

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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His Eminence **Metropolitan JOSEPH**, Archbishop
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. **George Baalbaki**

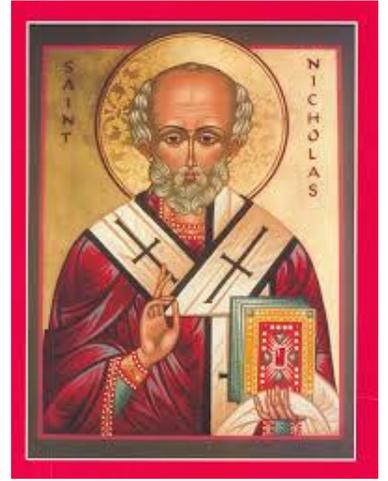
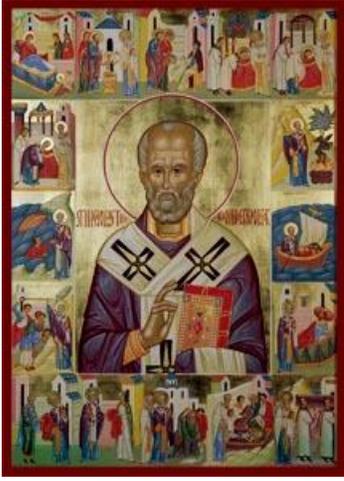
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, January 28, 2018

Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

أحد الفريسيّ والعشار / القديس البارّ أفرام السريانيّ

ATTENTION: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4TH:

Orthos will start at 9:30 AM and the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM.

House Blessings are underway:

If you have not received a phone call from the church office yet, please reach out and contact us to set up a time for a home blessing from Father George. You can also reach him at 586 214 4428

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الرسالة: ٢ تيموثاوس ٣ : ١٠-١٥

يا ولدي تيموثاوس إنك قد استقريت تعليمي وسيرتي وقصدي، وإيماني وأناتي ومحبتتي وصبري واضطهاداتي والآمي، وما أصابني في أنطاكية وإيقونية ولسترة، وآية اضطهادات احتملت وقد أنقذني الرب من جميعها، وجميع الذين يريدون أن يعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيح يسوع يُضطهدون. أمّا الأشرار والمُغوون من الناس فيزدادون شرّاً مُضِلّين ومُضَلّين. فاستمرّ أنت على ما تعلمته وأيقنت به عالمًا ممّن تعلمت، وأنك منذ الطفولة تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة على أن تُصيرك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨ : ١٠-١٤

قال الربّ هذا المثل: إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فرّيسيّ والآخر عشّار. فكان الفرّيسيّ واقفاً يصليّ في نفسه هكذا: «اللهمّ إنّي أشكرك لأنّي لستُ كسائر الناس الخاطفة الظالمين الفاسقين ولا مثل هذا العشّار، فإنّي أصوم في الأسبوع مرّتين وأعشّر كلّ ما هو لي». أمّا العشّار فوقف عن بُعد ولم يُرد أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء، بل كان يقرع صدره قائلاً: «اللهمّ ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». أقول لكم إنّ هذا نزل إلى بيته مبرّراً دون ذلك، لأنّ كلّ من رفع نفسه اتّضع، ومن وضع نفسه ارتفع.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ For the good health of the **Katout, Shea, and Rantisi** families.
- ❖ By St Nicholas Church for the healing and recovery of **John Saleh**.
- ❖ By St Nicholas Church for the good health and well-being of **Father Gregory Ofiesh**
God Bless!

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!

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **WALK FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE:** We will have vesper service here at St. Nicholas on Saturday January 27th at 5:30 PM followed by an Aghapi meal. Friday January 26th through Sunday January 28th 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. Orthos will start at 9:30 AM and the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM. 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..
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS VALENTINE PARTY:** Saturday February 10th at 8:00 PM. Mazza, full dinner, and open bar! With famous superstar MOUHANAD AL MOSHALAH and maestro Radwan Shakshir + ensemble. Donation: \$100
- ❖ **RETREAT:** Saturday March, 10th. A retreat with the great scholar and teacher Father Paul Tarazi. More info to come.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh:

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

To-day we are confronted with a third image; we are confronted with the story of the Pharisee and of the Publican. The Publican was aware of his unworthiness, he was aware that he was unworthy of presenting himself before the face of God, but also of being admitted into the company of respectable people, people of whom God would approve. He came to the door of the Temple and could not cross the threshold because he knew that in this world – soiled, polluted, desecrated by human sin, by blood and evil in all its forms, the Temple was a place which was devoted to God alone. All the rest of the world, to use a phrase of satan tempting Christ, all the rest of the world "has

been betrayed into my hands by man". But the Temple is a space which men of faith, frail indeed but believing in God, cut out of this realm of horror to be a vision of divine beauty, a dwelling place for the One who has nowhere to rest His Head in a world that was stolen from Him and betrayed into the hands of the adversary.

As the Publican stood on the threshold he knew that he belonged to the realm of evil, and had no access into the realm of God; and yet, he felt the difference, he felt horror at himself and a sense of worship, of adoration with regard to the Divine Realm. He beat his chest and asked for mercy because there was nothing else he could hope for and count on.

