

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
Weekly Bulletin

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
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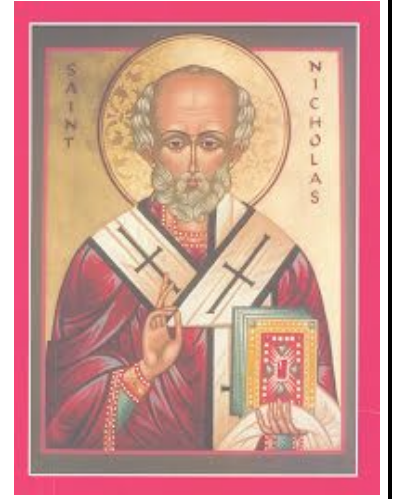
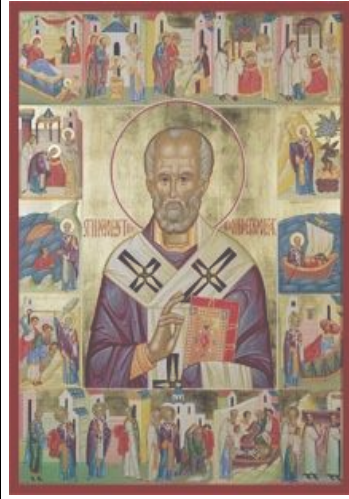
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Sunday, July 23rd, 2017

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me.” For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

الرسالة: رومية ١٥ : ١-٧

يا إخوة، يجب علينا نحن الأقوياء أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء ولا نرضي أنفسنا. فليُرض كل واحد منّا قريبه للخير لأجل البنين، فإنّ المسيح لم يرض نفسه، ولكن كما كُتِب: تعبيرات معيّريك وقعت عليّ، لأنّ كل ما كُتِب من قبل إنّما كُتِب لتعليمنا ليكون لنا الرجاء بالصبر وبتعزية الكتب. وليُعطكم إله الصبر والتعزية أن تكونوا متّقي الآراء في ما بينكم بحسب المسيح يسوع، حتّى إنكم بنفس واحدة وفم واحد تمجدون الله أبا ربنا يسوع المسيح. من أجل هذا فليتخذ بعضكم بعضًا كما اتّخذكم المسيح لمجد الله.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, “See that no one knows it.” But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

في ذلك الزمان، فيما يسوع مجتاز، تبعه أعميان يصيحان ويقولان: ارحمنا يا ابن داود. فلما دخل البيت دنا إليه الأعميان، فقال لهما يسوع: هل تؤمنان بأنّي أقدر على أن أفعل ذلك؟ فقالا له: نعم يا ربّ. حينئذ لمس عينيهما. فانتهرهما يسوع قائلاً: أنظرا، لا يعلم أحد. فلما خرجا شهراه في تلك الأرض كلّها. وبعد خروجهما قدّما إليه أخرجس به شيطان. فلما أخرج الشيطان تكلم الأخرس. فتعجب الجموع قائلين: لم يظهر قطّ مثل هذا في إسرائيل. أمّا الفرّيسيّون فقالوا: إنّه برئيس الشياطين يُخرج الشياطين. وكان يسوع يطوف المدن كلّها والقرى، يعلم في مجامعهم ويكرز ببشارة الملكوت ويشفي كلّ مرض وكلّ ضعف في الشعب.

Alter Candle offering

- ❖ *David and Farida Srouji for the good health of Farida and the family. Many years!*
- ❖ *Jarjura family in loving memory of their beloved mother Najla Jarjura. May her memory be eternal!*
- ❖ *Sue Wais and family in loving memory of their Father Khalil Fareed Tannous on the occasion of his 14 year memorial. May his memory be eternal! Also, for the good health of mother Jeanette Tannous, husband Don Wais, and children Jeanette, Jason, Anthony, Khalil, and Dylan Yoshida.*

Holy Bread of Oblation:

- ❖ *By Sub-Deacon Michel, Zachary, and Gregory Khoury, for the good health of Judy Khoury on the occasion of her birthday on July 21st. Many Years!*
- ❖ *For the good health of those who are celebrating the great feast of St. Elijah the prophet, especially: Elias Batshon, Elias Bazouzi, Elias Haggar, Elias Hanhan, Dr. Elias Hanna, Elias Jadelrab, Elias Jildeh, Elias Katout, Elias Nasrah, Elias Akram Nasser, Elias Wajdi Nasser, Elias Qura, Elias Shaheen, Elias Tannous, Elias Khoury, Elias Tawfiq Hanhan, and Elei Hana and in loving memory of: Elias Shatara, Elias Dayeh, Elia Saoud, and Elias Louh.*

