

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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Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar

Sunday, October 30th, 2016

This Sunday (9th & 40-Days) Memorial Service for the Servant of God
Nabeel Dabai offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He Who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

الرسالة: بولس الرسول

يا إخوة قد علم الله أبو ربنا يسوع المسيح المبارك إلى الأبد أنني لا أكذب كان بدمشق الحاكم تحت إمرة الملك الحارث يحرس مدينة دمشقيين ليقبض عليّ فدأيت من كوة في زنبيل من السور ونجوت من يديه إنه لا يوافقني أن افتخر فأتي إلى رؤى الرب وإعلانيته إنني أعرف إنساناً في المسيح منذ أربع عشرة سنة (أفي الجسد لست أعلم أم خارج الجسد لست أعلم، الله يعلم) اختطف إلى السماء الثالثة واعرف أن هذا الإنسان (أفي الجسد أم خارج الجسد لست أعلم الله يعلم) اختطف إلى الفردوس وسمع كلمات سرية لا يحل لإنسان أن ينطق بها فمن جهة هذا افتخر، وأما من جهة نفسي فلا افتخر إلا بأوهاني فإني لو أردت الإفتخار لم أكن جاهلاً لأنني أقول الحق، لكنني أتحاشى لنلا يظن بي أحد فوق ما يراني عليه أو يسمعه مني ولئلا استكبر بفرط الإعلانات أعطيت شوكة في الجسد ملاك الشيطان ليلطمني لنلا استكبر ولهذا طلبت إلى الرب ثلاث مرات أن تفارقني فقال لي تكفيك نعمتي لأن قوتي في الضعف تكمل فبكل سرور افتخر بالحري بأوهاني لتستقر في قوة المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (16:19-31) The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

الانجيل : لوقا قال الرب كان انسان غني يلبس الأرجوان والبر ويتنعم كل يوم تنعماً فاجراً وكان مسكين اسمه لعازر مطروحاً عند بابه مُصاباً بالفروح وكان يشتهي أن يسبغ من الفتات الذي يسقط من مائدة الغني. بل كانت الكلاب تأتي وتلحس فروجه ثم مات المسكين فنقلته الملائكة إلى حوض إبراهيم. ومات الغني أيضاً فدفن فرفع عينيه في الجحيم وهو في العذاب فرأى إبراهيم من بعيد ولعازر في حوضه فنادى قائلاً يا أبت إبراهيم ارحمني وأرسل لعازر ليغمس طرف أصبعه في الماء ويبرد لساني لأنني مُعذب في هذا اللهب فقال إبراهيم تذكّر يا ابني أنك نلت خيراتك في حياتك ولعازر كذلك بلاياه. والآن فهو يتعزى وأنت تتعذب وعلاوة على هذا كله فبيننا وبينكم هوة عظيمة قد أثبتت حتى إن الذين يريدون أن يجتازوا من هنا إليكم لا يستطيعون ولا الذين هناك أن يعبروا إلينا فقال أسألك إذن يا أبت أن ترسله إلى بيت أبي فإن لي خمسة اخوة حتى يشهد لهم لكي لا يأتوا هم أيضاً إلى موضع العذاب هذا فقال له إبراهيم إن عندهم موسى والأنبياء فليسمعوا منهم قال لا يا أبت إبراهيم بل إذا مضى إليهم واحد من الأموات يتوبون فقال له إن لم يسمعوا من موسى والأنبياء فإنهم ولا إن قام واحد من الأموات يُصدّقونه

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Louise Habeeb LaFevre, Isam Rantisi, Mary Elhaj, Lena Fadoul Batshon, Rola Rantisi Hanhan . Many Years!

Alter Candle offered by:

- ❖ Gladys Maalouf and her children in loving memory (Two-Years) of **Fadi Maalouf**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ St. Nicholas Parish Family for the good health of all who are named; Demetrios and Mitry after Saint Great-Martyr **DEMETRIOS the Myrrh-Streamer** (October 26th) on the occasion of their Name's Day! Happy Name's Day and Many years!

Upcoming Events:

❖ **ORTHODOXY IN THE VINEYARD - YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

Meet and hangout with Orthodox Christian Young Adults from all over in Napa, CA at a Young Adult Fall Retreat - Hosted by the Young Adult Ministry within the Antiochian Diocese of Los Angeles and the West. We've planned a day of spiritual discussion lead by Jacob Saylor - Youth Directory at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. The day will include time at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA (just outside of Napa), lunch, wine tasting at the local vineyard and dinner. Our topic will be focused on "In the world, but not of the world - How to be an Orthodox Christian in a materialistic and sometimes superficial world." 21+ Young Adult Event. **Date: Saturday, November 5, 2016. Time: 8:30am - 7:30pm.**

Cost: \$50 Per Person (includes Lunch, Wine Tasting and Dinner)

More information and registration can be found on website www.dlawyoungadults.com.

Please if you have any questions or if you need any more information, contact:

Charlie John Kassaseya [858-761-1720](tel:858-761-1720)



Fashion Show “A Walk on My Shoes”

St. Nicholas Annual Fashion Show will be held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Nicholas Banquet Hall @ 1:30pm

Donation: Adult \$50, Children (12 year and under) \$20.

