِأَعْمَالِ النَّامُوسِ أَحَدٌ مِنْ ذَوِي الْجَسَدِ. فَإِنْ كُنَّا وَنَحْنُ طَالِبُونَ التَّبَرُّيرَ بِالْمَسِيحِ وَجِدْنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً خُطَاةَ، أَفَيَكُونُ الْمَسِيحُ إِذَنْ خَادِماً لِلْخَطِيئَةِ؟ حَاشَى. فَإِنِّي إِنْ عُدْتُ أَبْنِي مَا قَدْ هَدَمْتُ، أَجْعَلُ نَفْسِي مُتَعَدِّياً. لِأَنِّي بِالنَّامُوسِ مِتُّ لِلنَّامُوسِ لِكَيْ أَحْيَا لِلَّهِ. مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ صُلِبْتُ، فَأَحْيَا، لَا أَنَا، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ يَحْيَا فِيَّ. وَمَا لِي مِنَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي الْجَسَدِ، أَنَا أَحْيَا فِي إِيمَانِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَحَبَّنِي، وَبَذَلَ نَفْسَهُ عَنِّي.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوَحْنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ
(1:9-34:8). مَرْقُسُ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: "مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبَعَنِي، فَلْيَكْفُرْ بِنَفْسِهِ وَيَحْمِلْ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبَعَنِي. لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفْسَهُ يُهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِي وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ يُخَلِّصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يَنْتَفِعُ الْإِنْسَانُ لَوْ رَجَحَ الْعَالَمَ كُلَّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطِي الْإِنْسَانُ فِدَاءً عَنْ نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَحْيِي بِي وَبِكَلَامِي فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ الْخَاطِئِ، يَسْتَحْيِي بِهِ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ مَتَى أَتَى فِي مَجْدٍ أَبِيهِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ." وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ قَوْمًا مِنَ الْقَائِمِينَ هَهُنَا لَا يَذُقُونَ الْمَوْتَ، حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ قَدْ أَتَى بِقُوَّةٍ."

Upcoming Events

Sat-Sun, Sept. 20 th -21 st	St. John's annual Middle Eastern Food Festival
September 26	Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. John the Evangelist at 6:00 PM

Coffee Hour

September 21	St. John's annual Middle Eastern Food Festival
September 28	Fady and Joumana Najjar
October 5	Jordis Fasheh

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sam Nassab, Sandy Dudum, George Messieh, Bennett, Fairouz Freij, George Adranly, George Messih, Fred Addas, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka.** and **Norma Khalil.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Blanch Maneh.** Many years!

† Farradj and Toubassy family in memory of **Samira Baroudi.** May her memory be eternal!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sue Gideon.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Steven Thayer.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Rocky Dudum.** Many years!

† St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Cawog.** Many years!

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, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

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

You could use this QR code for your donation



Sunday School Registration

Last Sunday, September 7th, St John Sunday School kicked off the school year with a fun-filled picnic where families were able to share ideas for the new year as well as yummy food at beautiful Moraga Commons Park! We invite all parents to include their children to the Sunday School roster. Please contact Irene Guajardo by phone or email (listed below) if you wish to register your child(ren) in St John's Sunday School and haven't done so already. Thank you and God Bless, Raghd and Irene, (Sunday School Co-Directors).

Cell: (925) 413-3242 Email: iyrini.nino@gmail.com

Dave & Buster's Fundraising Campaign

We have something new and exciting!!

Dave & Buster's fundraising campaign will begin NOW until December 31, 2025. Get Your Power Cards through St. John link.

1. Place an order using St. John fundraising link. Here is the link:

https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/59958-st-john-church-dave-busters-fundraising-campaigns?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=o_offers_day_1

And/or ask: Rania Kashou

2. 50% of each Dave & Buster's Power Card purchased is donated back to the organization.

3. Visit any Dave & Buster's location to pick up your Power Card and start playing!

Awesome gift for kids, grand kids, parents, even yourself. Who doesn't like to play??

