

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

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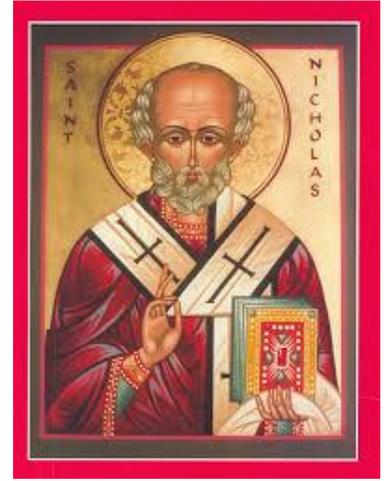
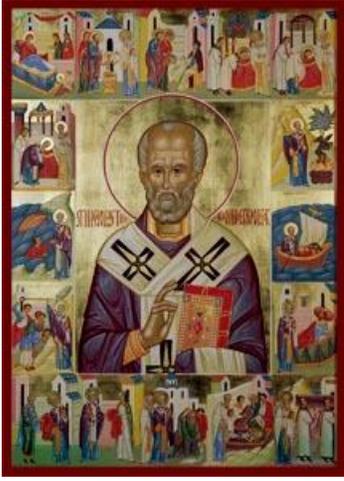
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, December 31, 2017

تذكار البارّة ميلاني التي من رومية والقديس يوسف خطيب مريم، وداود الملك ويعقوب أخي الربّ.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْأَعَالِي وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ
السَّلَامُ وَيَا نَاسَ الْهَسْرَةِ!

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Memorial Service:

This Sunday:

Nine Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Yacoub Jaber**
offered by his family.

May his memory be eternal!



خدمة تقديس المياه *Blessing of Water*

January 6th celebration the great Feast of Epiphany (الغطاس) عيد الظهور الالهي

Service of Water Blessing will take place on Sunday January 7th

House Blessing Starts on Monday, January 8th

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Monday, January 8th. You will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you would like to reschedule to another date, please call the church office or Fr. George's cellphone: 586 214-4428



THE EPISTLE: The Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

الرسالة: ٢ تيموثاوس ٤ : ٥-٨

يا ولدي تيموثاوس تيقظ في كلّ شيء واحتمل المشقات، واعمل عمل المبشّر وأوف خدمتك. أمّا أنا فقد أريق السكيب عليّ ووقت انحلالتي قد اقترب. وقد جاهدتُ الجهاد الحسن وأتممت شوطي وحفظتُ الايمان. وإتّما يبقى محفوظاً لي إكليل العدل الذي يُجزيني به في ذلك اليوم الربّ الديان العادل، لا إياي فقط بل جميع الذين يحبّون ظهوره أيضاً.

THE GOSPEL : The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

الإنجيل: مرقس ١ : ٨

بدء إنجيل يسوع المسيح ابن الله، كما هو مكتوب في الأنبياء: ها أنذا مرسلٌ ملاكي أمام وجهك يُهيئُ طريقك قدامك، صوت صارخ في البرية أعدوا طريق الرب واجعلوا سبله قويمه. كان يوحنا يعمد في البرية ويكرز بمعمودية التوبة لغفران الخطايا. وكان يخرج إليه جميع أهل بلد اليهودية وأورشليم فيعتمدون جميعهم منه في نهر الأردن معترفين بخطاياهم. وكان يوحنا يلبس وبر الإبل وعلى حقويه منطقة من جلد ويأكل جرادًا وعسلًا بريًا. وكان يكرز قائلاً: إنه يأتي بعدي من هو أقوى مني وأنا لا أستحق أن أحنني وأحلّ سير حدائه. أنا عمّدكم بالماء وأما هو فيعمّدكم بالروح القدس.

Christmas Greetings from His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH:

Today doth Bethlehem receive Him Who sitteth with the Father forever. Today the angels glorify, as worthy of God, the babe that is born, shouting: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace, and goodwill among men.

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy I greet you at the dawn of this bright and glorious feast of the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, making the cave a heaven and the manger a noble place! May He Who deigned to be born in the cave and rest in a manger take up His abode in us. Let us join our voices with the angelic choirs and glorify God, beseeching Him to bring peace, justice, and reconciliation to our troubled world. Praying that these holy days of the feast will be joyous and grace-filled, and that God will grant you peace, health, and length of days, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ By **Maha Dabit** in loving memory of her husband **Rimon Dabit**, and her parents **Nakleh and Ellen Aho**. Also for the good health of her children **Alex, Christopher, and Alexis**.
- ❖ By **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran** for the good health of **Jim Howell** on the occasion of his birthday December 17th.
- ❖ By **Mimi Hanhan and family** in loving memory of **Basem Hanhan, Shukri and Wadia Hanhan, Joseph and Margret Hanhan, and Nakleh and Ellen Aho**. Also for the good health and thankfulness to God for **Mimi Hanhan and Family**.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **AWAMAT:** Sunday January 7th, 2018. We will have Awamat (Zalabieh زلابية) offered by Rodi and Janet Baqleh. God bless you and your family. كل عام وأنتم بخير
- ❖ **ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING:** Sunday January 14th, 2018. The main item on the agenda is to discuss and approve a budget for 2018. In order to have the right to vote, you have to be spiritually qualified, a member in good standing, and dues for 2017 should be paid.
- ❖ **METROPOLITAN JOSEPH VISIT:** Sunday February 4th, 2018. His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph will make his Fatherly visit to our church. He will also be ordaining Deacon Niphon Sweis to the rank of Priesthood. More info to follow..

