

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
Weekly Bulletin

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
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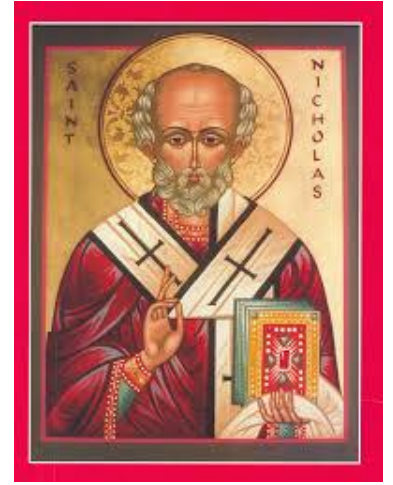
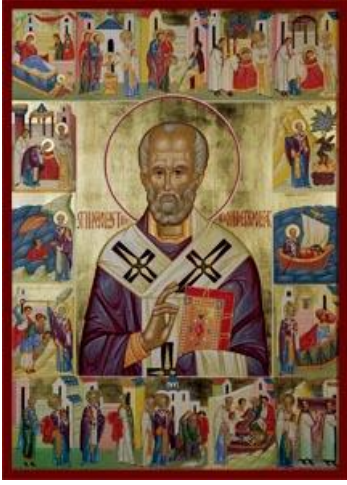
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, October 15, 2017

Sunday of Holy Fathers of Seventh Ecumenical Council



Memorial Service:

This Sunday:

- ❖ One Year memorial service for the Handmaiden of God **Widad Jadallah** offered by her family. **May her memory be eternal!**



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة: تيطس ٣: ٨-١٥

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تُقرّر، حتّى يهتمّ الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة. فهذه هي الأعمال الحسنة والنافعة. أمّا المباحثات الهدائية والأنساب والخصومات والمماحكات الناموسية فاجتنبها، فإنّها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة، بعد الإنذار مرّة وأخرى، أعرض عنه، عالمًا أنّ من هو كذلك قد اعتسف وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه. ومتى أرسلتُ إليك أرتيماس أو تيخيكوس فبادرْ إليّ أن تأتي إليّ إلى نيكوبوليس لأنّي قد عزمْتُ على أن أشتي هناك. أمّا زيناس مُعلم الناموس وأبّوس فاجتهد في تشبيعهما متأهّبين لئلا يُعوزهما شيء. وليتعلّم ذورنا أن يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية حتّى لا يكونوا غير مثمرين. يُسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلّم على الذين يُحبّوننا في الإيمان. النعمة معكم أجمعين.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand."

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

الإنجيل: لوقا ٨: ٥-١٥

قال الربّ هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليزرع زرعه، وفيما هو يزرع سقط بعض على الطريق فوطئ وأكلته طيور السماء. والبعض سقط على الصخر فلما نبت يبس لأنه لم تكن له رطوبة. وبعض سقط بين الشوك فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. وبعض سقط في الأرض الصالحة فلما نبت أثمر مئة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه: ما عسى أن يكون هذا المثل؟ فقال: لكم قد أعطي أن تعرفوا أسرار ملكوت الله. وأمّا الباقون فبأمثال كيلا ينظروا وهم ناظرون ولا يفهموا وهم سامعون. وهذا هو المثل: الزرع هو كلمة الله، والذين على الطريق هم الذين يسمعون ثم يأتي إبليس وينزع الكلمة من قلوبهم لئلا يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. والذين على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها بفرح ولكن ليس لهم أصل، وإنما يؤمنون إلى حين وفي وقت التجربة يرتدون. والذي سقط في الشوك هم الذين يسمعون ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذاتها، فلا يأتون بثمر. وأمّا الذي سقط في الأرض الجيدة فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيد صالح ويثمرون بالصبر. ولما قال هذا، نادى من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

Thank You!

Thank you to all for making our festival a success!

A big thank you to all who worked hard to prepare and plan this year's festival. Thank you to those who were very generous in donating financially or with items toward this event. Also, we wish to extend many thanks to our friends who supported us by attending this annual event. May God bless you all!

Take a look back at the festivities from our food festival here:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/stnicksf/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10155940396539994

Special thanks to the festival committee for the hard work, great job and for the time they invested towards the festival. God bless you and your families!

