

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

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
5200 Diamond Hts. Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131
Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website:stnicholas-sf.com

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Memorial Service:

❖ **November 26th:** One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Fuad Hanhan** offered by his family.
May his memory be eternal!

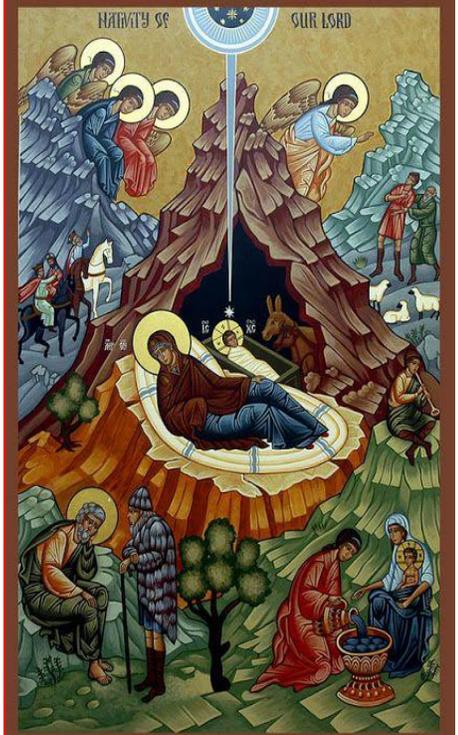


NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 25th We would like to wish you a happy Advent season!

Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period proceeding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality and the preparation for the feast of the advent of our Lord on December 25th.

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحباء:
كل عام وأنتم بألف خير.

في كنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد هذا العام الأربعاء الواقع فيه ١٥ تشرين الثاني، وسيستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول.
وهذا الصوم لا يوجد فيه "صوم انقطاعي". أي لا يوجد صوم للساعة ١٢:٠٠، فهو صوم خفيف. أي نستطيع أن نتناول وجبة افطار صباحا، من مواد صيامية.
وفي ٢٥ كانون الأول سنحتفل بعيد "الميلاد" الذي فيه أتى ابن الله إلى العالم ليدلنا على طريق الخلاص، الطريق إلى الله الأب.
صوم مبارك



الرسالة: أفسس ٢: ١٤-٢٢

يا إخوة، إن المسيح هو سلامنا، هو جعل الاثنين واحداً ونقض في جسده حائط السياج الحاجز أي العداوة، وأبطل ناموس الوصايا في فرائضه ليخلق الاثنين في نفسه إنساناً واحداً جديداً بإجرائه السلام، ويصالح كليهما في جسد واحد مع الله في الصليب بقتله العداوة في نفسه، فجاء وبشركم بالسلام، البعيدين منكم والقريبين، لأن به لنا كلينا التوصل إلى الأب في روح واحد. فلستم غرباء بعد ونزلاء بل مواطني القديسين وأهل بيت الله، وقد بُنيتم على أساس الرسل والأنبياء، وحجر الزاوية هو يسوع المسيح نفسه، الذي به يُنسَق البنيان كله فينمو هيكلاً مقدساً في الرب، وفيه أنتم أيضاً تُبْنَوْنَ معاً مسكناً لله في الروح.

THE EPISTLE: Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٢: ١٦-٢١

قال الربّ هذا المثل: إنسان غنيّ أخصبت أرضه ففكر في نفسه قائلاً: ماذا أصنع فإنّه ليس لي موضع أخزن فيه أثماري. ثمّ قال: أصنع هذا. أهدم أهراي وأبني أكبر منها وأجمع هناك كلّ غلاتي وخيراتي. وأقول لنفسي: يا نفس إنّ لك خيرات كثيرة موضوعة لسنين كثيرة، فاستريح وكلي واشربي وافرحي. فقال له الله: يا جاهل، في هذه الليلة تُطلب نفسك منك. فهذه التي أعددتها لمن تكون؟ فهكذا من يدخر لنفسه ولا يستغني بالله. ولمّا قال هذا نادى: من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ By **Hanneh Fashho** for the good health of sons **Khader and Hanna Fashho, George Mousa Hanhan, Jeries and Peter Tannous, and George Knouf**. For the celebration of Eid Mar Jeries on November 15th. God bless and Many years!

