

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

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America  
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Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Memorial Service:**

**This Sunday:**

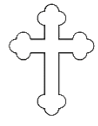
Three, Nine, and Forty Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Hanna Saddalah Yanni** and the Handmaiden of God **Georgette Yanni** offered by their family.

Forty Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Dr. Mounir Naim Shnoudi** offered by his brother **Issa** and family.

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>:**

One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Ishaq N. Qaqish** offered by his 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!

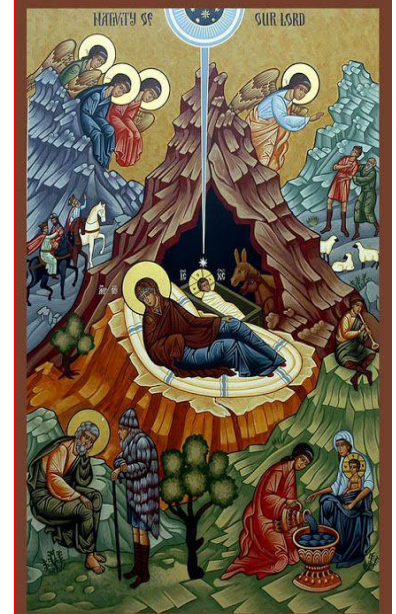
Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period proceeding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality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

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحياء: 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 ليلدنا على طريق الخلاص، الطريق إلى الله الأب. صوم مبارك



الرسالة: أفسس ٦: ١٠-١٧

يا إخوة تفوّروا في الربّ وفي عزّة قدرته. إلبسوا سلاح الله الكامل لتستطيعوا أن تقفوا ضدّ مكاييد إبليس. فإنّ مصارعنا ليست ضدّ لحم ودم بل ضدّ الرئاسات، ضدّ السلاطين، ضدّ ولاة العالم، عالم ظلمة هذا الدهر، ضدّ أجناد الشرّ الروحية في السماويات. فلذلك احمّلوا سلاح الله الكامل لتستطيعوا المقاومة في اليوم الشرير، حتّى إذا تمّمتم كلّ برّ تثبتون. فاثبتوا إذا ممنطقين أحقاءكم بالحقّ، ولا بيسين درع البرّ، وأنعلوا أقدامكم باستعداد إنجيل السلام، واحملوا علاوة على ذلك ترس الإيمان الذي به تقفون على أن تُظفّوا جميع سهام الشرير الملتهبة، واتّخذوا خوذة الخلاص وسيف الروح الذي هو كلمة الله.

### THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٣: ١٠-١٧

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجمع يوم السبت، وإذا بامرأة بها روح مرض منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية لا تستطيع أن تنتصب البيتة. فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها: إنك مُطلقة من مرضك، ووضع يديه عليها، وفي الحال استقامت ومجّدت الله. فأجاب رئيس المجمع، وهو مغتاظ لإبراء يسوع في السبت، وقال للمجمع: هي ستّة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون، لا في يوم السبت. فأجاب الربّ وقال: يا مرائي، أليس كلّ واحد منكم يحلّ ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود وينطلق به فيسقيه؟ وهذه، وهي ابنة إبراهيم التي ربطها الشيطان منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تُطلق من هذا الرباط يوم السبت؟ ولما قال هذا، خزي كلّ من كان يقاوم، وفرح الجمع بجميع الأمور المجيدة التي كانت تصدر منه.

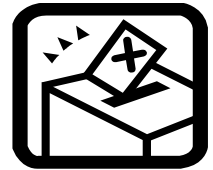
#### *Altar Candle Offering:*

- ❖ By **Radi and Janet Baqleh** for the good health of their children and grandchildren and the **Baqleh** family.
- ❖ By the **Jarjura** family in loving memory of beloved parents **George and Najla Jarjura**. May their memory be eternal.
  - ❖ By **Angel Salfiti** for the good health of the **Salfiti** family.
  - ❖ By **Mary and Cynthia Zamboukos** in loving memory of beloved **Nafsika Zamboukos**.
- ❖ By **Nabil Khoury** and the **Khoury** family for the good health of **Faris Edam** on the special occasion of his birthday.
- ❖ In loving memory of **Dr. Mounir Naim Shnoudi** offered by his brother **Issa**, his wife **Salwa**, and children **Naim, Nisreen, and Rami**.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