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

- ❖ **2017 Antiochian Archdiocese Convention** will be held on **July 23-30, 2017** hosted by St. George Cathedral. Florida. For more info, visit: <http://ac2017miami.org/>
- ❖ **Save the date: August 20th, 2017. Ladies Auxiliary Outing.** Mandaloun Restaurant: 2021 Broadway St., Redwood City. Everybody is welcome! Mezza and dinner. Star singer **Fadi** will be performing. Please reserve by calling **Gladys Maalouf @ 415-832-0316.**
- ❖ **Save the date: September 30th & October 1st:** St. Nicholas church Annual Food Festival...
- ❖ **Save the date: October 22nd, 2017 Ball Dance Contest:** We are having our first Ball Dance Contest on October 22nd and we need young men and young women to participate. For further information please call **Gladys Maalouf @ 4158320316.**

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh:

We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak

In his Epistle to the Romans (15:1-7) St. Paul calls all Christians to be the strength and the support of those who are weak. St. Paul says to each of us and to all the Christian community: You who are strong support those who are weak.

This must make us ponder. Are we to be called strong as contrasted with anyone else? Don't we realize, each of us, how frail and how weak we are? Don't we feel that, whatever desire we have to be God's own people, we have no strength and no power to achieve our human and our Christian vocation? And at this point we must remember another saying of St. Paul; he too felt that he was weak, that he did not possess all the strength he needed to fulfill his apostolate, and he prayed the Lord to give him strength. The Lord answered him and said: My strength makes itself manifest in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). And St. Paul, having understood what that meant, exclaims: So I shall glory in nothing but my weakness, because then all will be an act of God.

But this weakness is not cowardice, timidity, sloth, laziness: everything that could be called inertia and that prevents us from doing those things which we believe to be right, which our heart longs for, which our mind understands to be the best, the holiest, and yet which our will is incapable of bringing into operation. It is a different weakness; rather the awareness that we cannot achieve the greatness to which we are called unless God helps us. Because we are all called to be the sons and the daughters of the Most High, to be God's own children; indeed, by adoption, but once adopted, to be as completely and perfectly God's children as the Only-begotten Son of God was the Son of God.

But what does it mean that we should support, help, uphold those who are weak? Perhaps we can find the beginning of an answer in today's Gospel (Matthew 9:27-35). Christ was confronted with the blind man. He gave him sight. We are surrounded by people who are blind вЂ” not physically, but in so many ways, people who need to acquire a vision and sight which would allow them to grow to the full measure of their stature and to be truly happy. Not in the superficial sense of enjoying the good things of life that leave us all hungry and full of longing, but with another happiness.

What are the things to which we can open the eyes of others? First of all, make people around us see how great they are, how important they are to God. Each of us was not only willed, but loved into existence by God. Each of us means so much to God that He gave His Only-begotten Son for our salvation: all His Life, His Passion and His Death. This is what each of us, all human beings in the world, mean to God. This is what so few realise вЂ” that they are infinitely precious, with the infinity of God. Also, that there is in them this hunger, and the hunger is too great for the things of this created world to satisfy. Only God can fill them; but in order to see God, have we not heard, Sunday after Sunday, read time and again, the words of Christ вЂ” Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God? So we must call every person around us to venerate, to reverence his own purity and to fight for the purity of his mind, the purity of his heart, the purity of his life, so that becoming gradually less opaque, then translucent, then perfectly transparent, the mind and the heart of man can perceive God.

At this point, everyone can turn to us and say "Physician, heal thyself." And indeed we can help others only if we ourselves struggle and strive to be great with the purity that allows us to

set God, with the greatness of God, of the Only-begotten Son become the Son of men. There are many other things which we may discover which are forms of blindness in us and in others. Whenever we discover them, we must help others to discern them, because even if we ourselves are not truly capable of being what we should be, at our words others may achieve what we are too slack or too weak, to do.

