

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](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)--website:[stnicholas-sf.com](http://stnicholas-sf.com)

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

(586) 214-4428 [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Memorial Service:*

**This Sunday:**

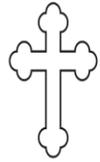
One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Fuad Hanhan** offered by his family.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Six Month Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Bishara Wahab** offered by his family.

One Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Georgette Srouji** offered by her family.

May their memory be eternal!



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

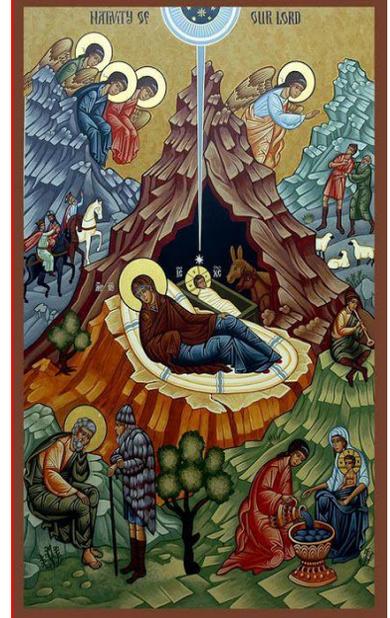
Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period proceeding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality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

**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



**THE EPISTLE: The Ephesians. (4:1-7)**

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

يا إخوة، أطلب إليكم أنا الأسير في الرب أن تسلكوا كما يحقّ للدعوة التي دُعيتُم بها بكلّ تواضع ووداعة وبطول أناة، محتملين بعضكم بعضًا بالمحبة ومجتهدين في حفظ وحدة الروح برباط السلام. فإنّكم جسد واحد وروح واحد كما دُعيتُم إلى رجاء دعوتكم الواحد. ربّ واحد وإيمان واحد ومعمودية واحدة وإله أب للجميع واحد هو فوق الجميع وبالجميع وفي جميعكم. ولكلّ واحد منّا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح.

**THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:18-27)**

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

**الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨: ١٨-٢٧**

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان مجربًا له وقائلًا: أيها المعلم الصالح، ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية؟ فقال له يسوع: لماذا تدعوني صالحًا، وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله. إنك تعرف الوصايا: لا تزن، لا تقتل، لا تسرق، لا تشهد بالزور، أكرم أباك وأمك. فقال: كل هذا حفظته منذ صباي. فلما سمع يسوع ذلك قال له: واحدة تعوزك بعد: بع كل شيء لك ووزعه على المساكين، فيكون لك كنز في السماء وتعال اتبعني. فلما سمع ذلك حزن لأنه كان غنيًا جدًا. فلما رآه يسوع قد حزن قال: ما أعسر على ذوي الأموال أن يدخلوا ملكوت الله. إنه لأسهل أن يدخل الجمل في ثقب الإبرة من أن يدخل غني ملكوت الله. فقال السامعون: فمن يستطيع إذا أن يخلص؟ فقال: ما لا يستطيع عند الناس مستطاع عند الله.

**Altar Candle Offering:**

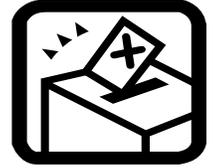
- ❖ By St. Nicholas church for the good health of all who are named Katherine, Katie after **Katherine the Great Martyr (November 25)** on the occasion of their Names' Day! **Katy Shami & Katherine Halteh** Many Years!
- ❖ By St. Nicholas church for the good health of all who are named Andrew, Andy after the **feast of Saint Andrew on November 30<sup>th</sup>** on the occasion of their Names' Day! **Andy Azar, Andrew Khoury, Andrew Bouri, Andrew Butte, Andrew Dabit, Andrew Khayat, Andrew Rantisi, Andrew Yaser, Andrawes Husari, Andre Hawit, Andreas Sijbrant.** Many Years!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

- ❖ **TEEN SOYO BOWLING NIGHT:** **Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>**. All Ages welcome! 5:00 PM at Sea Bowl Drive in Pacifica. Address: 250 Sea Bowl Ln., Pacifica, CA 94044
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **The Feast of the Patron Saint of our Church: Saint Nicholas**  
Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> Celebrating the great Feast of St. Nicholas the Patron Saint of our Church / رئيس أساقفة ميرا / نيقولاوس العجائبي،  
Matins at 10:00 AM, Diving Liturgy at 11:00 AM.

❖ ***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 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Donation: \$75**

Performance by: **FADI HANANI**

❖ **YOUTH LOCK-IN: Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. 7:00 PM – 9:00 AM. Free admission, just bring your sleeping bags!** St. Nicholas Youth Invites all of you to the Youth Lock in! Starting @ 7 PM we will be having a Nativity Movie and discussion led by Fr. George Baalbaki. Directly afterwards, youth will have the chance to bond through games, music, activities and more! Pick them up after breakfast and Morning Service the next day!