### ❖ **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.**

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

### ❖ **LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING:** Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at St. Nicholas

### ❖ **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: MIRACLES OF CHRIST ON THE SABBATH DAY**

Time and again we read in the Gospel of the anger which the Lord Jesus Christ provoked by performing an act of mercy, a miracle of healing on a Sabbath day. And we cannot help asking ourselves a question: Why did He do it so constantly, so persistently, with such insistence? Could it be to challenge those who surrounded Him? Could it be to provoke them? Could it be simply a pedagogical action?

I believe that there is a great deal more in His action. The Lord created the world in six days; on the seventh day He rested of His toils and labours. But what happened to the world then? The seventh day was the day when the world came into the hands of man to be brought to its fulfillment and to its completeness; the seventh day, the Sabbath of the Lord is the day of man. The whole of human history falls in that day. But God did not leave man to work alone as the Lord Jesus Christ says in the Gospel, as reported by Saint John, My Father still works, He shows His work to His Son for Him to fulfil them. And in another passage He teaches us, He tells us that His judgment is true because it is not His judgment; He hears the words of the Father and that is the judgment He pronounces.

And so, history is the day of man, but man is called to be guided by the wisdom, by the love of God. It is because we are so often seeking for our own ways, it is because we do not ask ourselves what is God's way in one situation or the other that the world has become so ugly, and so frightening, and so tragic. There is a Hebrew poem that describes the misery of this world into which man does not bring the love of God; it says, Man has ceased to believe in God and love has departed this world. Men have hanged themselves in forests, have drowned themselves in lakes, in rivers. Heaven is no longer mirrored in the lakes, in the woods; the bird does no longer sing songs of paradise, and the Prophet himself on his pedestal has become a mere statue.

Is this not what we have become? Not statues but so much alike the wife of Lot who turned back and who became a statue of salt. We have remained salt and yet we are petrified, immobile, we do not fulfill on earth this function of ours. And Christ shows us, by working His miracles, His acts of love and of compassion on Sabbath day, time and again, He Who is the only true man, the only man who is in total, ultimate oneness with God, what our part should be: take on the history of mankind, take every situation in which we or others find themselves, and carry them on our shoulders in an act of mercy and of love. A Western writer has said that a Christian is the one to whom God has committed the care of His world and of other people. Are we discharging this basic central commission of ours, do we care? We may care with tenderness, we may care sternly, but we must care. And then, this seventh day when God in His mercy and love has committed this

world to our care, still can become the day of the Lord. And the City of man which is been built without God, which so often is like the Tower of Babylon, may still unfold and attain the greatness and the holiness of the City of God in which the Lord Jesus Christ, true God but also true Man, is called to be a citizen, the heart of it, but also one of us.

Is not this call great enough? Is not God's faith in us sufficiently inspiring? Are we going to defeat His hope, to reject His love for ourselves or for others? Or are we going to learn from the ways in which Christ fulfills His human vocation in the day of the Lord, shall we not learn from Him and together with Him build the world which God has dreamed, has willed and is still loving in his distress and so often in our betrayal of Him!

Let us learn to love one another actively, bear one another's burdens, listen to the Living God when He speaks, listen with all our energy, look into His ways and be those who fulfill His will and bring the world to the perfect beauty He has willed for it!