And so it is also with the man who was deprived of speech. How many, how many are speechless before the greatness of God and the beauty of their own selves? There is no way of discovering who and what God is unless we discover holiness and beauty in us. A Russian preacher said once "When God looks at us He does not see the virtues or the achievements which are not there; He sees the eternal beauty which He has implanted in each of us."

This is our message to every person, and this is the message of every person to us: reverence, love, fulfill this beauty, become great! And then we will have done what St. Paul calls us to do in today's Epistle: we will have supported those who are frail and weak, not with our strength, but with the strength of God, because all things are possible in the Spirit of God that upholds us.

هل نحن عميان؟

يُسْتَهْلَ إنجيل اليوم بقول متى إن يسوع فيما كان مجتازاً تبعه أعميان ودخلا البيت معه. هذا درس لنا. هل نفثس عن يسوع؟ هل نتبعه؟ هل أقمنا علاقة حميمية معه كذلك التي يقيمها العاشق والمعشوق؟ هذه هي المسيحية. ليست المسيحية أن نضيء شمعة فقط. هذا رمز وتكريم للأيقونة وللقديس. لكن، هذا كله تعبير. الأصل والأعمق هو أن نُقيم علاقة مع السيد.

أن نقرّ أو لا بأننا عميان، بأننا لا نبصر، بأننا لم ننزل إلى أعماق الإنجيل، لم نأكل الإنجيل. قال الله لحزقيال النبي: خذ هذا الكتاب وكله. هل أخذنا كل كلمة من هذا الكتاب وابتلعناها لنكون مثلها حتى يعترف يسوع بنا. هل أنت مسيحي فعلياً؟ هل أقررت بأنك غير مبصر؟ وبأنك تحتاج إلى نور يضعه يسوع في عينيك حتى تبصر خطاياك أو لا؟ من يعترف بخطاياها؟ من يقرّ بأنه بالحقيقة كذاب؟ أو بأنه يحتال أو يرتكب هذا أو ذاك من الأمور؟

لا يستطيع أحد أن يقرّ بخطاياها إن لم يقابل فكره وأفعاله على الإنجيل. عندما يدخل الإنجيل قلبك يترك السيئات التي كانت في القلب، يكشفها، يفضحها.

هذه قصتنا مع الإنجيل، إن كل إنسان منا يُفضح وينتصب أمام الله عارياً، خجلاً، يطلب إليه أن ينقيه، وأن يجعله الشيء الآخر في إنجيل اليوم أن يسوع شفى أخرس وهي حاسة أخرى. هذا الذي لا ينطق لأن شيئاً يحول دون نطقه. يسوع يجعله يتكلم، أي ينكشف ويتصل بالآخرين بمحبة. وبعد هذا يقول الكتاب إن السيد كان يعلم، يبشر بالملكوت وكان يشفي كل مرض وسقم في الشعب.

الأمر المهم أن نلتمس من السيد أن يشفي أمراضنا الروحية. هل تعلمون أن أي مرض جسدي أقل سوءاً من كذبة يرتكبها إنسان، أو من احتيال، أو من بغض أو من ضغينة؟ المطلوب منا، بالأقل، أن نقنع بأن الخطيئة شرٌّ ومؤذية للنفس، ومُطخة للقلب البشري. السيد لا يسكن هذا القلب، لا يستطيع أن يسكن الخطيئة ولذلك لا بد من طردها.

إن أردنا أن تشتعل قلوبنا بالحب الإلهي علينا أن نتبع يسوع. هو يدعونا إلى أن ننقل من الديانة السطحية إلى ديانة عميقة أي إلى محبته، ومعرفته والإخلاص له بحيث نتلأأ.

إذا أردنا أن نستضيء بنور يسوع نحن بحاجة إلى معرفة وإلى بحث وإلى توبة لنرجع إلى السيد، ونتمكّن من الاتكاء على صدره، وأن نسمع نبضات قلبه حتى يبوح لنا بكلمات تخصّ كل واحد منا، ونناجيه كما يناجي الحبيب الحبيب.

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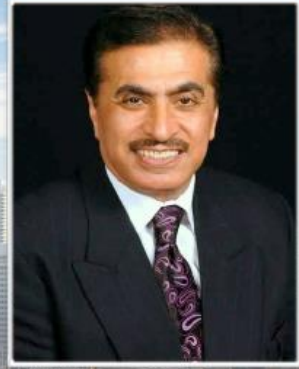


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