



+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

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 3

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

AFTER-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

MARTYRS MENODORA, METRODORA AND NYMPHODORA OF BITHYNIA;
EMPRESS PULCHERIA; PETER, BISHOP OF NICAIA



Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora of Bithynia

On September 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos; and we commemorate the Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora of Bithynia.

These sisters grew up in the Faith in Asian Bithynia. They withdrew to the wilderness and dedicated themselves to great labor, fasting and prayer. God adorned them with the gift of miracle-working. A certain governor, Fronton, called for them. Although they were great fasters and their bodies were withered, their faces were radiant, illumined by inward peace and the grace of God. He ordered that Menodora be tortured first. Fronton called out to Menodora, who was wounded and bloody: "Offer sacrifice to the gods!" To this the holy martyr replied: "Do you not see that I am offering my entire self as a sacrifice to my God?" When Menodora gave up her spirit, the governor brought out her two sisters, and

stood them by the body of Menodora, where he counseled them to deny Christ. Since they remained steadfast, he slew them by harsh tortures. Just then, a thunderbolt struck from heaven, and killed the soulless Fronton and his servants. The sisters suffered in the fourth century and found rest in the Kingdom of Christ.

THE EPISTLE (For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

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

الرسالة

(للأحد الذي قبل عيد رفع الصليب المقدس)

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ الْهَي.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية.

يا إخوة، انظروا ما أعظم الكتابات التي كتبناها إليكم بيدي. إن كل الذين يريدون أن يرضوا بحسب الجسد يلزمونكم أن تختبئوا، وإنما ذلك لئلا يضطهدوا من أجل صليب المسيح. لأن الذين يختبئون هم أنفسهم لا يحفظون الناموس بل إنما يريدون أن تختبئوا ليقتروا بأجسادكم. أما أنا، فحاشى لي أن أفنخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح، الذي به صلب العالم لي وأنا صلبت للعالم. لأنه في المسيح يسوع ليس الختان بشيء ولا القلف بل الخليفة 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 (For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

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." _

الإنجيل

(للأحد الذي قبل عيد رفع الصليب المقدس)

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

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 ليدين العالم، بل ليخلص به العالم.

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.

Questions From Parishioners

Question: Will donors be recognized for their contributions to the Fellowship Hall Building Fund?

If so, how?

Yes, the names of those who make direct donations to the Fellowship Hall Building Fund will be recognized on a large wall plaque that will be permanently displayed in the hall foyer. The design of the plaque is being researched as construction continues. When construction work moves into the interior finishings phase, the "Recognition Wall," in the foyer space will be installed.

Current planning calls for the design of the wall to include these ten giving levels:

- Founder, one million dollars and more
- Cornerstone, five-hundred thousand dollars and more
- Pillar, two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars and more
- Patron, one-hundred thousand dollars and more
- Benefactor, fifty-thousand dollars and more (1)
- Provider, twenty-five thousand dollars and more (4)
- Supporter, ten-thousand dollars and more (9)
- Partner, five-thousand dollars and more (2)
- Friend, one-thousand dollars and more (3)
- Builder, one-hundred dollars and more (17)

The numbers in parathesis next to each category represents the number of commitments received in each category to date. The Fund-Raising Committee is confident the August 27 event will have encouraged more parishioners to join the 36 individuals and families who have stepped forward in support of this project. In addition, the committee is continuing efforts to reach out to all parishioners to join their fellow St. John faithful in making this dream a reality. All pledges and contributions are valued, needed, and appreciated.

Monthly Lunches for the Fellowship Hall

The Ladies' Committee would like to revive our monthly sponsored lunches to help raise funds for the new fellowship hall! The idea is to have two families pick a date and together provide a meal to serve after Sunday liturgy. The Ladies' Committee will sponsor a lunch at the church on Father's Day, but would love to have volunteers lined up for the months following. Please contact Fadwa Samara with any questions or to sign up at 510.909.0119 or fvsamara@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Festival News:

Rolling Grapeleaves - Mark your calendars for September 9th starting at 10:00 am in the Church hall & let's get ready to roll!!! Sign up to help with Rula Adranly rulaadranly@comcast.net.

Cooking Demo recordings - we want to put together videos of our parishioners making their favorite middle eastern dishes. Record yourself or a loved one (on your camera phone) and send to Reem Munakash at rmunakash@comcast.net. The videos will be shown on a monitor in the Culture Room during the festival. No need to share a detailed recipe, just show us how it's done!!