❖ **Family Night:** Friday, November 18th we will have a family night at St. Nicholas Banquet hall sponsored by **Rantisi families**. More info to follow...]

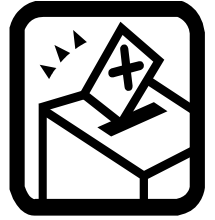
❖ **Parish Council Election December 11th after the Divine Liturgy**

On Sunday, December 11th, there will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the coming term. Three are to be elected and one to be appointed by the Pastor.

Anyone interested in serving or nominating someone to serve on the Parish Council must be fully pledged and spiritually qualified.

Please submit your candidate's name to the pastor by Dec 4th.

In order to vote in the elections, members must be in spiritual and financial good standing with the church.



❖ **Christmas Party:** St. Nicholas Church Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 17th, 2016. More info to follow...

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

As every of Christ's parables of the judgement today's parable has got a very simple aspect and at the same time should be reflected on a deeper level.

The simple aspect is this: you have had on earth all that was good, Lazarus has had nothing; he therefore receives in eternity all the goods which he has lacked on earth and you are deprived of it. But this is not the real and deeper meaning of it.

Who is this rich man? It is a man who not only possessed all that the earth could give him: wealth, a good name, a status among his fellow-citizens; it is a man who craved for nothing else. All he wanted, all he needed was material wealth, a good standing among men, reverence, admiration, a slavish obedience of those who were under him.

Lazarus possessed nothing; but from the parable we see that he did not complain, he received what the rich man needed not; he ate the crumbs from his table. But — he had a living soul; perhaps did he crave for more: who doesn't want to have a roof, who doesn't want to have the security of food? But he received what was given with gratitude.

And when they died, what did they take with them? The rich man had nothing to take because he had never had any concern for anything that the earth couldn't give. Lazarus had always longed for more than the earth could give: for justice, for peace, for love, for compassion, for human brotherhood — for all those things which make the human being human. The rich man was in condition which is described in one of the prophecies: Israel has grown fat with wealth and has forgotten God... The poor man could do no such thing; he was too poor to be rooted into the earth — he was free.

Now, this applies to all of us; because all of us we possess within ourselves both the rich man and Lazarus. On the one hand, how much we have, how rich we are, how secure, how opulent. On the other hand, if we are here, it means that there is another dimension within our soul that longs for something else. But the question is to be asked: if we had to choose — what we would choose? What is what we really treasure? Is it security which the earth so far has given us — or is it the vastness, the depth of understanding, communion with God, love of our neighbour, compassion — so many other things which the Gospel has taught us?

And this is where the parable refers not only to two men of the past, or to others than we are, it refers to us personally: who am I, — or if you prefer, which is more fair — who predominates in me? Am I more like the rich man, so rooted into the earth that the things of God, the things of the spirit, the things of eternity, or simply, what is truly human comes secondly — or am I one of those for whom what to be human matters more than anything?

And then, there is another thing in the parable. The rich man, seeing himself devoid of all, of everything turns to Abraham and says, Send Lazarus to my brothers who are still on earth to give them a warning that they may not come to this place of torment... And Christ says, Even if one came back from the dead, if they have not listened to what has been revealed in the past, they will not believe, they will perish in their sin...

How, that echoes in a tragic way with the situation in which people were when they stood as a milling crowd around the Cross on which Christ was dying. Some were believers, His own people — but where were they? They had fled. Some were His disciples faithful at the core of their being, faithful with their hearts, the women who had followed Him — they stood at a distance; only the Mother of God and John stood by the Cross.

But in the crowd there were such who, together with the High Priest, the Pharisees who had condemned Christ, were saying: Descend now from the Cross — and we shall believe... How many thought: If He only did that, we could believe without taking any risk, believe with security, safely; believe and follow One Who had already won His victory; but can we, can we possibly believe and follow One Who now, defeated, reviled, rejected hangs on the Cross between two criminals? We can't...

That is what the parable says; and which is shown in the life of so many.

Where do we stand? Are we prepared to believe Christ's word? Are we prepared, captured by the beauty, the ineffable, the unutterable beauty of Christ's personality to follow Him at all risk? And risk, we know, is great: we will be reviled, we will be laughed at, we will be strangers, people will think that we are tramps on earth, not that we are pilgrims of Heaven; but are we prepared to do this?

We must give thought to these two aspects of the parable; because otherwise it is irrelevant, it has nothing to do with us — and yet, so much it has!

Let us think of it, deeply, standing judgement before it. God does not judge us in order to condemn. God presents us with reality and asks of us only one thing: Respond to reality! Do not accept a world which is a mirage! Do not accept yourself while you remain a mirage: be real, and then you will be children of the Kingdom.

And what can be greater: brothers and sisters of Christ, sons and daughters of the Living God; and messengers — messengers of God on earth. Can we hope for anything greater? And yet — this is what is offered to each and all of us! What a wonder, what a joy! How can we turn away from this? Amen.

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