

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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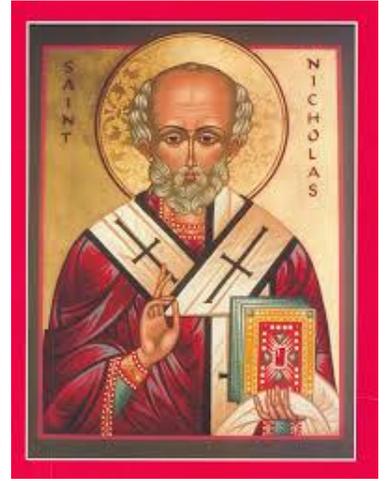
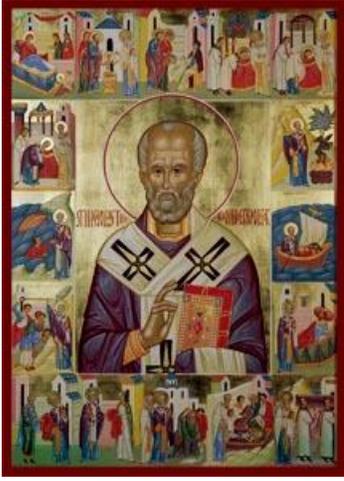
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, January 21, 2018

Zacchaeus Sunday and Venerable Maximos the Confessor

زكَّا العشار / القديس مكسيموس المعترف

House Blessings are underway:

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: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

الرسالة: أفسس ٤: ٧-١٣

يا إخوة لكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. فلذلك يقول: لَمَّا صعد إلى العلى سبى سبيًا وأعطى الناس عطايا. فكونه صعد، هل هو إلا أنه نزل أولاً إلى أسافل الأرض؟ فذاك الذي نزل هو الذي صعد أيضاً فوق السماوات كلها ليملاً كل شيء، وهو قد أعطى أن يكون البعض رسلاً والبعض أنبياءً والبعض مبشرين والبعض رعاة ومعلمين، لأجل تكميل القديسين ولعمل الخدمة وبنيان جسد المسيح، إلى أن ننتهي جميعنا إلى وحدة الإيمان ومعرفة ابن الله، إلى إنسان كامل، إلى مقدار قائمة ملء المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٩: ١-١٠

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع مجتازاً في أريحا إذا برجل اسمه زكّا كان رئيساً على العشارين وكان غنياً. كان يلتمس أن يرى يسوع من هو، فلم يكن يستطيع من الجمع لأنه كان قصير القامة. فتقدّم مسرعاً وصعد إلى جُمَيِّزة لينظره لأنه كان مزمّعاً أن يجتاز بها. فلما انتهى يسوع إلى الموضع رفع طرفه فرآه فقال له: يا زكّا أسرع وانزل فاليوم ينبغي لي أن أمكث في بيتك. فأسرع ونزل وقبله فرحاً. فلما رأى الجميع ذلك تذرّوا قائلين: إنّه دخل ليحلّ عند رجل خاطئ. فوقف زكّا وقال ليسوع: هاأنذا يا ربّ أعطني المساكين نصف أموالي. وإن كنتُ قد غبنتُ أحداً في شيء أردّ أربعة أضعاف. فقال له يسوع: اليوم قد حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت لأنه هو أيضاً ابن إبراهيم، لأنّ ابن البشر إنّما أتى ليطلب ويخلص ما قد هلك.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ By Nadim, Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Basma Howell** on the occasion of her birthday January 18th.
- ❖ For the good health of the **Katout, Shea, and Rantisi** families.

Special Thank You:

- ❖ And best wishes to **Joe Shatara** for all the hard work and time he put in to help us set up our telephone and internet system. Many thanks and God bless!

