

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

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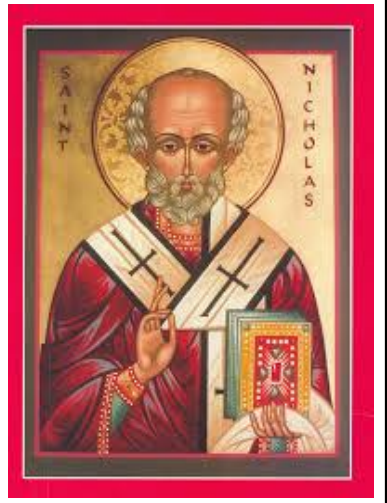
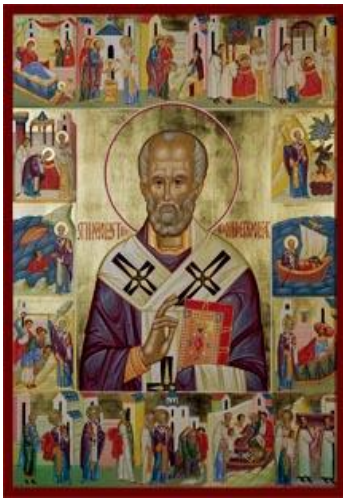
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

*Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare) (أحد الديونة (أحد مرفع اللحم)*

This Sunday (One-Year) Memorial Service for the servant of God

**Touma Saleem Haddad** offered by his

Wife: Sara Haddad

Sons: Raid, Majed, Eid, George and Jad.

Daughters: Basma, Taghreed, Khetam, Majida, and Raida. May his memory be eternal!



**THE EPISTLE: the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)** Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

الرسالة: 1 كورنثوس 8:8-9:2 يا إخوة ان الطعام لا يُقربنا إلى الله، لأننا إن أكلنا لا نزيد وإن لم نأكل لا ننقص. ولكن انظروا أن لا يكون سلطانكم هذا معثرة للضعفاء، لأنه إن رآك أحد، يا من له العلم، متكئا في بيت الأوثان، أفلا يتقوى ضميره وهو ضعيف على أكل ذبائح الأوثان، فيهلك بسبب علمك الأخ الضعيف الذي مات المسيح لأجله. وهكذا إذ تُخطنون إلى الإخوة وتجرحون ضمائرهم وهي ضعيفة انما تُخطنون إلى المسيح. فذلك إن كان الطعام يُشككُ أخي فلا أكل لحما إلى الأبد لنلا أشككُ أخي. ألسنتُ انا رسولا؟ ألسنتُ انا حرا؟ أما رأيتُ يسوع المسيح ربنا؟ ألسنتُ انا عملي في الرب؟ وإن لم أكن رسولا إلى آخرين فإنني رسول إليك، لأن خاتم رسالتي هو أنتم في الرب.

**THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (25:31-46)** The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**الإنجيل: متى 25:31-46** قال الرب: متى جاء ابنُ البشر في مجده وجميع الملائكة القديسين معه، فحينئذ يجلس على عرش مجده، وتُجمع إليه كل الأمم، فيُميَّز بعضهم من بعض كما يميَّز الراعي الخراف من الجداء، ويُقيم الخراف عن يمينه والجداء عن يساره. حينئذ يقول الملك للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا يا مباركي أبي رثوا الملك المُعدَّ لكم منذ إنشَاء العالم لأنني جُعتُ فأطعمتموني وعطشْتُ فسقيتموني وكنْتُ غريبا فأويتموني وعريانا فكسوتموني ومريضا فعدتموني ومحبوسا فأتيتم إليّ. حينئذ يجيبه الصديقون قائلين: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعا فأطعمناك او عطشانَ فسقيناك، ومتى رأيناك غريبا فأويناك او عريانا فكسوناك، ومتى رأيناك مريضا او محبوسا فأتينا اليك؟ فيجيب الملك ويقول لهم: الحق أقول لكم بما انكم فعلتم ذلك بأحد إخوتي هؤلاء الصغار فبني فعلتموه. حينئذ يقول أيضا للذين عن يساره: اذهبوا عني يا ملاعين إلى النار الأبدية المُعدة لإبليس وملائكته، لأنني جعتُ فلم تُطعموني وعطشْتُ فلم تسقوني وكنْتُ غريبا فلم تؤووني وعريانا فلم تكسوني ومريضا ومحبوسا فلم تزوروني. حينئذ يجيبونه هم أيضا قائلين: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعا او عطشانَ او غريبا او عريانا او مريضا او محبوسا ولم نخدمك؟ حينئذ يجيبهم قائلا: الحق أقول لكم بما انكم لم تفعلوا ذلك بأحد هؤلاء الصغار فبني لم تفعلوه. فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب الأبدي، والصديقون إلى الحياة الأبدية.