YOUTH MONTH & TEEN SOYO:

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

I bring to your attention that October in our Antiochian Archdiocese is "Youth Month". It is vital for our church to support our youth as someday many of them may serve in this church and this archdiocese as parishioners, officers, priests, seminarians and so on. During the month of October, we try our best to support and subsidize the proper education and atmosphere for our youth. On behalf of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church and Teen Soyo, and its officers., I (Ilyan Baalbaki) with V. Rev. Fr. George's blessing invite the youth in our church to take charge of positions this month!

We also would like to congratulate Mia Hanhan (President), Anna Aho (Vice President), Sophie Aho (Treasurer) Elia Saoud (Secretary), and Adrianna Saoud (Public Relations) in their new roles as Teen Soyo Officers. Not only will they be the role models for the upcoming youth in our

church, but they will help in establishing a better Teen Soyo for St. Nicholas, and will spearhead all Teen Soyo Projects.

We ask that you pray to St. Nicholas as an intercessor for them, and to guide them in the Lord's work.

Subdeacon Ilyan Baalbaki
Teen Soyo Director.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Attention Youth and Parents of our Youth! Are you in need of fulfilling community Service Hours, do you love working with children, thought about becoming a teacher and want to gain firsthand experience, or do you want to help spread the good word of Jesus Christ? Well then, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Saint Nicholas Church is now accepting teacher and teacher aid roles for our weekly Sunday School classes. Sunday School classes are typically 30 minutes to 60 minutes per week and should take an additional 30 to 60 minutes a week to prepare for.

Saint Nicholas will provide official documentation of your community service hours which will be good for anyone needing to fulfill community service hours for College/High School purposes. If interested, please contact the Church office at 415-648-5200.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **October 15th: YOUNG ADULTS meeting.** Directly after Sunday Church service.
- ❖ **October 22nd, 2017 @ 5:00 pm. St. Nicholas proudly presents: A Ballroom Dance Show:** Our first Ballroom Dance Show on October 22nd including: dinner, DJ, raffle, and contest by HAT. So ladies get out your best HAT and let's have some fun. Donation: \$50.00
For further information please contact **Gladys Maalouf @ 415-832-0316.**

Metropolitan JOSEPH Requests Prayers for Those Impacted by California Fires

Englewood, NJ — His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, along with all of the clergy and faithful of the Antiochian Archdiocese, is praying fervently for those being impacted by the wildfires raging in northern California. His Eminence has been in constant communication with Father George Baalbaki, the pastor of our parish of Saint Nicholas in San Francisco, who has been in contact with his own parishioners as well as the other parishes in the area. Father George was able to report that the faithful in the area are safe, but many have indeed been forced to evacuate and some have suffered property damage.

Sayidna JOSEPH notes: "We know that our Lord commanded a pillar of fire to protect his people and spoke to Moses from a bush that was burning but not consumed. I ask all of our faithful people to fervently beseech the very same Lord to extend his right hand from His holy dwelling place on high and speedily quench these fires through His divine might. On behalf of all of my brother hierarchs, our clergy, and laity, I offer our prayers and support to those who are being impacted. We will be with you."

Please continue to monitor Antiochian.org for updates as to how we can help those are suffering from these devastating wildfires.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by these recent fires and are seeking aid, please contact our Church office.

**Press Release from the Antiochian Orthodox Churches in Northern California
Deanery
October 11, 2017**

All Saints Church, Rohnert Park
St. Timothy Church, Fairfield
St. James Church, Modesto
St. Nicholas Church, San Francisco
Orthodox Church of the Redeemer, Los Altos Hills
St. John the Evangelist Church, Orinda
St. Stephen Church, Campbell
St. Gabriel Mission, Angels Camp
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Ben Lomond
St. Athanasius Church, Sacramento
Holy Virgin Mary Church, West Sacramento

“I cried out to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord. My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing.” Psalm 77:1-2

The communities of the Antiochian Orthodox Churches of the Northern California Deanery are shocked and saddened by the devastating fires that are raging in both Northern and Southern California. We pray for the victims and their families, and for the first responders who are bravely fighting to save lives and homes during these catastrophic events. At least 15 lives have been lost, many people are still missing and more than 2,000 homes and businesses have been destroyed by fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties.

We are reminded of our own tragedy when one of our churches, the Orthodox Church of Redeemer in Los Altos, was destroyed by arson on April 7, 2002. By the grace of God, and with the help of many in our Archdiocese and our local community, we have rebuilt our church for the glory of God. We stand with our fellow Californians who are suffering and offer our prayers as they seek to rebuild their homes and lives.

Our Antiochian Archdiocese under the leadership of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, is in touch with our parishes in the area offering support and prayers to those who are impacted.