Congratulations:

- ❖ And best wishes to **Raied & Evelyn Azar** for the arrival of their daughter **Sophie**.
 - ❖ And best wishes to **Nasri & Christine Samara** for the baptism of their daughter **Raya**.
 - ❖ And best wishes to **Omar & Rana Azar** for the churching of their son **Andrew**.
- God Bless and Many Years!

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **TEEN SOYO BOWLING NIGHT:** Friday November 17th, 2017. @ 7:00 PM. Astro Bowl in Pacifica. 4625 Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacifica, CA 94044. Rides are available. Donation: 10\$. To RSVP Contact Ilyan Baalbaki.
- ❖ **FAMILY NIGHT:** Saturday November 18th, 2017. Sponsored by the Rantisi Families. Join us for a beautiful evening filled with spiritual benefits, Arabic Music, and a wonderful and delicious dinner.

Doors at: 7:00 PM

Performance by: **MURAD BISHARA**

Donation: Adults \$25, Children \$10 for twelve and under.

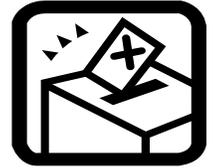
❖ **BURBARA:** December 3rd: Delicious “Burbara” Pudding will be served after Liturgy donated by Diana Batshon in memory of her Husband **Michel Batshon**. May his memory be eternal! Many thanks to Diana. May God bless you and your family.

❖ **St. Nicholas Great Feast:**

Wednesday December 6th Celebrating the great Feast of St. Nicholas the Patron Saint of our Church / نيقولاوس العجائبي، رئيس أساقفة ميرا
Service to be announced later.

❖ **Parish Council Election will take place on December 10th.**

There will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the upcoming 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 Father George and/or Parish Council Chairman Maher Shami as soon as possible.

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

❖ **CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Saturday December 16th, 2017. Donation: \$75
Performance by: **FADI HANANI & Ensemble**

Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh: The Parable of the Rich Man

The end of today's Gospel reading is a warning about something that we could all be aware of all the time, that is that death is at our elbow, that much, very much, of what we do will perish with us as unnecessary, mortal.

Does this mean that Christ's warning about the closeness of death should frighten us and deprive us of creative strength? No, on the contrary; the Fathers used to say, "keep a constant memory of death," not in the sense that we should be afraid of death and live under its constant shadow, but rather because nothing but the awareness of the fact that life is short, that it may end at any moment, can give to every moment its final meaning, and to the whole of life the feeling that we must hurry to do good, that we must hurry to live in such a way that at whatever moment death overtakes us, it will be a moment of triumphant life. We would live with such depth, so intensely, if only this awareness were with us constantly. If we were to know that the words that I am now speaking to you were the last, how differently would I say them, and how differently would you listen!

If we were to feel that the person we were talking to might be dead within a few minutes, how careful we should be that our words and actions in relation to him should be the culmination of all the love and care of which we are capable, that they should be the triumph of everything that is best and highest in our relationship.

The reason that we live so badly, utter so many empty words, rotten words, dead words, commit so many actions that afterwards burn in our soul like wounds, is that we live as though this life was merely a rough draft of the life we will one day be living, when we have had time to shape the draft into the final story. But that is not how things work; death comes and the

draft remains rough, his life has not been lived, just blotted, and there remains regret for the person who could have been great, but turned out shallow and insignificant.

That is what today's Gospel is about, not that we should be afraid of death, but that, knowing that it can come at any moment, every moment must be perfect, every word must be a word of life, filled with the Spirit, fit to enter eternity. And every action of ours in relation to each one of us should be such as to give life and express the fullness and depth and strength of the love and reverence which we should feel for each other and for all. Let us consider this, and then if we can act upon it, every word and every action will acquire the dimension of eternity and shine with its light.

