

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الاثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church
Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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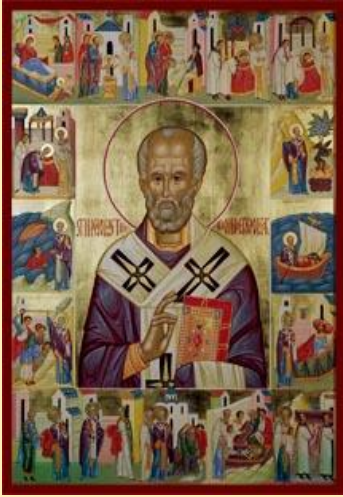
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, January 5th, 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR عام سعيد



This Sunday, January 5th 1 week memorial service for the Servant of God **Foad Ibrahim Mousa Ahwal** offered by his children: Ibrahim, Khalil, Marwan, Wedad Hala, Najwa, Randa, Susie and their families, and all the Ahwal families. May his memory be eternal!

The Funeral Service for the Servant of God **Edward Karkar** will take place Sunday, January 5th at 6:00 PM at St. Nicholas Church. May his memory be eternal!

Blessing of Water خدمة تكريس المياه

On Sunday, January 5th after the Divine Liturgy we will have the blessing of water service in celebration of the Feast of Epiphany (الغطاس) عيد الظهور الالهي
Sunday School Children are to stay in Church to observe the blessing of water.

House Blessing Starts on Monday, January 6th

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Monday, January 6th. You will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you would like to reschedule to another date, please call the office.

St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for his good. His mercy endures forever. TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

الرسالة: تيطس 2:11-14 و 3:4-7 يا ولدي تيطس، لقد ظهرت نعمة الله المخلص ل جميع الناس وهي تؤدبنا لننكر النفاق والشهوات العالمية فنحيا في الدهر الحاضر على مقتضى العقل والعدل والتقوى منتظرين الرجاء السعيد وظهور مجد إلهنا العظيم، ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح، الذي بذل نفسه لأجلنا ليفتدينا من كل إثم ويُطهر لنفسه شعبًا خاصًا، غيورًا على الأعمال الصالحة. فلما ظهر لطف الله مخلصنا ومحبه للناس، خلصنا هو لا لأعمال في البر عملناها نحن بل على مقتضى رحمته بغسل الميلاد الثاني وتجديد الروح القدس، الذي أفاضه علينا بسخاء بيسوع المسيح مخلصنا، حتى اذا تبررنا بنعمته نصير ورثة على حسب رجاء الحياة الأبدية .

The Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17 At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

الإنجيل: متى 3:13-17

في ذلك الزمان أقبل يسوع من الجليل الى الأردن الى يوحنا ليعتمد منه. فكان يوحنا يمانعه قائلاً: أنا محتاج أن أعتمد منك أو أنت تأتي اليّ؟ فأجابه يسوع قائلاً: دع الآن فهكذا ينبغي لنا أن نتمم كل برّ. حينئذ تركه. فلما اعتمد يسوع صعد للوقت من الماء واذا السموات قد انفتحت له فرأى روح الله نازلاً مثل حمامة وحالاً عليه. واذا صوت من السماء قائلاً: هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت.

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

باعتمادك يا رب في نهر الأردن، ظهرت السجدة للثالوث، فإن صوت الأب تقدم لك بالشهادة مسمىاً إياك ابناً محبوباً، والروح بهيئة حمامة يؤيد حقيقة الكلمة، فيا من ظهر وأنار العالم أيها المسيح الإله المجد لك

اليوم ظهرت للمسكونة، يا رب، ونورك أشرق علينا، نحن الذين نمدحك بمعرفة قائلين: لقد أتيت وظهرت، أيها النور الذي لا يدنى منه

قناديل الهيكل Altar Candles & Coffee Hour

- ◆ Nadim, Basma, Janan, Brandon, Jennifer and Matthew, Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Jamil Ahwal and Wadie Ahwal**. Many years!
- ◆ John and Trix Salih and family in loving memory of **Souraya Baker, Houda Wigan, Joseph Milano, Wadiah Maalouf and Salim Ashar**. May their memories be eternal!
- ◆ **Daoud and Farida Srouji** for their good health and the good health of **their family**. Many years!

Sponsors for Sunday's are needed. Please make checks payable St. Nicholas Church in the amount of \$25.00 or more.