Sympathy and Condolences:

- ❖ We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Zaghbaba** and **Halteh** families for the passing of **Mr. George Zaghbaba** in Amen, Jordan last Sunday. Many prayers to his wife **Vera (Halteh) Zaghbaba**, sons **Salim and Louy Zaghbaba**, daughters **Nahla Dihmes, Nuna Banadak, and Dima Shariha**. May his memory be eternal!

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHT:** Saturday, January 20th at 6:00 PM at the St. Nicholas Church Hall. Adults: \$25 Children: \$10 Includes dinner, music, and dancing. Starring: **JOE KEYTAR**. Let's start 2018 with this fun event, bring your family members, friends and your singing talents and let's all sing our lungs away with the amazing live music of "Joe Keytar" You can count on us to make this event extra special and we're counting on you to support our church. The list of the songs will be posted the day of the event at: joekeytar.com
- ❖ ****POSTPONED** ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING:** is now on **Sunday January 21st, 2018**. The main item on the agenda is to discuss and approve a budget for 2018. We will also be initiating the new officers of the Parish Council, Men's Fellowship, and the Ladies Auxiliary. 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.
- ❖ **WALK FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE:** Friday January 26th through Sunday January 28th We will have vespers here at St. Nicholas on Saturday January 27th at 5:30 PM followed by an Akhapi meal. Orthodox Christians from all over will be gathering for a pan-Orthodox weekend of prayer, fellowship and learning surrounding the pro-life West Coast Walk for Life. For info about the events and times please visit www.walkforlifewc.com
- ❖ **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..
- ❖ **RETREAT:** Saturday March, 10th. A retreat with the great scholar and teacher Father **Paul Tarazi**. More info to come.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: Zacchaeus

Today we are confronted with the story of Zacchaeus. There are two aspects in it to which I would like to attract your attention. On the one hand, Zacchaeus speaks to us of the most common, the most all-pervading sin which ruins our life: it is vanity, dependence on the judgment of people, longing for their approval, desire to be right in their eyes whatever our conscience says, whatever the judgment of God may be.

Saint John of the Ladder says that vanity is arrogance in the face of God and cowardice in the face of men. And indeed, vanity is something in us, which eats into everything we do, into every plan, into every desire, into every hope, into everything we attempt, like rust, or to use another image of the Lord, like moth destroys all that could be beautiful in our actions, eats into good and evil, but destroys all of it, leaving only very little that can stand our own judgment, the judgment of our own conscience, and the judgment of God, but also the judgment of the people who in the end see us as we are, and turn away from us with sadness or with revulsion. Vanity is not the same thing as pride. Pride, as described by the spiritual writers, is a truly devilish attitude of one who says, 'I am self-sufficient, I need neither God, nor men! Neither God's judgment, nor men's judgment counts for me! I am my own law, and I despise all other judgment'. How different from vanity! Vanity consists of our longing, our desire to be approved of whatever the cost - and that is the terrible thing: whatever the cost! Even at the cost of our integrity, even at the cost of our faith, of our loyalty to God, of our loyalty to others, not to be condemned, not to be judged severely.

And in the case of Zacchaeus, we see a man who proved able, because he so longed to be with God, so longed to see Him, the God come to save sinners, that he turned away, he trod under foot his own vanity. He, a man well known in his city, a man who was respected, a man who had a social standing, like a street boy climbed upon a tree to see Christ because he was small of stature and the crowd prevented him from meeting the gaze of His Saviour. How much he must have heard of laughter, of jokes, of cat-cries! But it mattered nothing to him; what mattered was to see Christ.

Who of us has the courage to act in a similar way? Not to take, perhaps, that risk, but any risk? A few years ago, a young man came to see me who complained that we had few young men, or men altogether in our midst; and I said to him, 'Have you brought your friends here?' He looked at me with horror and said, 'I couldn't possibly speak of my faith to my friends! They might laugh at me!' That was an example of the way in which we treat God, our true, deepest convictions, our own selves, ultimately.