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: **The Rich Young Man**

The Lord warns us today of how difficult it is for a man who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God. Does it mean that the Kingdom of God is open only to destitute, to those who are materially poor, who lack everything on earth? No. The Kingdom of God is open to all who are not enslaved by possessions. When we read the first Beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven', we are given a key to this saying: the poor in spirit are those who have understood that they possess nothing which is their own. We have been created as an act of God, loved into existence; we are offered by God communion with Him to which we have no rights. All we are, all we possess is not our own in the sense that we have not made ourselves, we did not create what is seemingly ours - every thing which we are and which we have is love, the love of God and the love of people, and we cannot possess anything because everything is a gift that escapes us the moment we want to have possession of it and say, "It is mine".

On the other hand, the Kingdom of God is really the kingdom of those who are aware that they are infinitely rich because we can expect everything from love divine and from human love. We are rich because we possess nothing, we are rich because we are given all things; and so, it is difficult for one who imagines that he is rich in his own right to belong to that kingdom in which everything is a sign of love, and nothing can be possessed, as it were - taken away from others; because the moment we say that we possess something which is not given us either by God or by human care, we subtract it from the mystery of love.

On the other hand, the moment we cling to anything we become slaves of it. I remember when I was young, a man telling me: Don't you understand that the moment you have taken a copper coin in your hand and are not prepared to open your hand to let it go, you have lost the use of a hand, the use of an arm, the use of your body, because all your attention will be concentrated on not losing this copper coin, - the rest will be forgotten.

Whether we keep in our hand a copper coin, or whether we feel rich in so many other ways - intellectually, emotionally, materially is irrelevant, - we are prisoners, we have lost the use of a limb, the use of our mind, the use of our heart; we can no longer be free, and the Kingdom of God is a kingdom of freedom.

On the other hand also, how difficult it is to one who has never lacked anything, who has always possessed more than he needs, to be aware of the poverty or the need of another: poverty - material, emotional or intellectual, or any other lack. It requires a great deal of understanding and sympathy, it requires from us that

we should learn to be attentive to the movements of other people's hearts and to their material needs in order to respond to them. One says in Russian 'A satisfied person no longer understands a hungry one'; which of us can say that we are hungry in any respect? And this is why we do not understand the needs of people - of one another here, or of people beyond the confines of our congregation.

So, let us reflect on that; poverty does not mean destitution; it means freedom from enslavement to an illusion that we are self-sufficient, self-contained, the creator of what we are and what we possess. And also free from enslavement to what is given us to make husbandmen of God.

Let us reflect on this; because if we learn this, if we learn what Saint Paul said that whether he is rich, whether he is destitute, he is equally rich because his richness is in God and in the human love. Then we will be able, whether we possess material things or not, to be free of them, and to belong to God's Kingdom which is a Kingdom of mutual love, or mutual solidarity, of compassion for one another, of giving to one another what we were given freely.

## تعال اتبعني

يأتي رجل إلى السيّد ليجرّبه. كان هذا الرجل جيّدًا لأنّه حفظ الوصايا وتبعها كلّها: لا تسرق، لا تزن، لا تشهد بالزور... ومع ذلك قال له السيّد: «واحدة تعوزك: بع كل ما لك ووزّعه على المساكين... وتعال اتبعني»، أي أنك لست كاملاً إذا حفظت الوصايا فقط.

إذا قبلت المساكين في قلوبهم قبلت أبي في ملكوته. أي إن لم يكن الفقراء راضين عن أحدهم لا يكون الله راضيًا عنه. رضى الفقراء من رضى الله.

قال داود في المزامير عن البار: «بَدَدَ أَعْطَى المساكين، فيدوم برّه إلى الأبد» (مزمور ١١٢: ٣). لم يقل تصدّق بألف ليرة أو بخمسة آلاف. قال: بدّد. ماذا نقول اليوم والنظام نظام سعي لتكديس الأموال ونظام مصارف ووفرة مالية؟ ما دام هذا النظام قائمًا، كيف يستطيع الانسان ان يبَدّد؟ أبأونا اللاهوتيون الكبار كباسيليوس الكبير ويوحنا الذهبي الفم قالوا ان كلاً منّا وكيل على ما يملك. انت موكل على مالك لمصلحة الجماعة.

الغنيّ فعلاً هو الذي يكون الله كبيراً في عينيه، وهذا يكون حاراً كالأنبياء لا ممالقاً ولا مستزلاً. نحن علينا أن نساوي في عقولنا الغني والفقير، أن نعظم الذين يسلكون سلوك الأنبياء وأن يجذبنا الأبرار. الضعيف والمريض والحقير والمسكين والمرذول في مجتمعنا هذا هو الذي يُعظم.