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: CHRISTMAS

In one of the texts of the Holy Scriptures we are told that the world had waxed old, had decayed in the course of centuries since man had lost touch with God, since communion between God and man had become dimmed. And Saint Paul says that the whole creation is waiting with longing for the revelation of the children of God, for the moment when man will have become Man again in the fullness, in all the beauty of the glory of his vocation.

And on the day when we remember the Nativity of Christ, the Incarnation of the Son of God, we can see that the beginning of a new time has come, that this world that had gone old because God was, as it were, far away from it - great, awe-inspiring but distant, had come to an end. GOD IS IN OUR MIDST: this is the meaning of the word 'Emmanuel'; God with us - and the world is no longer the same. We live in a world into which God has come, in which He is the living power, the inspiration, Life itself, Eternity itself already come. And this is why Saint John the Divine in the Book of the Revelation, speaking of Christ as the End, uses in Greek not the neuter which would be right, but the masculine: because 'The End' is not a moment in time, the End is not something that happens, but Someone that comes.

Yes, we are waiting for the day when God will come in glory, when all history will be up, when all things will be summed up, when God shall be all in all; but already now God is in our midst; already now we have a vision of what man is by vocation and can be by participation. But this is an offer; God gives His love, God gives Himself - not only in the Holy Gifts of Communion, but in all possible ways He is ready to enter into our lives, to fill our hearts, to be enthroned in our minds, to be the will of our will, but to do that, to allow Him to do that we must give ourselves to Him, we must respond to love by love, to faith - the faith which God has in us - by faith that is trust and faithfulness to Him. And then - then, we, each of us singly and all of us in our togetherness, will become God's Kingdom come with power, the beginning of the fullness of time, the beginning of the glorious victory!

Isn't that something which is worth struggling for? Isn't it worth turning away from everything that separates us from our own integrity, from one another, from God, and allow ourselves to become new creatures?

Let us now, now that the beginning has come, and in a way the end is already in our midst, let us do it: overcome all that is unworthy of ourselves and allow God victoriously to transfigure our lives! Glory be to God for His love! Glory be to God for the faith He has in us, and for the hope He has put into us!

البدء والنهاية

تنطوي السنة ولا تنطوي الآمال، ويمدك الله بالخيرات ويعطيك من رضاه وخيراته ما لا تستحق، وتمشي مع الرب ويمشي معك يوماً فيوماً. ويمدك الله إليه فتحياً وتجيء من نعمته فتنقّس وتبقى.

أنت معطى من فوق لا تنس؟ وإذا عرفت ذلك ستمشي أمامه. وإذا مشيت أمامه لا تتعثر فتجرح على الطريق ولكن تقوم لأن الرب يريدك معه إلى نهاية الطريق. واعلم أنه هو الطريق ونهاية الطريق إلى أن تزول الصدمات كلها أمامك. ولا تنس هدف سيرك، أي الله نفسه إذ ليس قبله شيء ولا بعده شيء. وإذا جرحت في السير فهو يضمّد الجراح حتى تتحمّل كل شيء. قل يا ربّ نجني من الظلمة في مسيرتي حتى لا أعرّ فأسقط. واعلم بسبب الضعفات أنه يقبك شرّاً ما في الطريق ويأخذك في الهداية. لا شيء في الطريق إلاّ الله فلا تخف والصدّيقون في السماء وعلى الأرض معك حتى تبلغ الهدى.

لا تتحسّر على شيء في المسيرة لأنّ هاديك معك ويقيك كلّ العثرات. لا تخف لأنّ شيئاً لا يمنعك من رؤية الربّ. أنت لست سائراً وحدك في الطريق. وغاية الطريق هي هو. أنت إذا سالك في الرجاء ومن سلك في الرجاء يسلك في الإيمان وهو تالياً على الرضاء إلى أن يحفظنا الله هو الرضاء.

ونحن المؤمنون نمشي الطريق معاً فلا تخف ضعفاً، لأنّ الإخوة يحفظونك من كلّ شرّ بالدعاء والمثل الصالح. كن مع الإخوة الصالحين الذين لا يقعون في عثرة، إنّما ينهضون خطوة خطوة في الطريق.

كن مع الله ليبقى معك. هو دائماً يمدّ يمينه إليك فلا تخف. وإذا كان الربّ حقاً هدفك لا تسقط في الطريق. دع نفسك مجموعة إلى ربّها لتأخذ قواك. وإذا كان الربّ فيك حقاً لا تخور قواك.

ابتغ وجهه فوجهه هو المنتهى. ليس لك هدف آخر ولا تنتهي إلى شيء آخر. وكما بدأت سيرك إلى الله تنهي سيرك به، إذ ليس من آخر. إن أحببته يحبّك بالمحبّة الأولى التي وعد بها أحبائه. لا تسع إلى الأوهام، إلى أشياء غير موجودة أو غير فاعلة. اسع إليه وحده تجده في كلّ لحظة، في كلّ خلجات محبتك.

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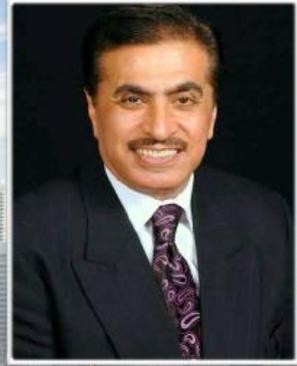


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