### ***Holy Bread of oblation offered by:***

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Nora Hanhan, Tanya Hashwa Shami, Fr. Athanasius Bitar, Rose-Jada Khnouf, Dr. Elias Dabeet, Maritsa Wahhab, Khader Keileh, Violet Rantisi, Rose Asfour, Norma Shiheiber. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ Khader and Basima Atwan and family in (Two-year) remembrance of **Issam Jaghab** May his memory be eternal!

### ***Alter Candles offered by:***

- ❖ Laila, Yousef, Souzan, Saida, and Suha Louh, in loving memory of Elias **Louh**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Salameh and Nina Azar for the good health and speed recovery of our brother **Basem Theodory** in Jordan. May god grant him many years!
- ❖ Jarjura family in loving memory of **George and Najla Jarjura**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Inam Shami and her family in loving memory of husband **Salim Shami**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer Brandon, and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Nadim and Basma Howell** on the occasion of their 56<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Many Years!
- ❖ Hayat Shiheber in loving memory of her husband **Ibrahim Shiheiber**. May his memory be eternal!

## **Announcements:**

# **MARCH IS LADIES' MONTH**

In keeping with the tradition in our Archdiocese, ladies will show their involvement in the life of the church in the most visible way during the month of March.

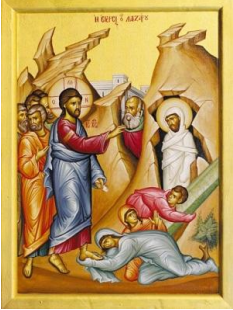
They will usher, collect trays, read the Epistle and deliver sermonette...

*Our ladies Auxiliary usually prepare a Lenten Luncheon on Sundays. This year they are asking of your help by Donating or preparing food for that purpose.*

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Sermonette: Sana Jada , Epistle Readers Arabic: Salwa Shnoudi**

# Meat Fare Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by:  
**Costa and Julia Tannous. Rodi and Janet Baqleh. Elias and Rogette Bazouzi.**  
 Many Thanks. God Bless you and your families



**Saturday of the Dead:** March 5<sup>th</sup> is Saturday of the Dead. On Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> a General memorial Service "For All Those Who Have Fallen Asleep since the Ages" will take place. We will remember in particular all our departed ones who has fallen asleep in this year

**سبت الأموات** هو يوم السبت 5 اذار: سنقيم يوم الاحد 6 اذار تذكارا عاما لجميع الراقدين منذ الدهر من ابائنا واخوتنا على رجاء القيامة والحياة الابدية. نذكر بشكل خاص احياءنا الذين سبقونا الى الحياة الابدية جميع الذين سبق انتقالهم منذ بداية هذا العام.

## Family Night

St. Nicholas Church will have a Family Night on **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Sponserd by Abdallah & Clemence Shami and the Shami family. May God bless you and your families. Donation: \$20 adults, \$10 kids.

2016 Great Lent Period	
(March 14 <sup>th</sup> – May 1 <sup>st</sup> , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish)	
Sunday March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)
Sunday March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
<b>Monday March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Monday of Great Lent</b>
Sunday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday of Orthodoxy
Friday March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Annunciation of the Theotokos (Only Fish Allowed)
Sunday April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday of the Holy Cross
Sunday April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday (Only Fish Allowed)
Friday April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Great and Holy Friday
Sunday May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Great and Holy Pascha

2016 GREAT LENT SCHEDULE			جدول الصوم الكبير ٢٠١٦		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm	٧ مساء	خدمة صلاة النوم الكبرى " يا رب القوات "	الأربعاء
Fridays	Akathist Service	7 pm	٧ مساء	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	10 am	١٠ صباحاً	قداس باسيليوس الكبير الإلهي	الأحد

## ***Bouquets To Icon Event:***

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon where floral designers will present an array of arrangements inspired by beautiful icons.

