



# +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

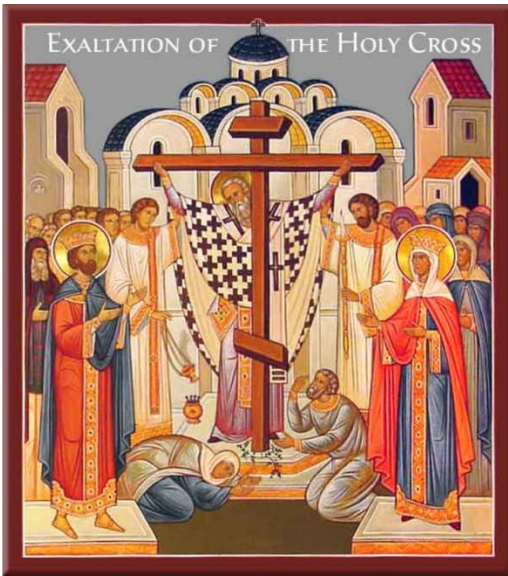
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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

**ELEVATION (EXALTATION) OF THE HOLY CROSS (SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>)**



## **Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross (Celebrating on Sunday instead of Saturday)**

On September 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Elevation (Exaltation) of the Honored and Life-giving Cross.

On this day, we commemorate two events connected with the Precious Cross of Christ: the finding of the Cross on Golgotha, and the returning of the Cross to Jerusalem from Persia. While in the Holy Land, the Empress Helena learned that the Holy Cross was buried underneath the temple of the pagan goddess Venus built on Golgotha. She demanded it be torn down and the Cross be excavated. The search turned up three crosses. Uncertain which was the true Cross, the Patriarch Marcarius ordered that each cross be placed on the corpse in a funeral procession passing by. The first two produced

nothing, but the third brought the man back to life, thus determining that this was the very Cross on which our Savior brought life to the world. Later, King Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, took the people into slavery and carried off the Lord's Cross to Persia. In 628, the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes, and brought the Cross back to Jerusalem with great ceremony. Heraclius was carrying the Cross on his back when, suddenly, he froze. The Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel directing the emperor to take off his robes and walk with the same extreme humility with which our Savior bore His Cross. The emperor complied, and was able to finish the procession to the Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha, where he restored the Holy Cross.

### **THE EPISTLE**

*Exalt ye the Lord our God.*

*The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble.*

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

Brethren, the word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

## الرسالة

إِرْفَعُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهُنَا وَاسْجُدُوا لِمَوَاطِيئِ قَدَمَيْهِ، فَإِنَّهُ  
قُدُّوسٌ. الرَّبُّ قَدْ مَلَكَ فَالْتَسَخَطِ الشُّعُوبِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى أَهْلِ كورنثوس.

يَا إِخْوَةٌ، إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الصَّلِيبِ عِنْدَ الْهَالِكِينَ جَهَالَةٌ، وَأَمَّا عِنْدَنَا نَحْنُ الْمُخَلَّصِينَ فَهِيَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ. لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ كُتِبَ سَابِئِدُ حِكْمَةِ  
الْحُكَمَاءِ، وَأَرْفُضُ فَهَمَ الْفُهَمَاءِ. فَأَيْنَ الْحَكِيمِ؟ وَأَيْنَ الْكَاتِبِ؟ وَأَيْنَ مُبَاحِثُ هَذَا الدَّهْرِ؟ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ قَدْ جَهَلَ حِكْمَةَ هَذَا  
العَالَمِ؟ فَإِنَّهُ إِذَا كَانَ الْعَالَمُ وَهُوَ فِي حِكْمَةِ اللَّهِ لَمْ يَعْرِفِ اللَّهَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ، أَرْتَضَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ بَجَهَالَةِ الْكَرَازَةِ الَّذِينَ  
يُؤْمِنُونَ. لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ يَسْأَلُونَ آيَةً، وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ يَطْلُبُونَ حِكْمَةً، أَمَّا نَحْنُ فَتَكَرَّرُ بِالْمَسِيحِ مَضْلُوبًا، شُكًّا لِلْيَهُودِ وَجَهَالَةً  
لِلْيُونَانِيِّينَ. أَمَّا لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ، فَالْمَسِيحُ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَحِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ.

## THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35)**

At that time, the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. And they came to Pontius Pilate saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no crime in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where art Thou from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, "Wilt Thou not speak to me? Knowest Thou not that I have power to release Thee, and power to crucify Thee?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above.