## قوة الصلاة

الروح القدس الساكن فينا هو الذي يصلي، إذ نقول في مطلع الخدمة الإلهية: «أيها الملك السماوي المعزي روح الحق هلم واسكن فينا...»، أي أننا نخاطبه بالقوة التي أنزلها إلينا. هو الذي يغيرنا من حال إلى حال فيرفع نفسنا إلى الصلاة. تكون أنت جردت نفسك من شهواتها ونزواتها وجعلتها مسكناً لله فيحركنا إليه وكأن الله في صلاتك إليه يخاطب نفسه. الرب يدخل إليك بالروح القدس، فيجرد نفسك من شهواتها ويجعلها قادرة على التحدث إليه. عندما تخاطب الروح القدس عند بدء كل صلاة «أيها الملك السماوي المعزي...»، يهرب عنك روح الشر ويسكن فيك روح المسيح وينهضك، ولا يبقى لك كلام إذ ينزل عليك كلام المسيح ويخاطب المسيح فيك نفسه وتصبح بذلك المسيح نفسه. الصلاة صح القول إنها ارتفاع النفس إلى الله ولكن بمعنى أنها ترتفع بقوة المسيح نفسه. قبل دخول روح الله إليها تكون هابطة أو فارغة أو مسودة أو مكسورة. وإذا دخل الروح الإلهي إليها تتحرك بقوة إلى الأب وتصير نفساً مجددة بالروح. تضم ذاتها إلى الرب مجتمعة بكل قواها ويصلي الروح القدس فيها. لذلك نقول في مطلع صلواتنا للروح القدس: «هلم واسكن فينا وطهرنا من كل دنس». ومعنى ذلك أننا لا نقدر على أن نصلي في العمق، إلا إذا دعونا الروح القدس لينزل إلينا ويدفع النفس إلى الله، فيصلي الإنسان بقوة الروح الإلهي. الصلاة إذاً منذ أول كلمة فيها هي من الروح القدس إلى الأب. معنى ذلك أن الصلاة تبدأ فينا عندما نطرد الأرواح الشريرة عن أي فكر الخبيثة. ملازمة الإنسان لروح الله فيه هو الشرط لحقيقة الصلاة. ولذلك كانت الصلاة منذ بدئها توبة بحيث إنك بها تطلب الله وتطرد ما كان ضد الله. يمكنك أن تصلي وأن تقبل بقاء الخبيثة فيك. هذا يكون تناقضاً. الصلاة في جوهرها توبة ومن الواضح أن الذي لا يصلي لا يريد أن يتوب. في كثرة من الأحوال من أهمل صلاته هو إنسان راغب في ألا يتوب. ومن عاد إليها بعد إهمال قرر الرجوع إلى الله. الصلاة هي الحبل الذي يربطنا بالله. هي إقامة في الله. هي الدليل الأقوى على الإيمان. الصلاة ليست آتية من العقل فقط. هي قوة الروح القدس نفسه فينا. هي دليلنا الواضح على اتحادنا بالله. جاورجيوس مطران جبل لبنان



# St. Nicholas Annual Christmas Party

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

Doors @ 7:30 PM

Special Guest Singer

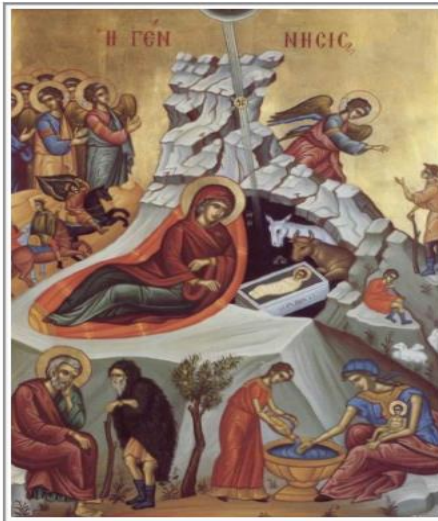
**FADI HANANI &  
ENSEMBLE**

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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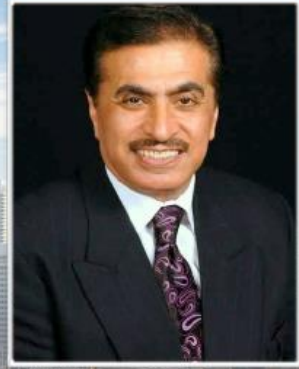
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