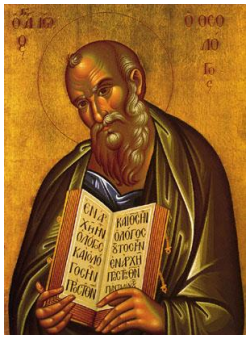


+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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
www.stjohnorinda.org email: st.john.evangelist.orinda@gmail.com

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Tone 7 / Eothinon 5

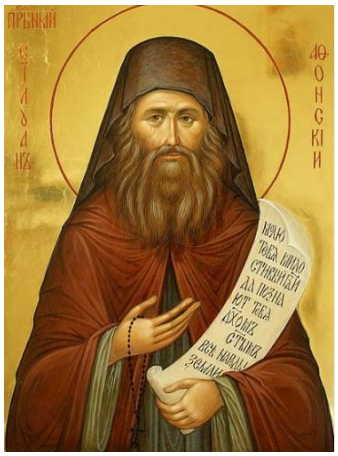
Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles & First Sunday of Luke
Venerable Silouan of Athos

Holy Great-Martyr Thekla and Venerable Silouan of Athos

On September 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles.

She was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. At age 18, she was betrothed to a young man named Thamyris at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Thekla converted to the Christian Faith, and vowed to live in virginity. Her mother, seeing that she was now ignoring her betrothal, tried to dissuade her, and then beat her and tortured her by starvation. Finally, this wicked mother turned Thekla over to the judge and demanded that Thekla be burned. The judge threw her into the fire, but God preserved her unharmed by pouring rain on the fire. Once in an arena and sentenced to death, Thekla saw a vat of water that contained carnivorous seals. Thekla jumped into the vat and baptized herself. Lightning killed all of the seals before they could eat her. Another time, a lioness protected her from other wild beasts. Once, as a group of arrogant young men were about to catch Thekla, a large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin. This rock in Maaloula, Syria was her refuge and her tomb, and the site of the monastery which she founded, the oldest Christian convent in the world. Thousands of pilgrims flock to it yearly for healing of ailments.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Silouan of Athos, born in 1866 as Simeon Ivanovich Antonov of devout parents of Sovsk, Tambov, Russia. At age 27, he received the prayers of St. John of Kronstadt and went to Mt. Athos where he became a monk at the Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon. He received from the Holy Theotokos the gift of unceasing prayer, and had a vision of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory in the church of the holy Prophet Elias adjoining the mill of the monastery. After the withdrawal of that first grace, he was oppressed by profound grief and great temptations for fifteen years, after which he received from Christ the teaching, "Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not." He reposed on September 24, 1938. He left behind his writings which were edited by his disciple and pupil, St. Sophrony of Essex.



THE EPISTLE (For St. Thekla)

God is wondrous among His saints.
Bless ye God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الرسالة (للقديسة تقلا)

عَجيبٌ هُوَ اللهُ في قِدّيسيه. في المَجامِعِ بارِكوا الله.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسالَةِ القِدّيسِ بولُسَ الرَّسولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إلى تيموثاوس.

يا ولدي تيموثاوسَ إنَّكَ قدِ استَقْرَيْتَ تَعليمي وسِيرَتي وقَصْدِي وإيماني وأنَاتِي وَمَحبَّتي وصَبري. واضطهاداتي وآلامي وما أصَابَنِي في إنطاكِيَة وأيقونيةَ ولِسترَةَ. وأيَّةَ اضطِهَادَاتٍ احتَمَلْتُ وقد أنقَذَنِي الربُّ من جمِيعِها. وجميعُ الذينَ يُريدونَ أن يَعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيحِ يسوعَ يُضطَهَدونَ. أما الأشرارُ والمغْوُونَ من الناسِ فَيَزدادونَ شَراً مُضِلّينَ ومُضَلَّينَ. فَاستَمِرَّ أنتَ على ما تعلَّمْتَهُ وأيقنتَ بهِ عالماً مِمَّن تَعَلَّمْتَ. وأنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطفوليَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الكُتُبَ المُقَدَّسَةَ القادِرَةَ أن تُصيّرَكَ حكيماً للخلاصِ بالإيمانِ بالمسيحِ يسوع.

THE GOSPEL (For the First Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

الإنجيل (للأحد الأول من لوقا)

فصلٌ شَريفٌ مِنْ بِشارَةِ القِدّيسِ لوقا الإنْجيليّ البَشيرِ والتلْميذِ الطاهِرِ.

