



# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

Dn. Nicholas Adranly

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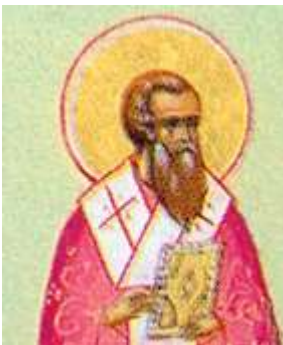
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2022**

**TONE 3 / EOTHINON 1; TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**& TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS, BISHOP OF ANTIOCH**

PROPHET MOSES THE GOD-SEER; MARTYRS JERUSALEM, SEKENDOS, SEKENDIOS AND KEGOUROS IN ALEPPO



## Holy Hieromartyr Babylas

On September 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch; the Three Children who were with him: Urban, Prilidian and Epolonios; and their mother, Christodula.

One day, holy Babylas was at prayer with the people. He heard that Emperor Numerian was coming with his entourage and intended to enter the church. Babylas stopped the service, went outside and boldly told the emperor that, as an idolater, he was not permitted to enter the holy church where the one, true God was worshipped. The following day, the angry Emperor summoned Babylas, and ordered him offer sacrifice to idols, which the saint steadfastly refused to do. Numerian then bound him with chains and threw him into prison. He also tortured three of Babylas' spiritual children: Urban, age 12, Prilidian, age 9 and Epolonios, age 7. Their Christian mother, Christodoula, also suffered for Christ. The emperor ordered that each child be beaten with the number of blows that totaled his age. Babylas was present at their beheading, giving them courage, and then laid his honorable head under the sword. Their holy souls flew off to Heaven in the year 283, and their wonderworking relics remained in support of the faithful.

## THE EPISTLE

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.*

*Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

**The Reading from the First Epistle of  
St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)**

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا.

يا جميع الأمم صَفِّقُوا بالأَيْدِي.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس.

يا إخوة، أَعَرَفُكُمْ بِالإنجيل الذي بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ وَقَبِلْتُمُوهُ وَأَنْتُمْ قَائِمُونَ فِيهِ. وَبِهِ أَيْضاً تَخْلُصُونَ بِأَيِّ كَلَامٍ بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَذْكُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونُوا قَدْ آمَنْتُمْ بِاطِّلًا. فَإِنِّي قَدْ سَلَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَوَّلًا مَا تَسَلَّمْتُهُ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ مَاتَ مِنْ أَجْلِ خَطَايَانَا عَلَى مَا فِي الْكُتُبِ. وَأَنَّهُ قُبِرَ وَأَنَّهُ قَدْ قَامَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ عَلَى مَا فِي الْكُتُبِ. وَأَنَّهُ تَرَأَى لَصَفًا نَحْنُ الْإِنْتِي عَشْرًا. ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِأَكْثَرِ مِنْ خَمْسِ مِئَةِ أَخٍ دُفَعَةً وَاحِدَةً، أَكْثَرُهُمْ بَاقٍ إِلَى الْآنَ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ قَدْ رَفَدُوا. ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِيَعْقُوبَ، ثُمَّ لِجَمِيعِ الرُّسُلِ. وَأَجَزَ الْكُلَّ تَرَأَى لِي أَنَا أَيْضاً كَأَنَّهُ لِلْسِّفْطِ. لِأَنِّي أَنَا أَصْغَرُ الرُّسُلِ، وَلَسْتُ أَهْلًا لِأَنْ أُسَمَّى رَسُولًا، لِأَنِّي اضْطَهَدْتُ كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ. وَلَكِنْ بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ أَنَا مَا أَنَا. وَنِعْمَتُهُ الْمُعْطَاةُ لِي لَمْ تَكُنْ بَاطِلَةً بَلْ تَعَبْتُ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ جَمِيعِهِمْ. وَلَكِنْ لَا أَنَا بَلْ نِعْمَةُ اللَّهِ الَّتِي مَعِي. فَسَوَاءٌ كُنْتُ أَنَا أَمْ أَوْلِيكَ هَكَذَا تَكَرَّرُ وَهَكَذَا آمَنْتُمْ.

### THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمْلِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ شَابٌ وَجِئَا لَهُ قَائِلًا: أَيُّهَا الْمُعَلِّمُ الصَّالِحُ، مَاذَا أَعْمَلُ مِنَ الصَّلَاحِ لِتَكُونَ لِي الْحَيَاةَ الْأَبَدِيَّةَ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: لِمَاذَا تَدْعُونِي صَالِحًا؟ وَمَا صَالِحٌ إِلَّا وَاحِدٌ وَهُوَ اللَّهُ. وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كُنْتُ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ الْحَيَاةَ، فَاحْفَظِ الْوَصَايَا. فَقَالَ لَهُ: أَيُّهُ وَصَايَا؟ قَالَ يَسُوعُ: لَا تَقْتُلْ، لَا تَزْنِ، لَا تَسْرِقْ، لَا تَشْهَدْ بِالزُّورِ. أَكْرَمُ أَبَاكَ وَأُمَّكَ، أَحْبِبْ قَرِيبَكَ كَنَفْسِكَ. قَالَ لَهُ الشَّابُّ: كُلُّ هَذَا قَدْ حَفِظْتُهُ مُنْذُ صِبَايَ، فَمَاذَا يَنْقُصُنِي بَعْدُ؟ قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: إِنْ كُنْتُ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَامِلًا، فَادْهَبْ وَبِعْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ وَأَعْطِهِ لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، فَيَكُونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ فِي السَّمَاءِ. وَتَعَالَ اثْبَغْنِي. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الشَّابُّ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ، مَضَى حَزِينًا لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ ذَا مَالٍ كَثِيرٍ. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ يَعْسُرُ عَلَى الْعَيْنِ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ. وَأَيْضًا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنْ مَرَّوَرِ الْجَمَلِ مِنْ نَفْثِ الْإِبْرَةِ لِأَسْهَلٍ مِنْ دُخُولِ غَنِيِّ مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ تَلَامِيذُهُ بُهْتُوا جِدًّا وَقَالُوا "مَنْ يَسْتَطِيعُ إِذْنُ أَنْ يَخْلُصَ؟" فَنَظَرَ يَسُوعُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: أَمَّا عِنْدَ النَّاسِ فَلَا يُسْتَطَاعُ هَذَا، وَأَمَّا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ.

"Love your Neighbor"- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

As we enjoy our last few weeks of the summer vacation and look forward to the beginning of a Fall school year, our parish will join other parishes in our Archdiocese in supporting youth, our seminarians, and those wishing to continue studies in Theology and Church History. Please consider gifts for the next few months supporting these three Antiochian Archdiocese Programs.

**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.

**October** – (Youth Month) SOYO Special Olympics

This ministry is sponsored by the North American Council of Teen SOYO and is the second longest running program of Special Olympics Pennsylvania, serving over 340 Special Olympics athletes, coaches, and staff each season. It is the premier SOYO outreach program, now in its 38th year of service. Each year SOYO teens raise the funds on Special Olympics Awareness Day.

**Dear Sunday School Parents and Teachers,**

It is almost that time of year! The first day of Sunday School for the new school year is quickly approaching. Below you will find the key dates for this coming year.

**For all parents with children between the age of 3-4 years old or new students, please complete the registration form in your email.** Even if your child is 2 years old but will turn 3 between now and May of 2023, please complete this form. I will need an accurate number of students per class to assign teachers.

**'22/'23 School year:**

- Sept. 11, 2022: 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. 18, 2022: First legitimate day of class! Children go to regularly assigned classrooms. See below.
- Sept. 25, 2022: Church Festival. **No Sunday School**
- Dec. 11, 2022: Christmas Play. **No Sunday School**
- Dec. 18, 2022: Christmas break. **No Sunday School**
- Dec. 25, 2022: Christmas break. **No Sunday School**
- Jan. 1, 2022: Sunday before Epiphany. Children stay at the front of the Church for the Blessing of Water. **No Sunday School**
- Jan. 29, 2023: Creative Arts Project. Children go to admin building for arts and crafts for the 2022 Creative Festival. **No Sunday School.**
- February 27, 2023: First Day of Lent
- March 5, 2023: Sunday of Orthodoxy. Commemoration of the Restoration of the Holy Icons. **No Sunday School.** Children participate in a procession around the Church
- March 19, 2023: Sunday of the Holy Cross. Children participate in a procession around the Church. **No Sunday School.**
- April 9, 2023: Palm Sunday: **No Sunday School**
- April 16, 2023: Easter Sunday: **No Sunday School**
- May 21, 2023: Last Day of Sunday School
- May 28, 2023: Sunday School Graduation. **No Sunday School**

In Christ,  
Paula

**FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Our festival is fast approaching, on 9/24 & 9/25. We need volunteers to help in the following areas:

**BBQ** - 2 people needed each day for 4 hour shifts - contact George Adranly at [gadranly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gadranly@sbcglobal.net)

**Shawerma** - 1 person needed each day for 4 hour shifts - contact David Kashou at [kashou23@gmail.com](mailto:kashou23@gmail.com)

**Sandwich Making** (outdoor grill) - 2 people needed each day for 4 hour shifts - contact Suzanne Taovil at [suenabil@hotmail.com](mailto:suenabil@hotmail.com)

**Beverage Booth** - 2 people needed for 4 hour shifts - contact Nabil Taovil at [nabil.taovil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nabil.taovil@sbcglobal.net)


Volunteers also needed for set-up & making kifta on Friday, 9/23, starting at noon. You can sign up with Rula at church or [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net). A BIG thanks to all the committee heads for their hard work in planning a return to our traditional festival.

**Groundbreaking Ceremony and Prayers**

Sunday, September 11, 2022

On behalf of the St John Fellowship Hall Building Committee and the Parish Council, we are thrilled to announce the official Groundbreaking Ceremony and Prayers to be held immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 11, 2022. While you may notice some placement of fencing, and beginning stages of land excavation before that, we will celebrate the hard work of everyone involved in getting us to this point and offer prayers for the safe and successful completion of the project in the not-too-distant future! Please join us for this special recognition.