توبوا

توبوا فقد آمنتم وأرسلتم النفس لله. توبوا أي عودوا إلى هذا الذي تركتموه أي الله، التوبة وحدة مع الله، وجود فيه، كيان فيه. الخطيئة لصوق بما ليس الله، باللاشيء، أن تُسمي شيئاً ما ليس بشيء. أي أنها عودة إلى العدم، إلى اللا إله، إلى العتم، إلى اللارؤية. والرؤية رؤية الله بالطهارة: «طوبى لمن غُفرت ذنوبهم وسُتِرت خطاياهم. طوبى لمن لم يحسب الله لهم خطيئة». ما أنا بشيء يا رب. ما أنا بشيء، وأنت تعرف. اتركني في عينيك لعلّي أوجد وارحمني لأنّ رحمتك كلّ شيء، هي الركن والعزاء. ومن بعد السقوط هي التكوين. اللهم لا تنس جبلتك فأني ضعيف، وربّي على رأفتك. أشرب من الماء الحيّ؟ متى أكل خبز السماء؟ هل تعود السماء إلى هنا؟ أم أنا في ميّات لا تنتهي؟ قبل أن تتكلّم لست أعلم شيئاً. ارحمني يا رب فأذوقك.

هات يدك فاعتصم وقل لي ليس لك يدٌ أخرى تعضدك. علّمني أن أعمل رضاك لأنك أنت وحدك المولى. ولا تكسر جناحي إليك لكي أصل. التوق إليك كلّ شيء، عندي توقٌ لا تردّه حتّى لا أفنى.

هذا الاشتياق عضدي لكي تبقى الطريق. لا ترمني في سيري إليك ولا تُخفِ عني الهدف كيلا أخاف. أضى الطريق إذا خطوة خطوة. بعد هذا يزداد إيماني.

سلم إيماني لأنّه هو الذي علّمني الحقّ، لا أريد شيئاً غير إيماني إذ أرى أنّه هو الذي يبقى. إيماني هو الحقّ. كانت أمي تقول «اجعلني أموت على الإيمان الحقّ». هذه المرأة البسيطة كانت تعرف أنّ في الدنيا كلمات زائفة، فاسدة، وأنّ استقامة الرؤية هي كلّ شيء!

أعطني الرؤية حتّى لا أموت. بعد هذا كلّ شيء هين. تعال. كلّ الأشياء الحسنة منك. تعال فنفرح. الإقامة في الله نهاية الفرحة. علّمني أن أعمل رضاك لأنك صاحب الأمر عندي، لأنّ حقيقتي كلّها في انسجامي معك. أنا أكون إذا كنتُ فيك. هكذا أعرف أنّي موجود. غير ذلك زيفان.

الرؤية رؤية الله. قبل ذلك تمتمات. رؤية الله أن ترى كلّ شيء فيه، أن تعود إليه وتستمدّ كلّ شيء منه، أن تُسخر له كلّ شيء. الله ممدود في الأشياء بلا انصهار. الله مدي الأشياء وإلا لما كانت. تتجدّد إذا جدّدها وأحيّاها. توبوا أي تحوّلوا إلى الله بحيث لا يسكن قلوبكم آخر. الله لا يقبل له شريكاً في القلب. افتحوه له وحده. يمتلئ القلب من كلّ خير وحقّ.

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Join us at St. Nicholas 4th annual
Thanksgiving Dinner Family Night

November 18th at 7pm

At St. Nicholas Hall

5200 Diamond Heights, SF

Entertainment: Murad Bishara

Adults \$25 Children \$10 for Twelve and under

Sponsored by the Rantisi family,

All proceeds going to the Charity

St. Nicholas
Annual Christmas
Party

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 16th 2017

Doors @ 7:30 PM

Special Guest Singer

**FADI HANANI &
ENSEMBLE**

Complimentary wine on tables

Donation: \$75

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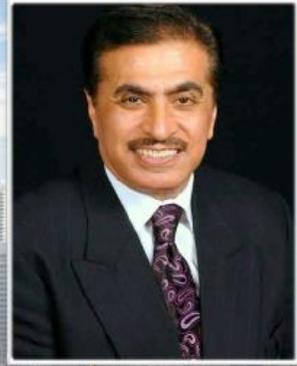


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