

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

5200 Diamond Hts. Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website:stnicholas-sf.com

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

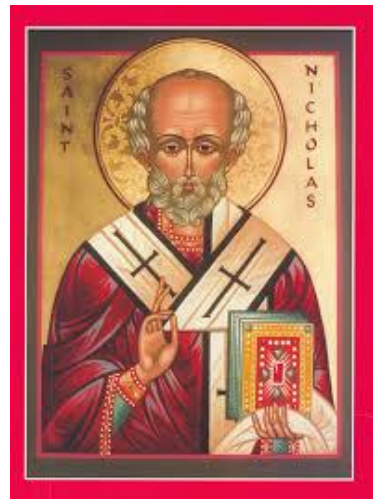
(586) 214-4428- revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Rev. Deacon **Niphon Sweiss**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Parish Council Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, December 14th, 2014

This Sunday Dec 14th, One- Year Memorial Service for the servant of God

Fouad Ahwal (Abu Ibrahim) offered by his family.

May his memory be eternal!

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to AZAR family on the passing of **Elias Nakleh Azar** in Lod / Palestine, and **Hanna Nikola Azar** in Amman/ Jordan. May their memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11) Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

الرسالة: كولوسي 3:4-11

يا إخوة، متى ظهر المسيح الذي هو حياتنا فانتم ايضا تُظهرون حينئذ معه في المجد. فأميتوا أعضاءكم التي على الأرض: الزنى والنجاسة والهوى والشهوة الرديئة والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن، لأنه لأجل هذه يأتي غضب الله على أبناء العصيان، وفي هذه انتم ايضا سلكتم حيناً إذ كنتم عانثين فيها. اما الآن فانتم ايضا اطرحووا الكل: الغضب والسخط والخبث والتجديف والكلام القبيح من افواهكم. ولا يكذب بعضكم بعضاً بل اخلعوا الانسان العتيق مع أعماله والبسوا الانسان الجديد الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي، لا ختان ولا قلف، لا بربري ولا اسكيثي، لا عبد ولا حر، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

THE GOSPEL St. Luke. (14:16-24) The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

الإنجيل: لوقا 14:16-24 قال الرب هذا المثل: انسان صنع عشاء عظيما ودعا كثيرين فأرسل عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين: تعالوا فان كل شيء قد أُعدّ. فطفق كلهم، واحد فواحد، يستعفون. فقال له الأول: قد اشتريتُ حقلا ولا بد لي ان أخرج وأنظره، فأسألك ان تعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد اشتريتُ خمسة فدادين بقر وانا ماض لأجرّبها، فأسألك ان تعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد تزوجتُ امرأة فلذلك لا أستطيع ان أجيء. فأتى العبد وأخبر سيّده بذلك. فحينئذ غضب رب البيت وقال لعبده: اخرج سريعا الى شوارع المدينة وأزقتها، وأدخل المساكين والجدع والعميان والعرج الى ههنا. فقال العبد: يا سيد قد قُضي ما أمرتُ به، ويبقى ايضا محلّ. فقال السيد للعبد: اخرج الى الطرق والأسيجة واضطررهم الى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي. فاني اقول لكم انه لا يدق عشاى احد من اولئك الرجال المدعوين، لأن المدعوين كثيرين والمختارين قليلين.

Holy Bread offered by:

- Jarjura family in loving memory of **George Jarjura**. May his memory be eternal!
- Rimon and Sana Jada for the good health of **Antoinette Khoury**. Many years!
- Maha Dabit and family in loving memory of husband and father **Rimon Dabit** May his memory be eternal!
- Rossete Saba and family in loving memory of **George Nicola Saba (Son) and Nicola George Saba (Husband)**. May their memories be eternal!
- St. Nicholas Church family in loving memory of **Elias Nakleh Azar**, and **Hanna Nikola Azar**. May their memories be eternal!

Alter Candles offered by:

- Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell. Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Jimmie Howell** on the occasion of his birthday Dec 17th. Happy birthday. And for the speedy recovery of **Jamil Howell**. Many years!

Coffee hour offered by:

Nader Dahdah for the good health of his family. Many Years!

Upcoming Events:



→ **Christmas Party: Dec 20th** we will have a Christmas party at our Banquet Hall with the famous singers Suhail Bashour and Nader Zaki. Ticket \$75 per person. To buy tickets please contact:

Sana Jada : (650) 255-1380, Maurice Kari : (650) 455-1600.



→ **Christmas Play:** To all Sunday school's parents and students! Please attend the practice for Christmas play at church hall **EVERY Sunday** until the Christmas play on **Dec 21st**.



→ **Sunday December 21st:** Ladies will be offering a Christmas Bake Sale after the Divine Liturgy.

→ **Young Adult Winter Retreat** The Fellowship of St. John the Divine will be hosting their second annual Young Adult Winter Retreat in Big Bear, CA from January 16-18, 2015. The retreat is very inexpensive so that young adults from all over the diocese can attend. Join young adults from across the diocese for a weekend of prayer, fellowship, and fun! The speakers will be Mother Victoria from St. Barbara Monastery & Fr. David Sommer. \$50/\$75 w/ Lift Ticket. More information and registration can be found on the website www.dlawayoungadults.com. Or contact **Tariq Rantisi : (650) 290-3492**.