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Men's meeting at church: in person with dinner.	
<b>Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of the nativity of the theotokos at 6 pm.	
<b>Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Save the date for the ground breaking ceremony	
<b>Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Preparation for the festival at 9:30 am.	
<b>Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup></b>	40 days memorial service for the servant of God Nabil Wahbeh. May his memory be eternal!	
<b>September 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Festival	

## Coffee Hours

September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony and Kimberly Bailey
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jill Norgaard and Jordis Fasheh in memory of Hanada
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nabil Wahbeh
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Church Festival

### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Nabil Wahbeh**. May his memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Ibtisam Haddad**. Many years!
- † Fr. Nicholas Borzghol and family in memory of his aunt **Souhila Borzghol Abdalh**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Fairouz Freij and family for the good health of **Michael Shuheiber**. 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 Swiess, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin

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





## 28th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival



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

Sat. Sep 24, 2022 11am-8pm

Sun. Sep 25, 2022 12pm-7pm

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

### **All Hands on Deck!!!**

All Hands on Deck!!! Let's Get Rolling!!! Saturday, September 17th 9:30 am in the Church hall. Please let Rula know if you can help: [rulaadranly@comcast.net](mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net) or 510-508-0929.



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

The Ecclesiastical New Year, September 1, 2022

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Brother Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings and blessings to all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year!

The transition from one year to the next is a moment to take stock and renew our perspective. It prompts us to reflect on things we might be taking for granted and to make resolutions to remedy this neglect. Just as the world does this at the start of the civil new year (January 1), so might we do the same at the start of our ecclesiastical new year today.

Last year at about this time, I asked you to reflect on the place of our youth in our parishes and archdiocese. Unfortunately, this was a subject many of us had previously taken for granted. However, after putting our heads together and putting our shoulders to the wheel, our engagement with young people is making great advances, and momentum is building toward even greater progress in the future.

Now, as another year begins, I want to draw your attention toward another often-neglected subject: vocations, particularly the calling to priestly ministry. Sometimes it seems like people think priests grow on trees or hatch from eggs in some distant fairyland. Their priest is always there for them, and when he is transferred or retires, the metropolitan sends them a new one. In many parishes, few people imagine that one of their boys might end up in this role. Unfortunately, in some parishes or families, young men might even be discouraged from following this path. Yet we always expect that the priest will be there when we need him.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, priests come from parishes and families. They are called by God and nurtured in this calling by those around them. We all have a role to play in raising them up.

Beyond this one calling, there are many other vital callings in the Church: deacons, monastics, chaplains, youth directors, pastoral assistants, musicians, administrators, iconographers, healers, caregivers, and the like. In fact, each of us is called by God and empowered by His Spirit to serve the Church and the wider world in some way, as St. Paul tells us in his epistles. Within the Body of the Church, we are Christ's hands, feet, and mouth—each receiving from Him some part to play in the salvation of the world. But fulfilling that calling is up to us, and it is up to each of us to help one another discern and prepare for those callings.

Throughout the next twelve months, I urge all of you to focus on fulfilling and supporting vocations in the Church. First, I encourage each of you to pray regularly concerning the need for

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

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priests, deacons, and other vocations in the Church, following the exhortation of our Lord: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few; therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest that He might send out workers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37–38). Pray also that the Lord would help you follow His calling in your life and enable you to see and support the callings of your friends and family members in the Church.

Second, I urge our priests and parishes to discuss the subject of vocations in homilies, classes, written articles, and retreats throughout the coming year, teaching our faithful how to discern their vocations and how to support the vocations of others within the Church—especially the calling to priestly ministry. For our part, the archdiocese will be providing some resources for this effort over the coming months. To start with, the upcoming issue of *The Word* will feature interviews with several of our seminarians, in which they describe their paths toward finding and following their own vocations. I encourage you to read these stories and consider how God is leading you toward your own particular service in the Church.

Finally, I ask you to support (in particular) those men among your friends and family in whose lives you see the calling and gifts of priestly ministry. Too often, our young men have been steered away from this beautiful ministry toward practical professions, for the sake of their financial success. There is nothing wrong with those professions, but the men whom God is calling to the priesthood can find an even higher and more lasting success there—a heavenly reward. Let us support them wholeheartedly in this aspiration.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let each one of us devote ourselves with utmost fervor to serving God and cooperating with His great work of salvation in this world. Although He is almighty, He calls us to work alongside Him—not because He lacks anything in Himself, but because He wants to share with us the joy of bringing light into this dark world. He is calling us. Do you hear Him? How will you respond?

With fervent prayers for all of you and all our parishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**+JOSEPH**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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## **ST. JOHN MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL – 2022 PRE-ORDER FORM**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Spinach Pies (1 dozen)	\$ 48.00		
Grape Leaves – 1 large tray (approx. 180 leaves)	\$200.00		
Grape Leaves – 1 small tray (approx. 90 leaves)	\$100.00		
Baklava (1 dozen)	\$ 36.00		
Name:  Date Paid:			
ORDERS DUE TO RULA ADRANLY BY 9/11/22 <a href="mailto:rulaadranly@comcast.net">rulaadranly@comcast.net</a>			