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called "The Pavement", and in Hebrew, "Gabbatha." Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus and led him away, and He went out, bearing His own Cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew "Golgotha." There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the Cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

Now standing by the Cross of Jesus were His mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the Disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the Disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the Disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now fulfilled, said, "It is finished"; and He bowed His head and gave up the spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمانِ، عَقَدَ رُؤَسَاءُ الكَهَنَةِ وَالشُّيُوخُ عَلَى يَسُوعَ مَشُورَةً لِيُهْلِكُوهُ. فَاتَّوَا إِلَى بِيلاطُسَ قَائِلِينَ: "أَصْلِبْهُ، أَصْلِبْهُ". فَقَالَ لَهُمُ بِيلاطُسُ: "خُذُوهُ أَنْتُمْ وَأَصْلِبُوهُ، فَإِنِّي لَا أَجِدُ فِيهِ عِلَّةً". أَجَابَهُ الْيَهُودُ: "إِنَّ لَنَا نَامُوسًا، وَبِحَسَبِ نَامُوسِنَا يَجِبُ أَنْ يَمُوتَ، لِأَنَّهُ جَعَلَ نَفْسَهُ ابْنَ اللَّهِ". فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ بِيلاطُسُ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ أَزْدَادَ خَوْفًا. وَدَخَلَ أَيْضًا إِلَى دَارِ الْوَلَايَةِ، وَقَالَ لِيَسُوعَ: "مِنْ أَيْنَ أَنْتَ؟" فَلَمْ يَرُدَّ يَسُوعُ عَلَيْهِ جَوَابًا، فَقَالَ لَهُ بِيلاطُسُ: "أَلَا تُكَلِّمُنِي. أَمَا تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي لِي سُلْطَانًا أَنْ أَصْلِبَكَ، وَلِي سُلْطَانًا أَنْ أَطْلِقَكَ". فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ: "مَا كَانَ لَكَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ لَوْ لَمْ يُعْطَ لَكَ مِنْ فَوْقَ". فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ بِيلاطُسُ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ، أَخْرَجَ يَسُوعَ ثُمَّ جَلَسَ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ الْقَضَاءِ فِي مَوْضِعٍ يُقَالُ لَهُ "لَيْشْتَرُوثُنْ" وَبِالْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ "جَبَاتَا". وَكَانَتْ تَهَيِّئَةُ الْفِصْحِ، وَكَانَ نَحْوُ السَّاعَةِ التَّاسِعَةِ، وَقَالَ لِلْيَهُودِ: "هُوَذَا مَلِكُكُمْ". أَمَّا هُمْ فَصَرَخُوا: "ارْفَعْهُ، ارْفَعْهُ، أَصْلِبْهُ". فَقَالَ لَهُمُ بِيلاطُسُ: "أَأَصْلِبُ مَلِكُكُمْ؟". فَأَجَابَ رُؤَسَاءُ الكَهَنَةِ: "لَيْسَ لَنَا مَلِكٌ غَيْرُ قَيْصَرَ". حِينَئِذٍ أَسْلَمَهُ إِلَيْهِمْ لِلصَّلْبِ. فَأَخَذُوا يَسُوعَ، وَمَضُوا بِهِ. فَخَرَجَ وَهُوَ حَامِلٌ صَلِيبَهُ إِلَى الْمَوْضِعِ الْمُسَمَّى الْجُمُجْمَةَ وَبِالْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ يُسَمَّى الْجُلْجُلَةَ حَيْثُ صَلَّبُوهُ وَأَخْرَبُوا مَعَهُ مِنْ هُنَا وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ، وَيَسُوعُ فِي الْوَسْطِ. وَكَتَبَ بِيلاطُسُ عِنُونًا وَوَضَعَهُ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَكَانَ الْمَكْتُوبُ فِيهِ: "يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ مَلِكُ الْيَهُودِ". وَهَذَا الْعِنُونُ قَرَأَهُ كَثِيرُونَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ لِأَنَّ الْمَوْضِعَ الَّذِي صَلَّبَ فِيهِ يَسُوعُ كَانَ قَرِيبًا مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَكَانَ مَكْتُوبًا بِالْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ وَالْيُونَانِيَّةِ وَالرُّومَانِيَّةِ. وَكَانَتْ وَاقِفَةً عِنْدَ صَلِيبِ يَسُوعَ أُمُّهُ وَأَخْتُ أُمِّهِ مَرْيَمُ الَّتِي لِكِلَاوِيَّا وَمَرْيَمُ الْمَجْدَلِيَّةُ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أُمَّهُ وَالتِّلْمِيذَ الَّذِي كَانَ هُوَ يُحِبُّهُ وَاقِفًا قَالَ لِأُمِّهِ: "يَا أُمَّرَأَةَ، هُوَذَا ابْنُكَ". ثُمَّ قَالَ لِالتِّلْمِيذِ: "هُوَذَا أُمَّكَ". وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ أَخَذَهَا التِّلْمِيذُ إِلَى خَاصَّتِهِ. وَبَعْدَ هَذَا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ تَمَّ فَأَمَالَ رَأْسَهُ وَأَسْلَمَ الرُّوحَ. ثُمَّ إِذْ كَانَ يَوْمَ التَّهَيِّئَةِ فَلَنَلَّ تَبَقَى الْأَجْسَادُ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ فِي السَّبْتِ لِأَنَّ يَوْمَ ذَلِكَ السَّبْتِ كَانَ عَظِيمًا سَأَلَ الْيَهُودُ بِيلاطُسَ أَنْ تُكَسَّرَ سَوْفُهُمْ وَيُذْهَبَ بِهِمْ. فَجَاءَ الْجُنْدُ وَكَسَرُوا سَاقَي الْأَوَّلِ وَالْآخَرَ الَّذِي صَلَّبَ مَعَهُ. وَأَمَّا يَسُوعُ فَلَمَّا انْتَهَوْا إِلَيْهِ وَرَأَوْهُ قَدْ مَاتَ، لَمْ يَكْسِرُوا سَاقِيَهُ لَكِنَّ وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْجُنْدِ طَعَنَ جَنْبَهُ بِحَرْبَةٍ فَخَرَجَ لِلْوَقْتِ دَمٌ وَمَاءٌ. وَالَّذِي عَايَنَ شَهِدَ وَشَهِدَتْهُ حَقًّا.

