

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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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, February 5th 2017

Memorial Services This Sunday:

✠ (9th-Day) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Naimeh Rantisi** offered by her family.

✠ (40-Day) Memorial Service for the servant of God **Ishaq Qaqish**, and (5-Year) memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Margerette Qaqish** offered by their family.

✠ (Six-Month) Memorial Service for the servant of God **Issa Al-Masri**
(Father of Farid Al-Masri and Lana Saoud).

✠ Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Adel Saoud** offered by St. Nicholas Church.
May their memory be eternal!



House Blessing Visit Schedule

The Church office has been making phone calls to schedule for Fr. George Baalbaki visitation for house blessings. If you have not received any phone call yet, and would like to schedule a visit, please call the church office or Fr. George and let us know your availability. Thanks.

THE EPISTLE: the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الرسالة: ٢ تيموثاوس ٣ : ١٠-١٥

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، إنك قد استقرت تعليمي وسيرتي وقصدي وإيماني وأناتي ومحبتتي وصبري واضطهاداتي وآلامي، وما أصابني في أنطاكية وإيقونية ولسترة، وأية اضطهادات احتملت وقد أنقذني الرب من جميعها، وجميع الذين يريدون أن يعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيح يسوع يُضطهدون. أما الأشرار والمغفون من الناس فيزدادون شرًا مُضِلِّين ومُضَلِّين. فاستمر أنت على ما تعلمته وأيقنت به، عالمًا مِمَّنْ تعلمت، وأنت منذ الطفولية تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة أن تُصيرك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:10-14) The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨: ١٠-١٤

قال الرب هذا المثل: إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فريسي والآخر عشار. فكان الفريسي واقفا يصلي في نفسه هكذا: «اللهم إني أشكرك لأني لست كسائر الناس الخطفة الظالمين الفاسقين ولا مثل هذا العشار، فإني أصوم في الأسبوع مرتين، وأعشر كل ما هو لي». أما العشار فوقف عن بُعد ولم يرد أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء، بل كان يقرع صدره قائلا: «اللهم ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». أقول لكم إن هذا نزل إلى بيته مبررا دون ذلك، لأن كل من رفع نفسه اتضع، ومن وضع نفسه ارتفع.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Saida Jaghab, Isam Rantisi, Rabi Haddad, Johnny Khoury, Maher Hanani. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ Farid Al-Masri and Lana Saoud in loving memory of their father Issa Al-Masri, Uncles: Elias, Suleiman Al-Masri and Nicola, Yousef, Issa, Tanas Attallah, Aunt Vera Al-Masri, and Jamileh Shibib, Grands: Farid Al-Masri and Assaad Attallah, Nasibah Iseid Al-Masri and Stelyani Kiriazi Attallah. May their memory be eternal!

Alter Candles offered by:

- ❖ Margerett and Amjad Qaqish and family in loving memory of **Ishaq and Margerett Qaqish**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Angel Salfiti for the good health of her children and grandchildren. Many Years! And in loving memory of **Costandi, Elain and Elias Salfiti**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Michael Rantisi & family in loving memory of **Naieema Rantisi**. May Her Memory be eternal!
- ❖ Saida Jaghab for the continued good health of her children and grandchildren. Many Years!

Coffee hour offered by:

- ❖ Radi and Janet Baqleh for the good health of their children and grandchildren. May God grant them many years!



Sunday Luncheon: Please join us this Sunday after the service we will have a delicious luncheon: (Sfieha and Zaatar/ صفيحة و مناقيش زعتر) for the benefit of the charity.



- ❖ Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held this Sunday after the Service.

Three Holy Youths Camp: June 19th – June 23rd 2017

Registration for camp begins...

January 15-February 15th Early Bird Registration \$250.00

February 16th- May 1st Registration \$300.00

A deposit must be made to your local parish registration officer of \$50.00 to hold your campers spots.

Payments must be completed by May 1st 2017.

Physical Registration sheets will be at your local parish as well as online @ norcaldeanerycamp.org >

Registration > Media Consent Form.

Medical Forms must be completed at your parish in person.

For more info, please contact Ilyan Baalbaki : (586) 604-5331.

Save the Date: Valentine's Party: St. Nicholas Church Annual Valentine party will take place on February 11th 2017.

*St Nicholas church presents
Valentines Party
Feb 11th
With Super star
Wisam habib
Band led by Maestro
Radwan Shakhashier
Maza and fancy dinner will be served at 9 pm
Open Bar Top Shelf
Tickets \$100 per person
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Mowrice kari 650-455-1600
Elias Batshon 650-580-7185
Sana Jada 650-255-1380
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PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

On our journey towards Lent, and beyond Lent towards Easter, we come to a series of parables which must prepare us to our journey through Lent. And today's parable speaks to us of the pharisee and of the publican.

The publican came into the church knowing that he has no right to be there. In what sense? The church is a small place on earth which is totally dedicated to God, which belongs to God alone, in which God has a right to live, into which we come to meet Him, and no-one else. O, of course, everyone else, but only together with Him. And the publican stood by the door knowing that he is a stranger and that his only hope lay in the fact that God loves. He had said in the Old Testament, 'Child, give Me thy heart — all the rest belongs to Me'.

So, we can come and give our heart to God, and only then can we walk into this sacred ground.