في ذلِكَ الزَمانِ، فيما يَسوعُ واقِفٌ عندَ بُحَيْرَةِ جَنّيسارَت، رأى سَفينَتَيْنِ واقِفَتَيْنِ عِنْدَ شاطِئِ البُحَيْرَةِ، وقَدِ انْحَدَرَ مِنْهُما الصيَّادونَ يَغْسِلونَ الشِّباكَ. فَدَخَلَ إحدى السَّفِينَتَيْنِ، وكانَتْ لِسِمْعانَ، وسَأَلَهُ أنْ يَتَباعَدَ قَليلاً عَنِ البَرِّ، وجَلَسَ يُعَلِّمُ الجُموعَ مِنَ السَفينَةِ. ولمَّا فَرَغَ مِنَ الكلامِ، قالَ لِسِمْعانَ: "تَقَدَّمْ إلى العُمْقِ وأَلْقُوا شِباكَكُمْ لِلْصَيْدِ." فَأَجابَ سِمْعانُ وقالَ لَهُ: "يا مُعَلِّمُ، إنَّا قَدْ تَعِبْنا الليلَ كُلَّهُ وَلَمْ نُصِبْ شَيْئاً، ولَكِنْ بِكَلِمَتِكَ أُلْقي الشَبكةَ." فَلَمَّا فَعَلوا ذلكَ، احْتازوا مِنَ السَّمَكِ شَيْئاً كَثيراً حَتَّى تَخَرَّقَتْ شَبَكَتُهُمْ. فأَشاروا إلى شُرَكائِهِمْ في السَفينَةِ الأُخرى أنْ يَأْتوا ويُعاونوهُم. فَأَتَوا ومَلأوا السَفينَتَيْنِ حَتَّى كادَتا تَغْرَقانِ. فَلَمَّا رأى ذلِكَ سِمْعانُ بُطْرُسُ، خَرَّ عِنْدَ رُكْبَتَيْ يَسوعَ قائِلاً: "أُخْرُجْ عَني يا رَبُّ، فإنّي رَجُلٌ خاطِئٌ." لأنَّ الإنْذِهالَ اعْتَراهُ هُوَ وكُلَّ مَنْ مَعَهُ لِصَيْدِ السَّمَكِ الذي أَصابوهُ. وكَذلِكَ يَعْقوبُ ويوحَنَّا ابْنا زَبَدى اللذانِ كانا رَفيقَيْنِ لِسِمْعان. فقالَ يَسوعُ لِسِمْعانَ: "لا تَخَفْ، فإنَّكَ مِنَ الآنَ تَكونُ صَيَّاداً لِلْناسِ." فَلَمَّا بَلَغُوا بالسفِينَتَيْنِ إلى البَرِّ، تَرَكُوا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وتَبِعُوه.

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.

Festival News:

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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 24 at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer)
September 23-24	Our annual St. John's Middle Eastern Festival!
October 13-13	Fall Gathering at Saint James Church in Modesto (see flyer)
October 22nd	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!
December 3rd	Christmas Cars Event
Every Sunday at 7pm	St. Anastasia Fellowship Meeting (see flyer)

Coffee Hours

September 23rd	Festival
October 1st	Sponsor Needed
October 8th	Sponsor Needed

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, 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!

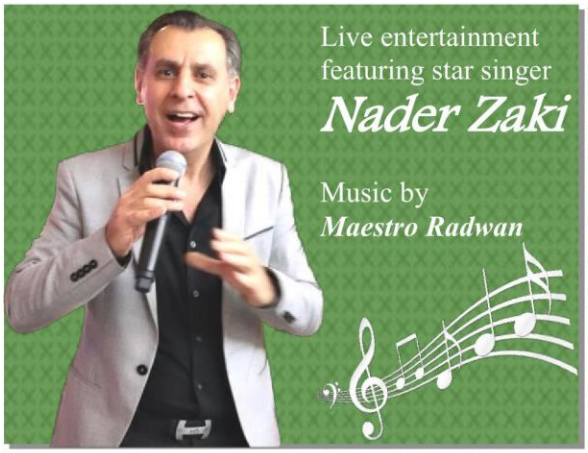
Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

† 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 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

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

Fellowship Hall Progress!

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

Tickets:	$60	early bird by Oct. 1, includes food and wine
	$70	after Oct. 1, includes food and wine
	$50	includes food only
	$25	children 6–12 *(free 5 and under)*

Tickets and sponsorships at **iocc.org/bayarea**

IOCC®

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

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

2023 FALL GATHERING AT SAINT JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

Event Registration

Register Online

To register online, click the button below and complete the registration via Event Brite

Register By Email

Download the form. After completing the registration form email a picture or scan to *office@saintjamesmodesto.org*.

Register Online *Download Form*

Hotel Registration

Ask for the Saint James Room Rate to take advantage of the discounted pricing for Friday and Saturday nights.

Singlebed: $124 + tax

Double bed 131 + tax

Make your reservation by following the link below or calling the hotel directly.

*Please reserve your hotel room by September 27th for the discounted rate. The hotel is a 6-mile distance from the church.

Reserve Your Hotel Here

Please go to ***https://saintjamesmodesto.org/fall-gathering-2023/*** to register (Clicking on the “Register Online” button on this ad will not do anything)