### 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.

### Raffle Tickets

Dear parishioners: we have mailed you 4 raffle tickets for the festival. Please, consider supporting your church festival by mailing ( or bring them to church) with your payment of \$100.

### Fellowship Hall contributions

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Fellowship Hall. Your contributions allowed us to reach to this point in our project.

However, some of us neglected our obligation and commitment to the church. We are behind on our pledges to the operation of the church by \$19,000 to date. I'm counting on your faith, love and commitment to Christ and his church to make up for the deficit. I'm confident of your generosity.

In Christ,

Fr. Nicholas Borzghol

### Upcoming Events

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Every Sunday at 7pm | St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting. |
| September 28-29     | Annual Middle Eastern Festival    |

### Coffee Hours

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| September 15 <sup>th</sup> | Anthony, Kimberly, Julia and Brie Bailey in memory of Nick and Helen Nicola.    |
| September 22 <sup>nd</sup> | The Atallah, Khalil, Issa, Shahin and Awwad families in memory of John Atallah. |
| September 29 <sup>th</sup> | Festival  |

### Memorial Service

The Atallah family will be offering a one year memorial service in memory of their brother, John Atallah, on September 22.

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, George Messih, Henriette Hilal** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Sam Nassab**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Fairouz Freij**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Naim Nazzal**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nabil Wakileh**. Many years!
- † Rocky and Nada Dudum for the good health of **Sandy Dudum Bennett**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish family in memory of **Karen Mashi**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish family in memory of **Hanna (john) Theodosi**. May his memory be eternal!
- † The **Atallah, Khalil, Issa, Shahin and Awwad families** for their good health. Many years!
- † Also, in memory of **John Atallah, Saliba, Hilwa Atallah, Jamileh, Musaada, Mark Ibrahim, karim, Suheila**. May their memories 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 and Maron Juha

- 
- † Dr. Nick and Dr. Najat Nicola and family will be donating the flowers on September 15th in memory of Steven and Pauline Belavich.



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

You could use this QR code for your donation





## Fellowship Hall News

### Fundraising Committee Update:

So close - yet so far, but how far are we from hall completion?

When we started the construction of the project, we did so knowing that we had about \$2 Million in the building fund, and had secured a \$2.5 Million equity loan from the bank. We undertook a very ambitious plan to raise another \$2.5 Million that would bring us to the approximately \$7 million hall project. (Contract was \$6.8 M - not including kitchen equipment and amenities) We knew that if we did not raise the needed funds, we would need to slow or halt construction. To date, we have raised about one-third of our goal (a bit over \$800,000), and have also added some additional funds from the overall church budget. We have paid the contractor (Petra Construction) about \$5.3M, and are stopping all invoices until more funding can be obtained.

However - that does not mean we are stopping all work! Construction work will continue on the following parts of the project: Completion of the tile siding of the hall, completion of the pavers on the plaza, completion of the concrete stairs from the parking lot to the plaza and the plaza to the lower plaza, completion of the new exit stairwell from the church, grading of the preschool playground, and the fencing around that playground. It is anticipated that this work will be completed before the festival.

The Parish Council, building committee and fundraising committee, along with other interested members of the community are working together to determine next steps forward for closing the funding gap and completing the project. There are several ideas being explored, such as loans from parishioners, a loan from a bank, and a fundraising gala. More information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available, and of course, any loan taken with a bank will be brought to the entire parish for approval.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please see Steve Kreta - Building Committee Chair, Raif Rihani - Parish Council Chair, David Hanna - Fundraising Committee Chair, or Father Nicholas.