And then, there is another aspect in the story of Zacchaeus. Because he had overcome vanity, because what mattered to him at that moment was not men's judgment but only the possibility - or otherwise - of seeing God face to face, Christ saw him alone, in the whole crowd, called him, and came to his place.

And this is the second feature which I want to underline, because what Zacchaeus did, was not simply to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. He made the next step; he said to Him, 'All I have done evil, I will put right! I will put right tenfold!' This is the second condition of our salvation as presented in today's Gospel: it is not enough to shake away for one moment our vanity, our dependence upon people's judgment, to stand for one moment before the eyes of God, and then go away happily and satisfied - no! This only a beginning! And the real thing begins at the moment when we say to the Lord, 'All that I have done wrong, within my power but without fear, without greed, I will restore and repair'.

And so this is what we are confronted with this week. We must look deep into ourselves and ask ourselves, 'How much does vanity destroy my life? How much does it eat into good and evil? How much does it destroy the beauty that is woven into my soul?' And secondly, if we see, however little of it - turn to God, turn to life decisively, and start putting right. But not lightly, not just enough to be satisfied with ourselves, but radically, ruthlessly, courageously, because the question is, 'Shall I become one of the followers of Christ, or shall I have a passing emotion that will die within me, and shall I be again where I was - vain, that is empty, worth of nothing?'

الصلاة تنفّس

حالتنا مع الرب اننا دائماً معذبون وان الرب دائماً يشفي. ليس لنا ان نتساءل لماذا نحن هكذا، لماذا نحن في الآلام، لماذا وُجدنا في الآلام. الوحي الإلهي لا يجيب عن هذا السؤال، لا يقول لأي سبب نحن مطروحون في الأوجاع، في أوجاع الجسد، في أوجاع الروح، في أوجاع الضمير. يكتفي الكتاب الإلهي بأن يلاحظ ذلك وينطلق منه ليكشف لنا كيف نستطيع أن نخرج من هذه الآلام او كيف نقدر ان نحتلمها ونحوّلها الى طاقة إبداع وتقرب من الله فنجعلها سلماً نرتقي بها الى السماء. عندنا في الكتاب الإلهي وعود بالشفاء وبالخلاص المؤكد من الخطيئة. وعندنا وعد بالفرح وكشف للحياة الأبدية التي تأتي عندما نتقبّل سرّ الله ونطيعه في كل ما نذوقه من مصائب الدنيا، في الروح كان أم في الجسد. عندما نكون في حال من هذه الأحوال، في عذاب كالذي كان فيه كل الذين طلبوا الشفاء من السيد، يكون لسان حالنا مثلهم : "يا رب ارحمني".

"يا ابن داود ارحمني". "يا رب ارحم ابني فإنه يتألم جداً..." نلاحظ أن كلها كلمات استرحام وهذا أشمل من الشفاء. عندما نطلب الشفاء، أكثرنا يطلب شفاء الجسد، وهذا جيّد. لكننا لم نصل الى أن نتألم من تسرّب الخطيئة اليّنا فنطلب أن تُرفع عنا ونبقى للمسيح. ما هو موقفنا من المُصاب بعد ان نقع في الشر، بعد ان تجتاح الظلمات نفوسنا؟ أية صلاة نصلي؟ هل نحن واثقون بأن الله نفسه ينحدر اليّنا اذا صلينا؟ هل نعرف بأن الله يريد أن نحدثه؟ ان ندخل معه في حوار؟

الله قادر بالطبع أن يستجيب في كل حين، وهو مستجيب بالفعل اذا سألنا واذا لم نسأل لأنه يعرف حاجتنا. ومع ذلك فالرب يفضل أن نكلّمه لكي نتدرب على صداقته. انه يطلب منا هذه الدالة، دالة البنين على أبيهم. وهذا ما نطلبه في القداس الإلهي قبل أن نتلو الصلاة الربّيّة إذ نقول: "وأهلنا أيها السيد ان نجسر بدالة لندعوك أباً".