This link can be forwarded to friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, businesses, anyone!!

Ladies Announcement

Hello dear ladies: we need to get together on the 28th to discuss our ladies account and talk about the Fall Gathering in October, I promise it will be very brief. I appreciate your presence.

Building Committee Update - September 2025

As you can see by walking around the church grounds, significant and beautiful landscaping has been completed including trees, shrubbery, planters and grounds. This was a must before final approval by the City would be granted.

As has been the case in the past, we are slowed down by scheduling issues with the Fire Marshal, the health department, the city and the county. These inspections should all show that work on the hall is substantially completed but inspections must occur in proper sequencing for the entities concerned. A number of these inspections and final approvals are expected to happen this week.

We will keep everyone informed of these final steps as soon as we can, as we are still hoping to get approval to use the hall for the festival.

Building Fund Update - September 2025

We passed another fundraising milestone this past month, bringing our contributions to more than \$1.1 Million in direct donations to the hall! Thank you all so much for keeping this project alive and on-going. The donor list attached shows contributions so far. Please check the spelling of your names, as this will be the list from which we design the donor plaque for the hall. If you have any changes, please contact the church office.

There are a few donors who have not yet completed their pledges for the hall, and we ask that you do so as soon as possible, or contact the church office if you need to lower your pledge for whatever reason. The current donor list is based on pledges but may need to be adjusted if pledges are not met.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



MUSIC



FOOD



CULTURE



SEPTEMBER 20 & 21

501 MORAGA WAY ORINDA, CA

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

FREE ADMISSION





Christmas Event

DECORATE THE TRUNK OF
YOUR CAR FOR ALL TO ENJOY

7 | DECEMBER
SUNDAY | AFTER LITURGY

BRING A TREAT TO PASS TO
ALL THE KIDS

PRIZE FOR THE MOST
FESTIVE CAR!

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE
CONTACT: RANIA KASHOU



Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens to Support St. John Church



grouprai.se/krispykreme60225o



\$15
per order



50%
donated back

St John Fellowship Hall Donor Recognition

The St John Fellowship Hall Building and Fundraising Committees along with the Parish Council would like to thank and recognize those donors who have given over the years to the Building Fund. The contributions shown below include cumulative donations to the initial \$2 Million in the building fund at the start of construction, in addition to those donations to the current fundraising effort. Please note that our very generous Cornerstone Donor, as well as several of the Partner and Friend level donors have donated prior to the beginning of our current campaign. All donors will be recognized on a plaque or donor wall feature located in the reception area (foyer) of the hall at the levels shown below. If you would like your contribution recognized in another way, or if you have questions regarding your donation level, please contact the church office.

Recognition level	Names of Donors	
Cornerstone \$500,000 +	Hanada I. Fasheh	
Patron \$100,000-249,000	Rick and Sandra Dudum Jack and Sylvia Dudum	Jason and Lena Dudum Fuad and Nadia Sweiss
Benefactor \$50,000 - 99,999	Keith Dudum Joseph Sweis and Family	The McClintic Family
Provider \$25,000 - 49,999	Sami and Kathy Adranly James and Denise Dudum Rocky and Nada Dudum Nick and Deena Farrah	Jon and Larissa Geleris Stephen and Angela Kreta Elias and Samia Shaheen
Supporter \$10,000-24,999	Dn. Nicolas and Rula Adranly George and Samar Adranly ADOBE – matching gift for Hanna Family Anonymous Dominick and Joby Aranda George and Freida Cawog Ibrahim Fasheh Jordis Fasheh Lisa and David Hanna and Family Phillip and Gina Jaber Jawad and Violet Jaber	and Ruth Jeha, in Memory of Michael Elias Jeha Sam Khoury Ron and Nancy Nicola Fady and Joumana Najjar Orthodox Vision Foundation The Potts Family Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain Raif and Sonia Rihani and Family Eddie and Evleen Salem Ernest and Noha Shulze and Family Daniel and Mona Thayer Ramsay Zacharia