### **See's CANDIES**

St John Orthodox Church Storefront



Help Us  
Reach Our Goal!



### **See's Candies**

Who doesn't love chocolate? Please order your See's Candies. 20% of the proceeds will support our building fund.

- Own a business and need to gift?
- Any gift?
- Easter chocolate??
- SEE'S just because it's SEE'S??

ANYONE can purchase!! Please scan the QR code, find the link on our Facebook, or ask anyone in the fundraising committee .

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GOES TO YOUR PARISH!**

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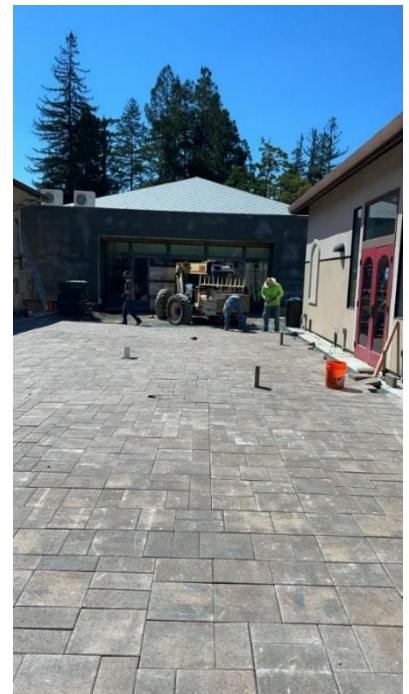
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ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**BLACK & WHITE  
HALL GALA**

TICKETS AT \$250 PER PERSON

OCT. 26 | 5:30 PM

HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN CHURCH

1700 SCHOOL ST

MORAGA , CA 94556

PLEASE COME IN FORMAL ATTIRE.



# Antiochian Charities

Website: [www.antiochian.org/charities](http://www.antiochian.org/charities)

Email: [childrensrelieffund@gmail.com](mailto:childrensrelieffund@gmail.com)

***“Whoever receives one little child like this in my name receives me.” (Matthew 18:5)***

August 5, 2024

## ***TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARISHIONERS***

For over forty years the Children’s Relief Fund has provided financial support to help defray the cost of education for children in Lebanon and Palestine. Requests for such support have increased significantly in recent years. As a result of dire circumstances in Lebanon, many parents have become unable to pay tuition to send their children to Orthodox Christian schools. Our Orthodox schools are at risk of closing, and consequently many of our children will now have to attend a public school or to discontinue their schooling altogether.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, we are seeking your help. We have approximately forty Lebanese children from the Archdioceses of Beirut, Koura, Tripoli, Akkar, and Zahle who need assistance to continue their education at an Orthodox Christian school this coming school year. The tuition cost per student varies from \$750 to \$1200 per school year, depending on the school and the student’s grade level.

Donated funds will be wired directly to the Orthodox school in the child’s name. The child and their family will receive a notice of your support, and you will receive contact information so that you can communicate directly with the child if you wish. Children receiving a tuition scholarship will not receive any other funding from the Children’s Relief Fund. Sponsorship in any amount will be appreciated.

School begins in a few weeks, so if you can help, please contact CFR Administrator Amy Stiffler at: [childrensrelieffund@gmail.com](mailto:childrensrelieffund@gmail.com).

### **Children’s Relief Fund Scholarship Program**

Antiochian Village  
140 Church Camp Trail  
Bolivar, PA 15923

God bless you for your consideration of this urgent request.

In Christ’s work,

Amy Stiffler, CRF Administrator & Executive Director

Anne Bourjaily Thomas, Charitable Outreach Chair

cc: His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

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*A charity of the* ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Amy Stiffler, CRF Administrator – (724) 238-3677 Ext: 402

Mailing Address: Antiochian Village, 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA 15923

**Advertisement Form for 2024 Festival Ad Book**  
**30th 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 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Advertiser: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advertisement** (circle one)

|                 |              |             |             |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Premium Page AD | Full Page AD | 1/2 Page AD | 1/4 Page AD |
| \$400 Plus      | \$250        | \$125       | \$75        |

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

The 2024 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; welcome letters; information about St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church; a program of Festival events, attractions and exhibits; food menu; and listings of event donors and contributions.

On behalf of the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church and members of the 2024 Festival Committee, we thank you for your support.

**Checks payable to St. John Church Festival Mail to:**

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





# St. John Antiochian Orthodox Church

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival

Saturday, September 28, 2024 (11 am – 8 pm)

Sunday, September 29, 2024 (12 pm – 7 pm)



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



Live Entertainment  
Featuring  
*California Superstar*

***Nader Zaki***



Music by  
*Maestro Radwan*