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→ **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday January.31.2015**

*By the grace of God, we invite you to prayerfully participate in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Enthronement Gala Celebration of*

**HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH  
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5:00 PM Great Vespers Service  
6:00 PM Cocktail Reception  
7:30 PM Dinner and Program

Please note there will be a Youth and Young Adult Brunch with Metropolitan JOSEPH on Saturday 11:00 AM and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy beginning with Orthros on Sunday 9:15 AM Both of these events will take place at St. Nicholas Cathedral 2300 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Adult Tickets are \$185.00 per person  
Young Adult Ticket 18-30: \$100 (includes the Youth and Young Adult Brunch Saturday Morning)  
Child's Ticket (up to 17 years): \$75 (includes the Youth and Young Adult Brunch Saturday Morning)  
To order tickets online or place an ad in the program book  
visit: <http://antiochianladiocese.org/enthronementgala.html>

To purchase by check, kindly remit check or money order payable to St. Nicholas Cathedral to:  
Anna Nasser | St. Luke Orthodox Church | 13261 Dunklee Avenue | Garden Grove, CA 92840  
Phone: [714-971-2244](tel:714-971-2244) Deadline for Reservations is January 15, 2015

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✉ **Note: Our dear beloved ones in Christ:** You can help in spreading the word of God by providing us the email addresses of the members of your family and your friends who do not receive our bulletin via email. Please send their emails to: info@stnicholas-sf.com.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: Bridal Feast (Luke 14:16-24):

How often have we heard today's parable about those people who were called to the Bridal Feast of the King, and who refused to come. The one who had acquired a plot of land; he thought he was in possession of it; in reality, he was so attached to it that he could not detach himself from it: he was a prisoner of what he thought he possessed. And so it is with whatever we imagine we possess; it is enough for us to have the smallest thing in our hand - and this hand is alienated to us; we cannot use it anymore, we cannot use our arm, our whole body is conditioned by what we possess, or imagine we possess: we are held a prisoner by it. Others refused to come because they had bought five pairs of oxen: they had to try them, they had a task to fulfil, they had work to do, they had perhaps what they believed to be a mission in life, and therefore they had no time for anything except that that was their personal concern.

And the last refused to come because his heart was full of his own joy; having married, how could he be concerned with anyone else's marriage? He was full of his own joy - how could he participate in anyone else's joy? And so, they all turned away from the call. Doesn't it apply very directly to us? Each of us possesses something that he deems so important that he is prepared to turn away from God - yes, from God: there is no time for prayer, there is no time for worship. At the same time we turn away from other people who need us because we are busy with our own business? And how often happens that we are full of joy or of sorrow - but they are our own, we hug them to our heart, we have no time for anyone else's sorrow or anyone else's joy. But then, what should we do? You hear every Sunday in the Liturgy words that say, 'Let us lay aside all the cares of this life'; does it mean that we must turn away from the earth on which we live, from the tasks which are ours, from the joys and true sorrows that come our way? No!

But there is an answer to it perhaps in the lines that precede the reading from the Epistle which we heard today, where we are told: Are you risen with Christ? Are you where He is? Is your life hid in God with Christ? What does it really mean to us? It means that if we are dead with the death of Christ to everything which is destructive of love, destructive of compassion, which is self-centredness, which is self-love, which leaves no space for anyone but ourselves - if we are dead to all this, and if we have accepted life on Christ's terms, ready to live for others, live for God, live for the joy and life of those who surround us - then we are risen with Christ, and our life is indeed hid with Christ in God, it is at the very depth of God, at the very depth of divine love! And then we can turn to the earth; then, instead of possessing we can serve, instead of overpowering we can try to bring this earth of ours, in an act of love, in an act of reverence to be free, to be God's earth, to be able to bring fruit, not as it does being raped, being violently possessed by us, but giving us its fruit in an act of responsive love. And the same applies to our tasks; we are called to serve, we are called to make of all our life an act of concern, of love, of service - then, all that we do becomes an act of God, then it becomes meaningful and it does not separate us from God.

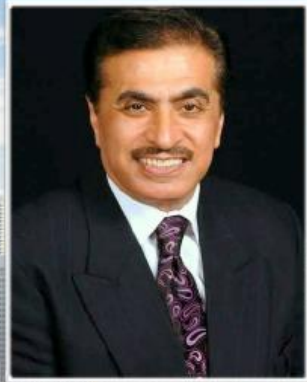
And if joy has come into our heart, it is a gift of God; if sorrow has come into our heart, we can carry it to God, for it to be integrated in the mystery of salvation!

Let us reflect on this! Let us truly lay aside all the cares of this life in the sense that let us not be prisoners, but free: Christ has come to set us free. And then the earth, and our labour, and our joys, and our sorrows and everyone on earth will become part of the Kingdom of God. Then indeed, our life will be hid with Christ in God, but a God Who have chosen so to love the world as to be incarnate, to

become man among men, to take upon Himself all the human destiny, createdness, life in a fallen world, the consequences of human sin, and even the loss of God which is what kills. And, having accepted it all in an act of saving and redeeming love, He has risen, and anyone can enter into eternal life, the life of the resurrection by uniting himself or herself to Christ.



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