الله يريد ن يختلط بنا، أن يُعاشرنا لكي نعرف أننا ارتفعنا الى مصف الألوهة ولكي ندرك أن الله تنازل الى مصف البشر. واذا جاء الله الى نفوسنا كما هي، كما نعهداها، في ضعفها، في هوانها، في قذارتها، اذا جاء الله الى هذه النفوس فهو شافيها.

ان مشكلة الانسان الحديث المعاصر هي انه يكتفي بذاته لأنه اصطنع دمي، ألعوبات يلهو بها، وظن انه يكتفي بهذا لا سيما اذا كسب بعض المال وكفى نفسه شر العيش، فإنه ينغلق على نفسه ولا يسأل عن شيء. هذا هو شر الانسان في هذا الجيل الذي نحن فيه، ولهذا يقول الرب: "ايها الجيل الفاسد الشرير، الى متى أكون معكم، حتى متى أحتلمكم" (متى ١٧: ١٧). عندما يغلق الانسان النواقد بالكلية على نفسه، مع الوقت يموت لأنه لا يتنفس. نحن متى اكتفينا بألعوبات اصطنعناها واكتفينا بها نُغلق نافذة السماء علينا ونختنق. الانسان لا يختنق فقط من رئتيه ولكن عقله يتجمّد وقلبه يذبّل وضميره يسكع فيموت روحياً.

ما هي الصلاة إزاء هذا الوضع؟ الصلاة هي ان نفتح النواقد متى أحسنا بالانغلاق، نفتح نواقد القلب الى السماء فيأتي الله الى نفوسنا، وعند ذلك فقط نستطيع أن نعيش.

الصلاة تنفّس. اذا ما كنا متأكدين من هذا الأمر، نستطيع ان نتغلب على جميع تجارب الدنيا لأن أرواحنا تكون مليئة من هواء النعمة.

جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون

ST NICHOLAS

FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHT 

JANUARY
20TH
6:00 @
ST. NICHOLAS
HALL



PRESENTING

★ JOE KEYTAR ★

ADULTS 25\$
KIDS 10\$
DINNER INCLUDED

A WALK FOR LIFE

Pilgrimage

FRI JAN 26 - SUN JAN 28, 2018
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Orthodox Christians from all over will be gathering for a pan-Orthodox weekend of prayer, fellowship and learning surrounding the pro-life West Coast Walk for Life.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday Jan. 27

8:30 am: Liturgy followed by breakfast at Holy Trinity Church, 999 Brotherhood Way

11:30 am: Pan-Orthodox Molieben for the Sanctity of Life at Civic Center Plaza

12:30 - 3:30 pm: Rally and Walk for Life at Civic Center Plaza

5:30pm: Vespers followed by dinner at St. Nicholas Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd.

Sunday Jan. 28

7:30 am: (English) Liturgy at Holy Virgin Cathedral, 6210 Geary Blvd.

9:30 am – 12 pm: Breakfast and pro-life symposium in the Holy Virgin parish hall

Orthodox Christians in Southern California will be travelling by bus to San Francisco for the weekend. For more details or to register for the bus trip, visit www.DlawYoungAdults.com. For info about the Walk for Life, visit www.WalkforLifeWC.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

★
مهند المشلح

*St. Nicholas
Valentine Party*

Mazza, Full Dinner and Open Bar
Doors open at 8 P.M.
@ St. Nicholas Banquet Hall
Tickets: \$100 per person

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE
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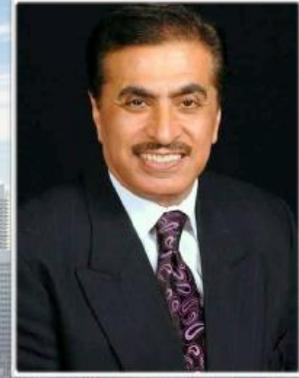
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