

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**

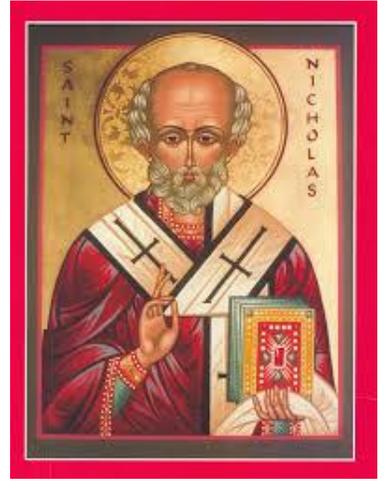
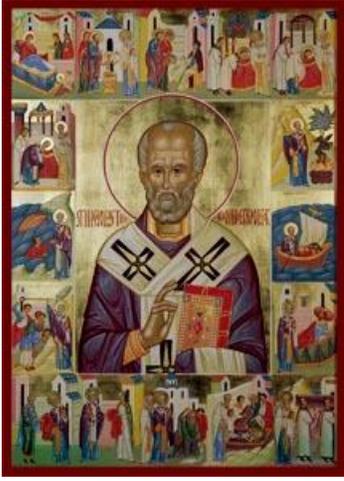
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, June 03, 2018 All Saints Sunday أحد جميع القدّ

Memorial Service: Sunday June 10th: One Year Memorial Service for the
Servant of God **Bishara Wahab** offered by his family.

Six Month Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Milad Wahab** offered by
his family. May their memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: Hebrews. (11:33-40; 12:1-2) Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

الرسالة: عبرانيين ١١: ٣٣-٤٠ و ١٢: ١-٢ يا إخوة إنّ القديسين أجمعين بالإيمان قهروا الممالك وعملوا البرّ ونالوا المواعيد وسدّوا أفواه الأسود، وأطفأوا حدّة النار ونجوا من حدّ السيف وتقدّروا من ضعف وصاروا أشداء في الحرب وكسروا معسكرات الأجنبي، وأخذت نساء أمواتهنّ بالقيامة، وعذب آخرون بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا بالنجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة فضلى، وآخرون ذاقوا الهزء والجلد والقيود أيضاً والسجن، ورجموا ونشروا وامتنحوا وماتوا بحدّ السيف، وساحوا في جلود غنم ومعز وهم معوزون مضايقون مجهودون، ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم، فكانوا تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلّهم، مشهوداً لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا الموعد لأنّ الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئاً أفضل أن لا يكملوا بدوننا. فنحن أيضاً إذ يُحدّق بنا مثل هذه السحابة من الشهود فلنلقِ عنّا كلّ ثقلٍ والخطيئة المحيطة بسهولة بنا، ولنسابق بالصبر في الجهاد الذي أمامنا، ناظرين إلى رئيس الإيمان ومكّمه يسوع.

الإنجيل: متى ١٠: ٣٢-٣٣ و ٣٧-٣٨ و ١٩: ٢٧-٣٠ قال الربّ لتلاميذه: كلّ من يعترف بي قدام الناس أعترف أنا به قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. ومن يُنكرني قدام الناس أنكره أنا قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. من أحبّ أباً أو أمّاً أكثر منّي فلا يستحقّني، ومن أحبّ ابناً أو بنتاً أكثر منّي فلا يستحقّني. ومن لا يأخذ صليبه ويتبعني فلا يستحقّني. فأجاب بطرس وقال له: هوذا نحن قد تركنا كلّ شيء وتبعناك، فماذا يكون لنا؟ فقال لهم يسوع: الحقّ أقول لكم إنكم أنتم الذين تبعتموني في جيل التجديد، متى جلس ابن البشر على كرسيّ مجده، تجلسون أنتم أيضاً على اثني عشر كرسيّاً تدينون أسباط إسرائيل الاثني عشر. وكلّ من ترك بيوتاً أو إخوة أو أخوات أو أباً أو أمّاً أو امرأة أو أولاداً أو حقولاً من أجل اسمي يأخذ مئة ضعف ويرث الحياة الأبدية. وكثيرون أوّلون يكونون آخريين وآخرون يكونون أوّلين.