We will continue to monitor the situation and offer our prayers in the coming days for calm weather, for the strength and perseverance of the emergency crews, and for comfort and refuge for everyone who has been affected by this disaster.

The Orthodox Church of the Redeemer (380 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos CA., 94024) will be hosting a candlelight prayer service at 7:00 PM this Friday (October 13th.) for those who are affected by this crisis. All are welcomed).

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: The Parable of the Sower

How familiar, and how simple seems to us, appears to us today's parable of the seed and of the sower; and yet, how relevant it is to us, and how much more thought we should give to it. We forget the setting itself of the parable, the imagery of the sower and the seed, and we don't see in it an image of Christ, walking along the roads and the paths of Galilee and Judea; and everywhere He went, people came to the roadside because they have heard, as the Blind Man have heard of whom Saint Marc reports, that He was a Teacher, that His words were true, that they had in them a power of life.

And people came, and lined the roads, and lined the streets, and listened. Some were prepared for the message; some have been in an agony of mind, have been asking themselves questions which hitherto no one have been able to answer. But others came, as so many people come now to a preacher, to an evangelist, to a leader of any side, came to see a man of whom one spoke, and to listen to what he had to say. He was not answering any of their questions, He was not meeting any of their needs, except perhaps the desire to see someone that was outstanding, someone unique in his time. They heard the word, but it fell at their ears, they find it beautiful, lovely, true - but it did not go beyond this. They were listening to words, they were not listening to the cry of their own soul that was hungry for words of truth.

And so, when He had passed, they all returned to what was their ordinary, their normal life. They might have gone home and repeated these words, saying, Wasn't it lovely? Didn't He speak well? - and then they went back to what was life, ordinary life, day-to-day life...

Others, who had come to the roadside, received the message with emotion, it stirred something in their hearts, something in their minds, it answered something in them. And they received it and hugged it to themselves, and returned home; but the moment they were no longer by the road, at home, the concerns of home overwhelmed them: there was so much to do, so much to think about, there was so much in life, there was no time to reflect again and again on the words heard, there was no time to sit quietly and to look in imagination at the face they had seen, to rehearse the voice they have heard.

We have another parable about those who have been called to the Bridal Feast of the King: they heard a call, they knew they were called personally - but could they go? The one had bought a field, he was rooted in it, tied to it, a prisoner of it; others have bought five pairs of oxen - they had to try them, they had something to do in life, a vocation, a job, something great - or something simply that matters supremely in a personal way, as the last one: he had taken a bride - how could he spend time for anyone else?

Those are the people who receive the word, who receive it truly, in their heart, but there are so many things that matter - tomorrow will do, or, if we only could reduce the message to something liveable, simple, not to the absoluteness of it!

And then, those who receive the message, like the rich soil that could receive the message, receive a seed and bear fruit. Those people were not simply better people, they probably were not better people; they were people who had a question in their mind and heart, people who had a longing, people for whom their daily life was too narrow, too small, people who were aware that their soul was deep, and vast and could not be filled with the trivialities - or even the noble, the good things of life: they received the message, they took it to heart, deep into them, and they bore fruit because it was answering a need.

Now, we can apply it to ourselves: how many of us listen to the words of the Gospel, listen to the words of preaching, read books that are full of interest and depth, and they store it in their memory, they enjoy it - but that is the end; they can quote it, they can pass it on to others, - but that is all.

And there are so many of us who have received the message with enthusiasm, with passion, knowing that this message is an answer to all there is in us of longing, of hunger, of greatness, indeed; but then, life is so complex, there is so much to do! And in all this doing, in all this complexity the words is left aside - for another time, for another day, when I will be old enough not to have any concerns: then I can turn back to this glorious moment when life unfolded itself in all its splendour - I keep it in my memory!

What about us, receiving the message and bearing fruit?

But how does this message reach us? I remember a Russian priest saying to me, I read the Gospel daily, and I respond to it very seldom. But I read it daily because I never know whether today, or tomorrow, or on another day I will be the barren roadside, or the weeds by the way, or, of a sudden, whether this word will not fall on a small patch in me which is capable of receiving it and bearing fruit.

Isn't that simple, isn't that encouraging? We all are the three things described in the parable of the Gospel; but if we give a chance to God Who speaks, to God, Who passes through our life, to God Who knocks at our heart - from time to time we will receive the message with joy and let go of it; but from time to time it will reach a depth in our heart, a core of our life and be the answer that will change it.