Sunday, January 5th, Holy Bread of Oblation will be offered by:

- ◆ Maha, Alex, Christopher and Alexis Dabit in memory of **Rimon Dabit**. May his memory be eternal!
- ◆ Hanhan and Aho families in loving memory of **Basem Hanhan, Shukri & Wadia Hanhan, Nakleh Aho & Rimon Dabit**. May their memories be eternal!
- ◆ **Ellen Aho and family, Mimi, Chuck, Randy Hanhan & Families, Nadene and Nabil Msalam & family** for their good health and happiness. Many years!
- ◆ Saida Jaghab and children in loving memory of husband, father and grandfather **Basem Jaghab** (11 years) on January 1st. May his blessed memory be eternal!
- ◆ Lamis and Joe Bashir and family in loving memory of **Souraya Baker, Joseph Milano, Houda Wigan, Wadiah Maalouf and Salim Ashar**. May their memories be eternal!
- ◆ St. Nicholas Parish family expresses our condolences to **Widad and Fouad Juha** on the passing of Widad's sister Laila in Palestine.
- ◆ St. Nicholas Parish family expresses our condolences to Vera Khabbaz on the passing of her brother **Edward Karkar**. May his memory be eternal!
- ◆ St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health and speedy recovery of **Jamil Ahwal**. Many years!
- ◆ Offered in loving memory of **Tom Dudum**. May his memory be eternal!

Prayer for the Beginning of the New Year



O Master, Lord our God, the Source of life and immortality, the Author of all created things both visible and invisible, Who hast established all seasons and times by Thine own authority and dost direct all things with Thine all-wise and all-gracious providence: We thank Thee for Thy bounties, which Thou hast poured out upon us during our life that is past. And we entreat Thee, O all-bountiful Lord: Bless the crown of the New Year by Thy goodness. Bestow Thy good things from above upon all Thy people, as also health, salvation and good furtherance in all things. Deliver Thy Holy Church, this city and all cities and countryside from every evil assault, and vouchsafe unto them peace and tranquility; and grant that we may always offer thanksgiving unto Thee, the unoriginate Father, together with Thine only-begotten Son and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Parish General Assembly meeting on Sunday, January 26th, 2014.

**Date Changed for the Ladies Auxiliary meeting will take place on
Sunday, January 12th after the Divine Liturgy in the church**

الظهور الإلهي--- في البدء كان روحُ الله يُرْفرف على وجه المياه، وانتظم الروح على المياه بكلمة الله وكانت الخليقة (تكوين: الإصحاح الأول). هذه الخليقة الأولى كما أرادها الله عذراء عفيفة بلا عيب. ثم كان السقوط وطرده الانسان من الجنة، ومعه أصبحت الأرض تُنبت شوكتاً وحسكاً (تكوين ٣: ١٨). ومن بعد السقوط أصبحت الخليقة بحاجة الى تجديد، فجاء الأب ثانية بكلمته الخلاقة ليقول: “هذا هو ابني الحبيب”. في البدء قال الله: “ليكن نور فكان نور” (تكوين ١: ٣). وفي المسيح يسوع كلمة الله المتجسد، كانت الحياة من جديد مع الله في فردوس مستعاد. كان النور الحقيقي الذي ينيّر كل انسان والذي به أُعطي الانسان ثانية سلطاناً أن يصير ابناً للعليّ (يوحنا ١: ١-١٨). في المعمودية يسوع جاء الروح القدس يُرْفرف من جديد على وجه مياه الاردن ليصنع الكون الجديد بالمعمودية وبالإيمان بالإنجيل. كان مظهر الله الحق في هذا الحبيب الذي تجسد. في الظهور يتجلّى الله لنا أباً وابتناً وروحاً قدساً بعد أن ظهر طفلاً في بيت لحم. ان الذي وُلد من أحشاء البتول ظهر لنا مخلصاً، محوراً للكون، بل كان الكون فيه خليفة جديدة، مسكن الله مع الناس.

في الظهور الإلهي نحن نقول شيئاً أساسياً وهو أن الله ظهر في الجسد وان أجساد المؤمنين الذين يقفون في الكنيسة وبقيمون القداس الإلهي ليست ككل الأجساد التي خارج الكنيسة. الجسد المعمّد ليس ككل الأجساد لأن الله قائم فيه. الإنسان المسيحي واع بأن معاً أنه من تراب وأنه من ضياء، وأن التراب فيه يتحوّل الى ضياء. نحن لا نتغنّى بالله. نحن إلهنا قائم فينا، في عيوننا، في لحمنا، في عظامنا. نحن نأكل الله أكلاً، ونشرب دمه شرباً.