**THE GOSPEL: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to
Saint Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)**

The Lord said to his disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **CAMP THREE HOLY YOUTHS: June 18-22nd at St. Sava Mission in Jackson, California.**
Tuition: \$100 per camper. We would like to encourage you to bring all the youth ages 8-17 where they will learn the word of God, learn discipline, have fun and fellowship and make their Orthodox faith stronger. Register online at www.norcaldeanerycamp.org.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PICNIC: Sunday July 8th at Hanna Winery at 5353 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. DIVINE LITURGY CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE WINERY!** We will have a bus leaving from the church to transport those who are unable to drive. There will be limited capacity so please call us in advance to reserve a seat.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL: September 29th & 30th. More info to come.**

Special Announcement: Dearly beloved faithful of St. Nicholas. Construction is under way for a new Orthodox church in the Holy Land of Palestine. The church is located in the small town of **Kfar-Sumei** in the Holy Land. Any donation or contribution to help build this church and preserve the Christian Orthodox faith in the Middle East would be greatly appreciated.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchSumei/>

GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/orthodox-church-in-the-holy-land>

Congratulations:

- ❖ And best wishes to **Sliman Costa Tannous and Lara Michelle Kurt** on their holy matrimony.
 - ❖ And best wishes to **Shadi Massad and Amanda Hanhan** on their holy matrimony.
- God bless and many years!

Metropolitan Anthony: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The Mother of God and the Saints whose memory we keep today, those who are known to us because God has revealed them, and because they have been understood and recognized, either by their contemporaries, or years, at times — centuries later, all the Saints are the response of the earth to the love of God. And this response is given by them not only in their own name but in the name of all creation and in our names also, because each of us has the privilege to be called by one name, our Christian name, the name of one of those Saints. And the Saints whose names are ours stand before God and pray that their name should not be made unworthy in the eyes of the Lord.

The Saints of God embrace the whole of Creation in their love, in their intercession, in their prayer, in their real, continuous presence. How wonderful it is that we belong to this vast family of men, of women, of children who have understood what the Lord meant when He came, and lived, taught and died for us! They responded with their own heart, they understood with all their mind, and they accepted His message with all their determination, to overcome in themselves all that have been the cause of the crucifixion; because if only one person on earth had strayed, fallen away from God, Christ would have come to save at the cost of His life. This is His own testimony to a Saint of the early centuries who had been praying that the sinners should be confounded; and Christ appeared to him, and said, Never pray that way! If one sinner have existed, I would have died for him.

The Saints are people who responded to love by love, people who realised that if someone can die for them, their only response of gratitude is to become such that he should not have died in vain. To take up our cross means exactly this: to turn away from all those things which are Christ's death and crucifixion, from all those things which surrounded Christ with hatred and lack of understanding. We are all free to do this, more than those who lived in His time because they could be mistaken in Him in those days. But in our days, after two thousand years, when we can read the Gospels, and see emerging from the story the stature, the Person of Christ, when we have got millions of witnesses that tell us that He truly gave His life for us, and that the only response we can give is to give our lives for one another in His name — how can't we respond?

Let us therefore, on this day make a new resolve: to listen in the way in which they listened, with all their heart, all their mind, all their will, all their self to see what happened, to hear what He said, to respond by gratitude and by determination. And then, if we offer this little to God — our gratitude and our good will — the strength, the power for us also to grow into the stature which God has willed, dreamt for us, — the power will be of God; as He had said, My strength deploys itself in weakness, My grace sufficeth... And Paul, who knew that, added, in another passage, All things are possible unto us in the power of Christ Who sustains us... There is no doubt: we can, if we only will allow God to save, to carry us from earth to heaven.

Let us make a new start, so that the Saints whose names we wear should rejoice in us, so that the Mother of God Who gave Her Son unto death that we may respond, that we may understand, that we may be saved should rejoice, and that Christ should see that it is not in vain that He lived, taught, and died. Let us be His glory, a light; it may be a small light, just like a small candle, it may be a bright light as one of the great Saints — but let us be a light that lights the world and makes it less dark! Let us be joy so that others may learn to rejoice in the Lord.