Let us therefore listen, listen to the words of the Gospel day in and day out; listen to the voice of our conscience, listen to what the deepest self says to us about life, about truth, about reality; and from time to time we will have been the good ground that can bear fruit.

This parable, so simple, so clear, if we only apply it, can be a beginning of a new life

الآباء

نعيد اليوم لأباء المجمع المسكوني السابع (٧٨٧) الذي حدّد إكرام الأيقونات. تُبرز لنا الأيقونات أناساً صاروا بالمسيح جُددًا. نلاحظ أنّ الأيقونة تُظهر القديس كأنه ليس من لحم ودم. فإنّه تخطى الوجود الجسديّ الدنيويّ ليكون جالسًا على مراتب النور في السماويات، ومنها يطلّ علينا إنسانًا جديدًا. كلّ همّ أبائنا أن نصبح خلائق جديدة لا علاقة لها بلحم ودم، أو بيئة أو زمان مضى كأننا مخلوقون اليوم.

قال الرسول بولس: «ليس لكم آباء كثيرون فإنّي أنا ولدتكم بالمسيح يسوع بالإنجيل» (١ كورنثوس ٤: ١٥). كلّ منّا يأتي من رجل وامرأة. هذا بدء ولكننا لا نقف عند هذا الحدّ. بعد أن ولدتنا أمهاتنا عبيدًا انطلقنا إلى حرّية المسيح. كلّ إنسان يسعى إلى أن يكون مسيحيًا. المسيحيّ مشروع. عمّد لكي يسعى طوال حياته إلى أن يصير مسيحيًا. ولكنه لم يكتمل ولو بالحياة الأبدية، لأننا في السماء نتكامل معًا، نصير معًا كنيسة مجيدة للمسيح. المسيح يلقي علينا وشاح نور ونصبح نورانيين بهذا الوشاح المُلقى علينا.

لكن على الأرض ماذا يحدث لنا بعد أن صرنا مشروع بشر بالمعمودية؟ يأتي أناس في الكنيسة ويجددوننا بالمسيح يسوع. هم جُددوا، صاروا أحرارًا، قطعوا كلّ صلة بينهم وبين هذا الجسد، بينهم وبين أنانية هذا العالم وسيطرته وعبوديته، وصاروا غير مدينين لشهوة من شهواتهم أو شهوات الناس. صار الروح القدس يحركهم ولا تحركهم عصبية القرية أو البلد أو الطائفة أو الحزب. يهبّ الروح فيهم والسماء تحركهم. الإنسان السماويّ هجين مُستعرب مُستقبح مردول لأنّه تذكير لأهل الأرض بأنهم دُعوا إلى أن يصبحوا سماويين وهم على الأرض يتحركون.

أهل السماء، المؤمنون الكبار يكرههم أهل الأرض. أهل الأرض الذين لا يزالون مرتبطين بالتراب، بأغراض العالم، بخديعة الشهوة، هؤلاء يكرهون السماء وليس بينهم وبين أبناء النور من شركة.

وبسبب هذا الظلام المسيطر في الدنيا، أقام الله في الكنيسة آباء قادرين على أن يكونوا أولادًا لله الأب. هناك من يقطع صلة البشر باللحم والدم ليقوم صلة جديدة بين هؤلاء والربّ. الله يقيم لنفسه عائلة هي الكنيسة، وليست العائلة البشرية المكوّنة من رجل وامرأة وأولاد. لا أقصد بذلك كلّ المنتسبين إلى المسيح بالمعمودية، لكنّي أقصد من وعى نفسه من جديد عضوًا لجسد المسيح، جزءًا من المسيح.

أن لنا أن نعرف بأننا وُلدنا ونولد في كنيسة المسيح، وفيها نصبح أناسًا جُددًا بسبب أننا نتبع يسوع وجعلنا للسيد أخوة وللابّ بنين.

جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون



You are cordially invited to wear
Your big fancy head piece or Hat
And join us for the

BALL DANCE CONTEST

+++++

Sunday, October 22nd @ 5:00 PM

+++++

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Elegant Lunch will be served



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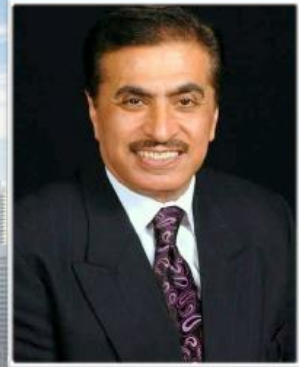


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