Fashion Show Organizer needed to put together a 10-15 minute show for each day of the festival. Let's show off our beautiful traditional clothing to the community. Contact Samir Yoakim at syowakim@sbcglobal.net if you're interested.

Getting Ready for Sunday School

Dear Parents,

The 2023-2024 Sunday School Year starts on Sunday, September 10th and I need to be sure we have an accurate list of students and their grades before assigning students to each class.

If you did not receive my email to the parents 2 weeks ago or you are new to St. John the Evangelist and have a child/children ages 4 to 18, please contact me to sign them up for Sunday School (paulakassouf25@gmail.com or (951)662-9387).

Below (on the next page), you will find important dates for the upcoming school year.

I look forward to a fruitful and faith-filled school year.

In Christ, Paula Kassouf

Classroom locations:

- Pre-K and Kindergarten: The first room in the hall across from the kitchen
- 1-3: in the second room in the hall across from the bathrooms
- Gr. 4-8: in the admin building, center room
- Gr. 9-12: in the admin building, teen room

'23/'24 School year schedule- important dates to note:

- Sept. 10, 2023: First Day of Sunday School and [The Elevation of the Venerable and Life- Giving Cross](#) (Sept. 14) Children will sit at the front of the Church for a special homily.

- Sept. 17, 2023: **First day of class!** Children go to assigned classrooms.
- Dec. 3, 2023: Christmas Cars Event after Sunday School
- Dec. 17, 2023: Christmas Play. **No Sunday School**
- Dec. 24, 2023: Christmas break. **No Sunday School**
- Jan 7, 2024: Sunday after Epiphany. Children stay at the front of the Church for the Blessing of Water. **No Sunday School**
- Feb 11, 2024: Creative Arts Project. Children go to admin building for arts and crafts for the 2024 Creative Festival. **No Sunday School.**
- March 18, 2024: First Day of Lent
- March 24, 2024: [Sunday of Orthodoxy](#), Commemoration of the Restoration of the Holy Icons. **No Sunday School.** Children participate in a procession around the Church
- April 7, 2024: [Sunday of the Holy Cross](#). Children participate in a procession around the Church. **No Sunday School.**
- April 28, 2024: [Palm Sunday](#): **No Sunday School**
- May 5, 2024: [Easter Sunday](#): **No Sunday School**
- May 26, 2024: Last Day of Sunday School
- June 2, 2024: Sunday School Graduation. **No Sunday School**

Items Needed for the Festival

We are accepting monetary donations to purchase items for the festival such as oil, foil trays, paper plates, containers, etc. Thank you for your donation.

Thank You for Coming to the Fellowship Hall Party!

Our first event of many was successful! By God's glory, our awesome community with several generations was able to be under one roof - something we have dreamt about for decades. Thank you for everyone's enthusiastic participation, every single person who filled the room, every single donation, every single helping hand made our event successful. There were 150 attendees and we raised approximately \$71,000! We are all making our hall come to life. We are all family, all under God's home, our home!

Sincerely,

The Fundraising Committee

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday, September 7th at 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos عيد ميلاد العذراء مريم. |
| Sunday, September 10 at 7pm | St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer) |
| September 10 | First day of Sunday School |
| September 13th at 6:00pm | Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast of the Elevation of the Cross عيد ارفع الصليب |
| September 23-24 | Our annual St. John's Middle Eastern Festival! |
| December 3rd | Christmas Cars Event |
| Every Sunday at 7pm | St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer) |

Coffee Hours

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| September 10 | Siham Mitry and family in memory of Elaine Samara |
|---------------------|---|

Memorial Services

This Sunday, September 10th: 40 days memorial service for the handmaiden of God Elaine Samara, offered by her sister Siham Mitry and family. May her memory be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Vivian Frangieh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John parish family for the good health of **Zzane (Reader Zacharia) Guajardo** on his patron Saint's Day. 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!