In creating these arrangements, the designers pay tribute and draw their inspiration from the selected icons.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016, 11:00 AM.**

Donation \$55.00 per person

All proceeds benefit the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute. Complete details are on the attached flyer or contact Marilyn Habeeb, mhabeeb692@gmail.com, or [650-692-1966](tel:650-692-1966).

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### **Meatfare Sunday – About the Last Judgement V. Rev. Ihor Kutash**

**“When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, the whole world will tremble.”**

Last Sunday we were much comforted by the our Lord’s wonderful revelation that our Heavenly Father so graciously and lovingly awaits the return of prodigals and welcomes them with great joy in His Kingdom.

Today our Lord gives us another perspective on the Father’s Love, which might initially make Him appear to be less than loving but rather implacable and vengeful. We read of that terrible division of the goats from the sheep, that is of the wicked from the just. It does not take very much thought, however, to note that this judgement is in fact solidly based upon the supremacy of love. We will note that those who are sent away to “everlasting punishment” are so banished because they failed to be loving to those around them who were in need – and also that the Lord calls these needy ones His brethren and accounts the good that is done to them as being done to Himself. This is amazing love indeed! Ah, but what about the poor folks who seem to have realized their grievous error only when it was so sternly pointed out to them at the Last Judgement. Surely a merciful God would forgive them since they apparently did not know what they were doing?

It is important at this point to clear up a misunderstanding about Hell. Many have been revolted at the thought of a God Who would exact eternal punishment for deeds that were done in time and not in eternity.

Archbishop Lazar (Puhalo) offers this corrective: “That fire which is spoken of at the Last Judgment represents the love of God, and we are taught that it is the radiance of God's love which both warms and radiates and gives joy to the faithful, and burns and torments the wicked.” In other words the hell experienced by those who have estranged themselves from God by failing to be loving is one that they make themselves – it is their response to the very love and light that gives the blessed ones joy and gladness. Archbishop Lazar writes: “Those persons who in this life preferred ‘darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil,’ will in the next life, after the resurrection, find no such darkness, but will not be able to hide from that light which they hated in this life. There, bathed in the everlasting light of God's love, which they rejected but cannot now escape, their conscience, which is like a never-dying worm, will torment them, and the passions they loved and heaped upon themselves in this life will be as serpents round about them.” When we see the Icon of the Last Judgement we ought indeed to tremble and realize that we ourselves are in danger of living forever in those tormenting flames. But this would not be because God truly desires us to be there. It would be because we have chosen – so consistently as to make it a true choice on our part – to be there. St. Anthony of Egypt wrote: “God is good, and He bestows only blessings, and never harm, but remains always the same. If we humans, however, remain good by means of resembling Him, we are united to Him, but if we become evil by losing our resemblance to God, we are separated from Him.” There is the separation – brought about by our own refusal to be loving. But we can heed this message and change, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Who continually works for our salvation. Then, as St. Anthony says: “If through prayer and acts of compassionate love, we gain freedom from our sins, this does not mean that we have won God over and made Him change, but rather that by means of our actions and turning to God, we have been healed of our wickedness, and returned to the enjoyment of God's goodness. To say that God turns away from the sinful is like saying that sun hides itself from the blind.”

Let us then prepare for the fast by avoiding meat from sundown today, together with all our Orthodox brethren throughout the world since this is Meatfare Sunday. But above all let us seek, by all means possible, to be a blessing to others, reflecting the wonderful, reckless, unshakeable love of God.

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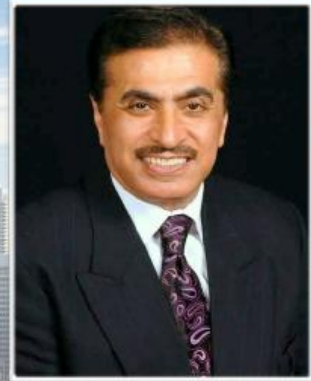


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