لماذا يحرص الناس على ما عندهم؟ لماذا يُمسكون عن العطاء؟ لأنهم يخافون الموت. يخافون أن يلقاهم الموت وهم بلا مال في قبضة أيديهم. يعرفون أنهم سيذهبون إلى القبر عراة حفاة، ومع ذلك لا يتعلّمون. من عنده يستزيد، ومن ليس عنده يستزيد، وكلها سباق إلى «الشطارة». كلها مباريات إلى الأمجاد، وتنتهي المباراة في القبر.

اذن ماذا نعمل؟ نفتح القلوب إلى القلوب. ليست القضية بأن نعطي دراهم قليلة أو وفيرة، لكن القضية أن ينكسر القلب أمام المريض والضعيف والمرذول والمُحتقر، والقضية الكبرى ان نعتبر أنفسنا كلاً شيء. من اعتبر نفسه انه لا شيء، هذا يجعله ربه شيئاً. القلوب منغلقة متحجرة لأنها متكبرة. اما من أراد ان يشابه المسيح فهذا يعتبر نفسه كلاً شيء. ربنا كُسر على الصليب وديس تحت الصليب، ولذلك ارتفع إلى أعلى السماوات. دعوتنا الكبرى أن نُحب الناس، كلّ الناس. عزّتنا الكبرى ان نرفعهم فوق رؤوسنا. كرامتنا بأن نُحب، بأن ننسى معاصي الناس. أنت عظيم إذا داسك الناس واضطهدوك وعرفت أنك محبوب من المسيح. ما همك من الناس؟ ان يقولوا فيك الشيء الحسن؟ هذه تجربة شيطانية. «ويل لكم إذا قال فيكم جميعُ الناس حسناً» (لوقا ٦: ٢٦). هذا يعني انكم تريدون المديح. الإنسان البار يأبى المديح.

أن ندخل الملكوت يعني أن نُعاين الخير. ملكوت الله يعني المحبّة والحقيقة. أن ندخل الملكوت يعني أن ندخل إلى نطاق الحقيقة وإلى نطاق البر وأن نكون صالحين بالحق. وهذا يعني ان تنكسر قلوبنا أمام كلّ الناس، وان نصمد، وان نحب، وان نطيع، وان نمتدّ بالمحبّة إلى أقاصي الدُّنيا، وان نفتح قلوبنا لنُدخل إليها الفقراء والمضطهدين والمرذولين والذين ليس لهم اسم ولا مجد ولا كرامة. إذا دخل هؤلاء إلى قلوبنا واتحدنا بهم وأحببناهم والتصقنا بهم، عندئذ نكون كالمسيح واصلين إلى قمة المجد.

جاورجيوس مطران جبل لبنان

# St. Nicholas Annual Christmas Party

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

Doors @ 7:30 PM

Special Guest Singer

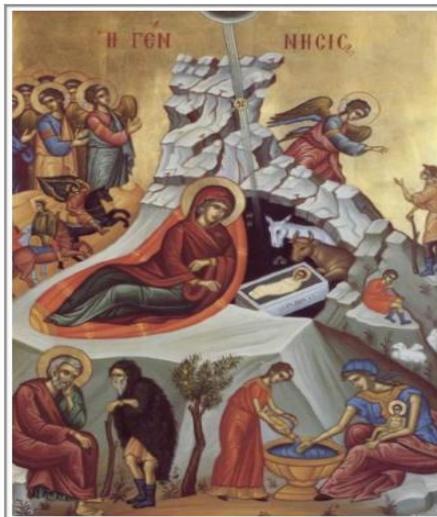
**FADI HANANI &  
ENSEMBLE**

Complimentary wine on tables

**Donation: \$75**

## St. Nicholas

Youth Lock-in 🗝️



All Age Groups Welcome!

Nativity Story Led by Fr.

George!

Teen Soyo Event

Friday December 22nd

7 PM- 9 AM

Free Admission.

Just Bring your sleeping bags!

### **St. Nicholas Youth Invites all of you to the Youth Lock In!**

Starting @ 7 PM we will be having a Nativity Movie and discussion led by Fr. George Baalbaki. Directly afterwards, youth will have the chance to bond through games, music, activities and more! Pick them up after breakfast and Morning Service the next day!

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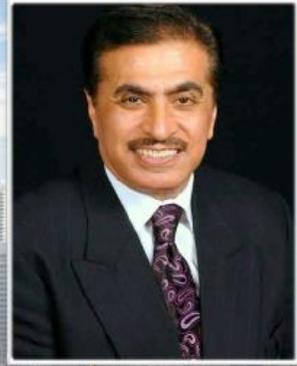


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