مَنْ هُوَ الْقَدِيسُ؟

جملة أساسية في هذا الفصل الإنجيلي: «كل من ترك بيوتًا أو إخوة أو أخوات... من أجلي يأخذ مئة ضعف ويرث الحياة الأبدية». الالتصاق بيسوع شرطه أن تترك ما كنت متعلقًا به إذ لا جمع ممكنًا بين المسيح وغير المسيح. الدنيا فيها أشياء تستعملها ولا يتعلق أبدًا قلبك بها. القلب يسكنه المسيح فقط.

وكانَّ المسيح يُحذِّرنا عندما يقول: «من أَحَبَّ أَبًا أو أُمًّا أكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن أَحَبَّ ابْنًا أو بِنْتًا أكثر مني فلا يستحقني»، وهو العليم بأنَّ الإنسان كثيرًا ما يتأرجح بين مودَّات له وثنيَّة وتلك المودَّة الوحيدة التي يجب ان ينصرف إليها، أي مودَّة السيِّد. ولا عجب إن تحيَّر الإنسان بين الله وغير الله، بين ما هو للسماء وما هو للأرض، وإن كان ممزَّقًا للإنسان مشدود بين ترابيته وروحانيته.

ولكن من أراد أن يتبع السيد، من شاء أن يُطوِّع كل قوة فيه وكل زخم ليسعى إلى وجه يسوع، هذا إنسان يُدعى إلى كسر الطين الذي فيه حتى يسعى إلى سحق الشهوات التي تتآكله. هي لفظة واحدة من الإنسان إلى الله تجعله قديسًا، ولفظات مستمرة منه إلى دنياه تجعله تافهًا.

يسوع يريد ألا نُشرك بينه وبين سواه. ما معنى هذا الكلام؟ أو يعني أننا مدعون ألا نُحبّ زوجة أو أرزاقًا أو وطنًا أو ما إلى ذلك من مخلوق؟ أجاب السيد عن هذا بقوله: «من لا يترك امرأة أو أولادًا أو حقولًا فلا يستحقني». ماذا يعني الترك ونحن مقيمون مع عائلاتنا ونملك ما نملك؟ في الوقت الذي تحدّث فيه السيّد لم تكن الرهبانية واردة لأنها لم تظهر الا ثلاثة قرون بعد البشارة. لهذا لا يمكن أن يعني قوله أن اتركوا إلى الأديار. هذا ما تمّمه رهبان صالحون سيظلّون نماذج لنا. لكن بصورة عامة يريدنا الله أن نبقى في الدنيا ويريدنا أن نستمر فيها وأن نعرف جمالاتها لأنه يريدنا ان نرتقي من جمالها إلى بهاء وجهه. ومن لم يذق في الدنيا جمالاً لا يرى وجه الله.

قطعًا لا يريدنا السيد ان نُهمل أزواجنا والبنين وهو الداعي إلى الرعاية. لكنّه يريدنا راسخين فيه، غير راسخين في أهل الأرض وفي ما يملكون. يريد قلوبنا منصرفة اليه، مأخوذة به. وإذا تعاطته تحوي كل البشر فيه. ولكن إن كان القلب مقسومًا، فلا مجال فيه لا للمسيح ولا لغير المسيح. ان كان القلب غير ممسحّن فهو لا يحبّ أحدًا من الناس.

المرء الذي يحب الله حتى المنتهى، حتى الترك، حتى ترك المخلوق، يعود إلى المخلوق باستقلال عنه، يعود من فوق ويضمّ المخلوقات اليه ضمًّا قاطعًا. إذ ذاك فقط يجمع الإنسان في قلب واحد بين محبة الخالق ومحبة الناس.

هذه هي القداسة. القداسة ليست مسوحًا ولا هي في جوهرها تقشّف ولو كان التقشّف وسيلة إليها لا بدّ منها. ولكن القداسة حب. من أحب حتى الموت أو حتى استعداده للموت، فهذا قد أدرك القداسة.

المطران جاورجيوس

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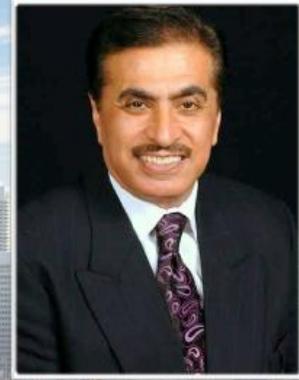


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