

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

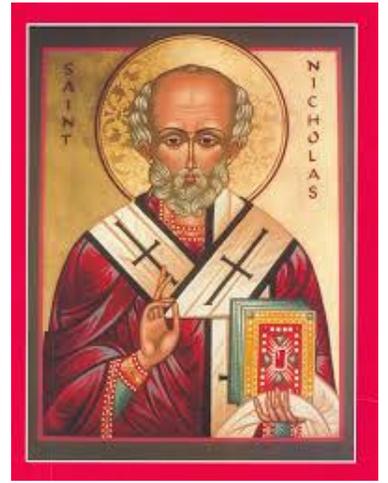
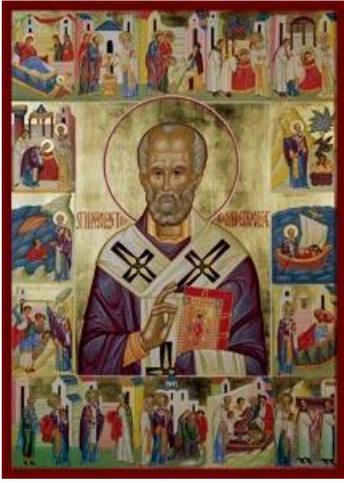
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

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Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, July 8, 2018

Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

❖ **THIS SUNDAY JULY 8TH** our Divine Liturgy service will take place in Santa Rosa at Hanna Winery. The service begins at 11:00 AM. The winery is located at 5353 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. We would love to see you there so please try your best to make it!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

الرسالة: رومية ١٢ : ٦-١٤

يا إخوة اذ لنا مواهب مختلفة باختلاف النعمة المعطاة لنا فمن وُهب النبوة فليتنبأ بحسب النسبة الى الإيمان . ومن وُهب الخدمة فليلازم الخدمة، والمعلم التعليم، والواعظ الوعظ، والمتصدق البساطة، والمدبر الاجتهاد، والراحم البشاشة. ولتكن المحبة بلا رياء. كونوا ماقنتين للشر وملتصقين بالخير، محبين بعضكم بعضا حبا أخويا، مبادرين بعضكم بعضا بالإكرام، غير متكاسلين في الاجتهاد، حارين بالروح، عابدين للرب، فرحين في الرجاء، صابرين في الضيق، مواظبين على الصلاة، مؤاسين القديسين في احتياجاتهم، عاكفين على ضيافة الغرباء. باركوا الذين يضطهدونكم. باركوا ولا تلعنوا.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

الإنجيل: متى ٩: ١-٨

في ذلك الزمان دخل يسوع السفينة واجتاز وجاء إلى مدينته. فإذا بمخلّع ملقى على سرير قدّموه إليه. فلما رأى يسوع إيمانهم، قال للمخلّع: ثق يا بني، مغفورة لك خطاياك. فقال قوم من الكتبة في أنفسهم: هذا يُجَدَّف. فعلم يسوع أفكارهم فقال: لماذا تفكرون بالشر في قلوبكم؟ ما الأيسر، أن يقال مغفورة لك خطاياك، أم أن يقال قم فامش؟ ولكن لكي تعلموا أن ابن البشر له سلطان على الأرض أن يغفر الخطايا، حينئذ قال للمخلّع: قم احمل سريرك واذهب إلى بيتك. فقام ومضى إلى بيته. فلما نظر الجموع تعجبوا ومجدّوا الله الذي أعطى الناس سلطانا كهذا.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **CAMP THREE HOLY YOUTHS REUNION (LOCK-IN):** Friday July 13th from 7:00 PM to 8:00 AM Saturday morning at St. Nicholas. There will be a dinner, movies, and other activities. Parents are invited for the dinner and movie. Activities will take place after. Please bring your children to keep them involved in our growing community. God bless!
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL:** Saturday and Sunday September 29th & 30th. More info to come.
- ❖ **FOLK AND CULTURE DANCE:** Saturday October 20th we will have a Folk and Culture dance at St. Nicholas. More info to come.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell, Oscar Moran** for the good health of **Jane Moran** on the occasion of her birthday July 12th.
Happy birthday and God bless!

Pledge Reminder:

- ❖ **We would like to remind you to honor your pledge.** The annual pledge for the members of our church is \$600 per family or \$300 per individual. Your support is truly needed and appreciated and it helps fulfill our commitment. God bless!

Special Thank You:

- ❖ We would like to give a special thank you and our best wishes to **Dr. Elias Hanna** for hosting our Annual Picnic at **Hanna Winery**. God bless and many years!

Metropolitan Anthony: Paralytic man

A man was brought to the Lord Jesus Christ, paralysed, by four of his friends. And Christ, seeing their faith, said to him that he could be healed.

There are two things in this story which I would like you to think about. The one is that this man was ill, he was in need; perhaps he was unable either to express his need, or to express the faith that he had in the possibility of healing; but his friends had faith: faith in Christ, faith in His power to heal, to make whole. And they took this man and brought him to the Lord.