The pharisee lived according to rules; he thought, he felt that he did everything that was expected of him according to the Law, he had rights before God; he had a right to be in God's realm, he was one of His people. And therefore, looking round he could compare others who in his eyes were not worthy of the same.

Let us reflect on ourselves; when we come to church: are we aware that it is a realm into which we can come only if our heart has been given to God, and if our heart has become His dwelling place? And also, if we have tried, however hard, however honestly to live according to the Gospel, can we say 'I am worthy', can I say 'I have a right to be here'? No, it is only love that can give us a right; it is only our love, mutual, and our love to God that can allow us to enter into this sacred realm. And when we come, let us stop one moment by the door, and think, 'This realm is sacred; it is God's dwelling place; let me enter into it with all my heart;' turn to God and say, 'Lord, I am unworthy, and yet, I am loved; I am impure, and yet I can love Thee, O Lord, and the people around me. Imperfectly, but this is the only ground on which I can stand here'.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

ارحمني أنا الخاطيء

اقتبست الكنيسة هذا المثل من إنجيل لوقا لثدخنا في موسم التوبة. حكى يسوع عن فريسيي، والفريسيون جماعة كانت تفتخر بمحبتها لله وكانت تستكبر. جاء يسوع ليضرب المستكبرين ولو كانوا طاهرين. الكبرياء تُلغي كل طهارة. استكبر الفريسي على العشار. أنت لا تدعي التقوى بل تعتبر نفسك دنسًا حتى آخر رفق من حياتك. لا تقدر أبدًا أن تعتبر نفسك قديسًا. الله يرى القديسين.

لا تقدر ان تفتخر بشيء أبدًا لأنك إن عملت صالحًا فهذا من الله، من نعمته، ليس لك فضل. الشيء المتروك لنا هو أن نقول «اللهم ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». ما من قديس ارتفع أبدًا إلى مرتبة القداسة لأنه ظنّ انه شيء. كل قديس يعتبر نفسه آخر الناس. لا تقدر ان تفتخر، لأن هذا من الله، النعمة جعلتك قديسًا.

لا تقدر ان تقول لله: أنا بنيت كنائس ومستشفيات وعلمت الأيتام. أنت تقول لله: انني لست شيئًا، وتحسّ انك لا شيء. إن كنت واعيًا روحياً، تعتبر نفسك خاطئًا. القديسون كانوا يعتبرون أنفسهم خطأة. «ارحمني أنا الخاطيء» هي الكلمة الوحيدة التي نقدر أن نقولها لله. عندما تعتبر نفسك تائبًا، تصير شيئًا. الله يرفعك. الله صديق المتواضعين، ولا يحب المتكبرين.

يقول كثيرون انهم من عائلة شريفة وتقيّة. ما هذا! الله يعرف القلوب والكلّي، «فاحص القلوب والكلّي» بعدل. وأنت لا تعرف شيئًا. تعرف شيئًا واحداً أنك خاطيء. الشيء الوحيد الواضح في حياتنا أن نعرف اننا خطأة.

كنت أسمع دائمًا في المجتمعات الأرثوذكسية: اننا جيّدون وصالحون. يفتخر الناس لأنهم سخفاء، غير محبّين لله ولا يعرفون خطاياهم. «ارحمنا نحن الخطأة» هو الشيء الوحيد الذي نعرفه.

إذا دخلنا في موسم التوبة لا بد لنا ان ننظر إلى سقطاتنا وذنسنا ونعرف اننا آخر الناس. من لا يعرف نفسه انه آخر الناس يحتاج إلى خطي عظيمة حتى يقرب الى المسيح. سنعمّق توبتنا ونُدرك أننا خاطئون. هذا هو الأمر الوحيد الذي نعرفه عن أنفسنا: اننا خطأة.

وهكذا نسير إلى التوبة. ما معنى التوبة؟ التوبة هي الرجوع. التوبة ان نترك الخطايا التي نحن غارقون فيها. عرفت في حياتي خطأة يحبّون خطاياهم. الزاني يحب الزنى كثيرا. الكاذب يحب الكذب كثيرا. كل إنسان يحب خطيئته. بعض الناس يتوبون. عسى ان نتوب جميعًا بالعمق. هل وقف أحد منكم قبل ان ينام وقال لله: «أنا لست شيئًا، أنا تافه»؟ إن لم تصلوا إلى هذا الحدّ وتفكروا هكذا، تكونون ما زلتم بعيدين. إذا لمحتم أن عندكم شيئًا جيّدًا، قولوا: ربُّنا أعطاني إياه.

التوبة الحقيقية بالعمق ان تكون عينك شاخصتين إلى يسوع في كل حين، لا ترى غيره، ولا تعرف غيره، ولا تحب غيره. إذا وصلنا إلى هذه الدرجة، إلى أن نُسلم أنفسنا إليه، أن لا نرى غيره في الوجود، نكون قد فهمنا كل شيء، ويكون الله أحبنا كثيرًا.

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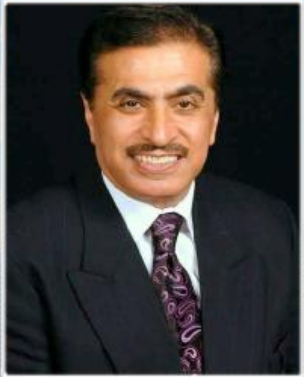


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