المعمودية التي لنا بالروح القدس تجعلنا نُقيم جسراً بين كل شيء والمسيح. كل شيء جميل في هذا العالم، كل شيء طاهر وجليل، كل حقيقة في هذه الدنيا، كل خلجة حلوة في قلوب الناس، كل ومضة فرح في عيونهم، كل هذا مصدره المسيح يسوع. إن أحببنا كل حقيقة في الكون وكل بهاء فيه، فنحن بذلك نحيا في المسيح يسوع لأننا نُقرّ أنها منه تجيء، وأنها منه تتخذ معناها. المسيحيون موحدون لأنهم يربطون كل شيء بالإله الواحد الظاهر في الابن. كيف يكون هذا؟ هذا ممكن اذا عدنا لشهادة يوحنا المعمدان القائل: “هذا هو حَمَلُ الله الرافع خطايا العالم”.

هذا الكلام يعني لنا اليوم اننا نؤمن أن الله ليس ذلك البطاش المستأثر بالسماء والأرض، ليس ذلك الذي يسود ليستعبد الناس. انه تنازل حتى الناس، حتى الموت، موت الصليب. في الصليب والقيامة، انسكب روح الله على الخليقة من جديد ينبوعاً متدفقاً يغمر هذا العالم. اي عندما سكن الله في الناس وانسكبت حياته من أجلهم على الصليب، تدفّق روح الله من جديد على المسكونة. نحن نصطبغ بماء المعمودية لكي نتقبّل عطية الله هذه. في المسيح يسوع، بقوة الروح القدس، نكسر الجسم الترابي فينا لكي ندخل كل شيء الى المسيح ولا يبقى من تمييز بين المسيح والدنيا لأن المسيح وحده هو الدنيا. في المعمودية يولد المسيح فينا طفلاً وعلينا أن نسعى لكي ينمو فينا ويكبر الى ملء قامته. في المعمودية ينال الانسان بدء الحياة الروحية، ينال بذار الخلاص وعليه ان يُنمي هذا البذار، أن يسقيه، أن يتعهده، أن يبقى على معمودية مستمرة كأن الكنيسة تُعمّده كل يوم. أن نصطبغ بالروح القدس يعني أن نكون مثل ابن الله حملانا الله، حملانا متواضعين، مقدّمين ذواتنا باللطف والوداعة من أجل الآخرين. اذا استطعنا أن نتنازل، أن نحب، أن نبذل النفس والحياة من أجل الإخوة، من أجل الناس جميعاً، نكون قد أدبنا مثل يوحنا الصابغ شهادة للمسيح. نشير اليه بحياتنا قائلين: “هذا هو حَمَلُ الله” فيراه من هم حولنا ويُقبلون اليه تائبين.

جاور جيوس مطران جبيل والبترون وما يليهما (جبل لبنان)

Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ January 6

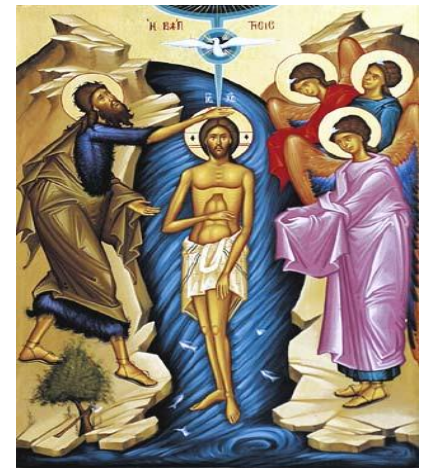
Introduction-The Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on January 6. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the Feast is Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

Biblical Story-The Biblical story of the Baptism of Christ is recorded in all four of the Gospels: Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-9, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:31-34.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father. Christ’s baptism in the Jordan was “theophany,” a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord’s public ministry. It was also a “theophany” in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father’s testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son. The theme of “manifestation” or “revelation” is also expressed in Scripture with the symbolism of light. In the hymn of the Feast we sing, “Christ has appeared and enlightened the world.” Thus, January 6 is also known as the Feast of Lights. The Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.

Icon of the feast -- The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist (1) who is dressed in camel’s hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism



1. Saint John the Baptist conducts the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (detail).
2. The Heavens open, the voice of the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Christ



In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him (2). At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father



3. Angels of the Lord gathered on the shore of the Jordan River give praises to Christ (detail).
4. An angel of the Lord receives Christ as He comes out of the water (detail).



On the right side of the icon angels are shown with their heads bowed in reverence to Christ (3). They are prepared to receive Him as He comes out of the water (4).

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