Partner
\$5,000-9,999

Anonymous
Charles and Marilee Ajalat
John and Dina Freij
Miranda Halaby
Sandy Hodges
John and Sylvia Jaber
Leila Farradj
Lynn and Usama Farradj

Issam and Rania Freij
Salem and Antoinette Mufarreh
Darrin Rishwain
George Theodosy
Suzanne & Nabil Taovil
In Memory of Najat Nicola,
Ghada, Nassif and Yasmina Malouf

Friend
\$1,000-4,999

Saleem & Samya Abudawood
Jack Ajluni
Anonymous
Richard and Joyce Ayoub
Anthony and Kimberly Bailey
Sandy Bennett
William and Judith Bosl
Fr. Nicholas Borzghol
Challenger Enterprises
Dana Dietzmann
Daryl and Katherine Dudum
J.D. and Jessie Dudum
F&M Bank
Fadi and Rana Feghali
Alex and Helen Ghanous
Khalil and Leila Hakeem
Ronald Issac
JDO Dakota Ventures
Mary Karadsheh
Maha Kury-Peterson
Brandon Laidlaw
Lieman Properties
Azmie and Melanie Madanat
Chris and Eva Malki
Margaret Mas
Fred and Tania Milkie
Siham Mitry
Myers Restaurant Supply

George Najjar
Samer & Maram Nassar
Sam & Nelly Nassif
Dn George and Jane Nassief
Ramzi and Marina Nassoura
Ziad & Charlene Nassoura
Naim and Helen Nazzal
Susan Nazzal
Nicholas Luengo Construction
Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Family
Antone Nino
Fawda Samara
Jeanne Shikany
Samir and Caroline Syriani
Sami and Alia Sahouria
Andrew Thayer
Steven Thayer
The Kebab Shop Restaurant
John and Jan Theodosy
Samir and Abla Toubassy
In Memory of Dwight Underhill
Robert and Katrina Waddell
George and Afaf Wahbeh
Kamal and Samar Wahbe
Nabil and Souhila Wakileh
William Wood Architects
Hala Yowakeem
Samir and Nadia Zeidan

Builder
\$100-999

George E. Adranly
Felice and Eric Ajluni
Howard & Marilyn Ashcraft
Eman Baalbaki
Tania & Daniel Bajada
Randy and Barbara Bray
Ken Bullock Ins & Fin Services
Robert and Renee Crawford
Mary Cubeisy
Dn. John and Irena Dibs
Herb & Tania DeGroot
Tony Dudum
Fuad and Mary Farradj
Naim & Nadia Frangieh
John & Dina Freij
Fairouz Freij
Fred and Sue Gedeon
Sandra Gedeon
Benjamin and Ashley Geleris
Zzane & Irene Guajardo
Julianna Greensides
Bahij & Yardena Hanhan
Raymond Hilal
Mounir and Muna Hobaika
Angela Husary
Jack's Restaurant
Carol Jeha
Mark Emile Johnson
Samir Juha
Andreas Kamlot
David Kashou
Rania Kashou
Rima Kashou
Sandy Kashou

Norma Khalil
Elia Khalilieh
Elizabeth Kreta
Mary Lodge
William and Mary Massarweh
Daniel & Amy McLellan
Mendocino Farms Restaurant
Paul and Arwa Mogannam
Alan & Dale Morgan
Khalil Mounzer
Ibrahim Munayer
Marwan Mukhar
William and Jida Nasser
Maureen Nelson
Mark Nicola
Michelle Nicola
Pacer Physical Therapy
Jacob Ritter
Alexis Robbins
Rocco's Restaurant & Pizza
Neezar Samara
Wanda and Leonard Sarkissian
See's Candies
Jabra & Rania Shuheiber
Marie Simon
Matthew Simon
Summit Landscape Development
Christina Tast
Sami Tawasha
Christina Thabit
TP Wolf
Khalil Yowakeem
Sam & Nevine Yowakim