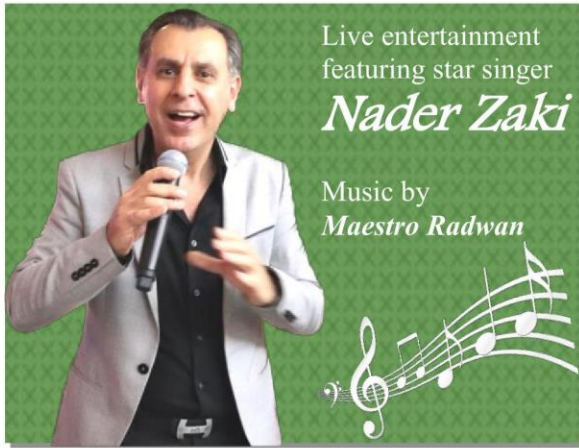


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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum and David Evans

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

You could use this QR code for your donation





29th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival



St. John Antiochian Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way in Orinda, CA

Sat. Sep 23, 2023 11am-8pm
Sun. Sep 24, 2023 12pm-7pm

Live music ~ Grand Prize Drawing ~ Delicious Food
Authentic Sweets ~ Children's Activities ~ Cultural Center
Vendor Booths



Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Redeemer

PRESENTS



Two days of fun in the sun at our annual

Mediterranean Food Festival

September 9th | 1-10 pm

September 10th | 1-8 pm

*Join us for food, games, music,
live entertainment, raffle, and more!*

380 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos Hills, CA

FREE ADMISSION!

*1st Prize = \$1,000 Cash | 2nd Prize = \$500 Cash | 3rd Prize = TV
Gift cards, baskets, and more!*



DJ Music

Music by Radwan Shakshir

Nader Zaki



SATURDAY



SUNDAY



For the latest festival updates, go to facebook.com/orthodoxredeemer

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

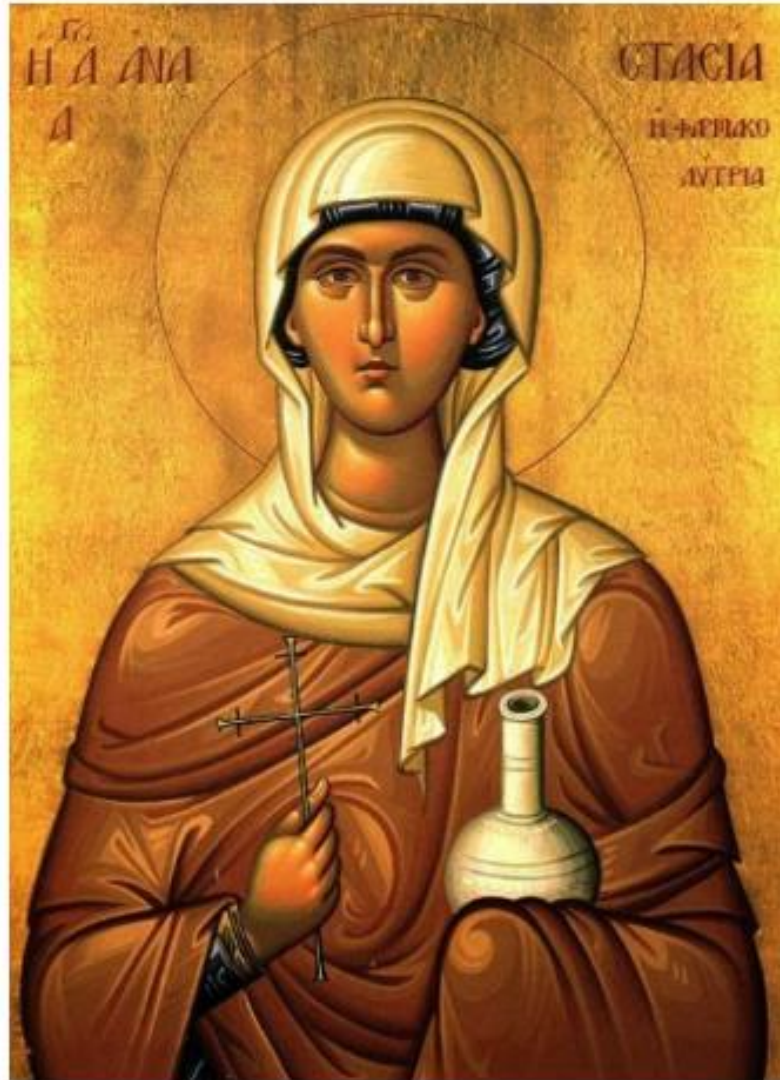
if you are planning on joining

iyrini.nino@gmail.com



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