And the Pharisee stood right in the middle of the Church; he had walked in and taken his stand there as one who had the right to be there. Why? Not because he was a man of pure heart, but because he was faithful to every one of the formal rules established by the Synagogue, as a number of us are faithful to the outer, external rules of life that do not penetrate even through our skin, which do not reach our heart, which do not give a new shape and meaning to our thoughts.

So, again, we are confronted by two men and asked by Christ: who are you? Are you one who is so deeply aware of the sanctity of God that he knows that, apart from a God who would step down to us to heal and save, there is no access to Him. Or are we like the Pharisee who would say to God, throw it in His face: I have done all that is prescribed. You have nothing to ask of me!.. We are not that arrogant because we have not even the courage of being arrogant as the Pharisee was, neither have we got the constancy of courage to be as faithful as he was to the full of the life of the law.

Let us ask ourselves then: Do we emulate the Pharisee in deed, outwardly faithful to all the tenets of our Christian Faith? And beyond this, do we allow our Faith to transform our heart, to rule our will, to enlighten our mind?

This is the task which the Gospel offers us. Think about it. It will be one more step to pronouncing upon ourselves a judgment so that we are not condemned.

نعمة التواضع

نستهلّ اليوم فترة طقوسية، فترة التريودي، تقودنا إلى الصيام المبارك. نُسمّى تريودي نسبة إلى الكتاب الذي نستعمله في هذه الفترة، أي من هذا الأحد، أحد الفريسيّ والعشّار إلى سبت النور. كلمة تريودي يونانية وتعني القوائد الثلاث، وتتعلّق بالموسيقى والترتيل.

تألّت علينا الكنيسة المقدّسة اليوم فصلاً من بشارة القديس لوقا يتعلّق بشخصين متناقضين في السيرة، أحدهما ذلك الفريسيّ الذي كان ينتمي إلى جماعة دينية، يدلّ اسمها على أنّهم كانوا قومًا يفرزون أنفسهم عن الناس ويؤثرون سيرتهم على سيرة الناس، وكانوا علماء ومفسّري الكتاب، وكانوا يأتون بفتاوى يضيّقون بها تعليم الكتاب، ويلزمون الناس بما لم يلزمهم به الله. كانوا مستقيمي الرأي بالكليّة من حيث العقيدة، إذ كانوا يؤمنون بالقيامة وغيرهم لم يكن يؤمن بالقيامة، ولكنّ مسالكهم كانت مسالك رياء.

في هذا المثل من الإنجيل، جاء واحد منهم إلى الهيكل يتبجّح ويفتخر بأنّه ليس كذلك العشّار الخاطيء. فالعشّارون كانوا جباة الضريبة يلتزمون ضريبة المدينة كلّها ويفرضون على الأفراد ما لا يطيقون، أي أنّهم كانوا تحديداً سارقين.

كان للفريسيّ الحقّ في أن يقول إنّه كان مسلكياً خيراً من العشّار، إلا أنّ الربّ رفض له حقّ التفاخر بالتقوى، فإنّها من فضل ربك وهي نعمة ينعم عليك بها وما أنت إلا وعاء تتقبّل كرم الله.

«إنني أصوم مرتين في الأسبوع». هذا لم يكن مفروضاً ولكن كان من الزوائد التي وضعها الفرسيون. كانوا يصومون يومين في الأسبوع، وهذا غير وارد في شريعة موسى. ثم كانوا يعشرون كل أموالهم، أي يعطون العشر من أموالهم وهذا لم يكن مطلوباً في الناموس.

الرجل الآخر كان واقفاً في الهيكل ويعرف أنه لا شيء، يعرف أن الله وحده قادر على أن يحول هذا العدم إلى وجود. لذلك انسحق أمام ربه قائلاً: «يا الله ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». انطلقت هذه العبارة وصارت دعاء مستمراً في الرهبانية الشرقية إذ نقول: «يا يسوع المسيح ابن الله ارحمني أنا الخاطيء» ونرددها. تقول كنيسةنا إن عبارة العشار هذه يستعيب بها الإنسان عن أي صلاة وعن أية عبادة، إن لم تتوفر له أسباب الصلاة في الكنيسة.

هذا الرجل السارق التائب إلى ربه جعله المسيح اليوم قدوة لنا. والمسيح غفر لكثيرين من الخطاة.

الإنسان عابد لربه أو عابد لنفسه، ولا مجال لهاتين العبادتين في نفس واحدة. من عرف نفسه حقاً يعرف أنه لا شيء وأنه مخلوق النعمة. نحن ثمار العطاء الإلهي وتعبير النعمة بنا. ليس لنا فضل في اقتنائها، وجهادنا عينه هو أيضاً من نعمة الرب ونحن له شاكرون.

ولذا قال أبائنا إن الصلاة أم الفضائل. بنعمة التواضع نعرف أننا لا نستحق شيئاً وأن الله يرفعنا ويوجدنا. فإذا انسحقنا أمامه في كل حين ولم ننسب إلى أنفسنا فضلاً ما، إذا انكسرنا أمامه يرفعنا هو إلى وجهه الكريم.

جاورجيوس مطران جبل لبنان

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

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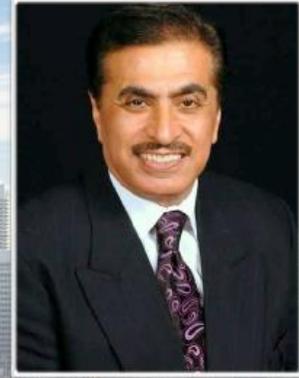
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