But their faith would not have been sufficient; many were paralysed, many were sick who did not find friends who would bring them to the healer. It is not only their faith in Christ; it is also their love to their friend that prompted them to act. And again, it is because this man, in

the years when he was whole, was able to call out love, friendship, devotion, faithfulness in their hearts that in the hour of need they came to his rescue.

Here are two lessons for us. The one is that we can bring forth the needs of people - physical, spiritual and other needs; we can bring forth their needs to God if we have faith in His healing power, and our faith can open the gates of salvation for those who perhaps have not enough faith, who might not even be able to say, 'I believe, Lord, help my unbelief - those who doubt, those who hesitate, those who are uncertain that we can bring them to the Lord. But this is possible only if the person in need has created in us, called out in us love; a love so personal, so faithful that we prove capable of acting. Or perhaps, if our life in Christ is deep enough that God has sawn into our hearts so much of His own compassion, of His own love that we can turn to the unknown, turn to whom we have never heard of, prompted by nothing but by his or her need, and bring him or her to God unto salvation, unto healing.

We must remember both the necessity for us to become capable of love and capable of calling out love around us. And also we must learn to have the daring of faith when we see need around us, and bring it to the Only One Who can resolve it, Who can heal, Who can make whole not only bodies, and minds, and souls, but the complex relationship between people.

Here is a calling, here is a vocation for us; let us pay attention to what God says to us in this Gospel, in this Good News of the power of love, divine and human, and the power of faith to which God's love and mercy responds.

لتكن المحبة بلا رياء

رسالة اليوم جزء من تعليم أخلاقيّ وضعه الرسول بولس في كتابه الى أهل رومية، وهو في غاية البساطة يوجزه بعبارة واحدة حيث يقول: «لتكن المحبة بلا رياء». المحبة الصادرة عن قلب بسيط نيرٍ نقيّ وليس فيها تمثيل ولا تبرّج، المحبة التي تعتبر الانسان الآخر اعتبارًا كليًا، التي تعرفه محبوبًا وتعرفه موضوع الاقتناد الإلهي والرحمة الإلهية. ولذلك أنت تُلاصق الانسان الآخر من أجل الرب. هذه المحبة للقريب إنما هي نابعة من إخلاص لله، من إيمان به يجعلنا ماقنين للشر وملتصقين بالخير. مشكلتنا الأخلاقية هي أننا نتحير بين الخير والشر، ولذلك نضيف الشر أحيانًا، وإذا ما أفلعنا عنه فكثيرًا ما نوّده. لا نرتكبه ولكننا نحبه بعض الحب. وهذا التردّد بين الله والشر يجعلنا متقلّبين غير مصمّمين على الخير، ولذلك قال الرسول: «كونوا ماقنين للشر». كونوا ماقنين له كما تمقّتون مرضًا يتأكل خلايا الجسم شيئًا فشيئًا، فإذا ما ماتت الخلايا يفنى الانسان. الخطيئة تُميت الانسان هكذا، وتجعله غير قادر على العمل، غير قادر على المحبة، تجعله مكبّلًا، عبدًا لها سجينًا. مشكلتنا مع أنفسنا أننا لا نريد أن نتروّض على الخير. الانسان يقبل نفسه كما هو. يعرف نفسه سكيّرًا ويريد ذلك. يعرف نفسه غضوبًا ويرتضي ذلك. كما نرى أنفسنا نرتضيها، ونظنّ أنفسنا عظماء خيرين. الرسول يعقوب يقول لنا اننا بذلك نخدع أنفسنا إذ نشبه «رجلاً ناظرًا خلقته في مرآة، فإنه نظر ذاته ومضى وللوقت نسي ما هو» (يعقوب ١: ٢٣-٢٤).

مرضنا الأساسي هو الكسل، اللامبالاة بحيث يأتي الانسان الى الكنيسة متى يحلو له، ينام متى يحلو له، يصوم متى يشتهي الصوم ولا يصوم متى لا يشتهي الصوم. كل أمورنا متعلقة بالنزوات العابرة. ليس عندنا شيء يُسمّى المواظبة. يقول لنا بولس ان المسيحية الحق هي أن نكون «غير متكاسلين في الاجتهاد» لأن الشر خبيث. متى تسرّب إلى النفس وبقي هناك بلا مقاومة فإنه يتمكن منها ويُميتها. لذلك ينبغي أن نكافح الشر باستمرار، أن نخلق الشر نهائيًا، أن نضربه ضربة واحدة قاضية قبل أن يتمكن منّا. كيف نكافحه؟ الرسول بولس يجيب بقوله بأن نكون دائمًا «حارّين بالروح» وما تبقى يتبع، أي أن نكون دائمًا يقظين. في المسيحية الانسان لا يقبل نفسه، لا يستريح إلى خطيئته، لا يجد أذارًا لهفواته، لا يساوم، لا يُساير. المسيحي حارّ بالروح أي انه في جهاد مستمر، ثائر على نفسه لأنه محبّ لله، لأنه يجعل وجه المسيح دائمًا نُصب عينيه، ولا يستريح إلى غيره. وجه السيّد بنير ظلماتنا، يكشف لنا هفواتنا، يدخل إلى ثنايا نفسنا فنرى العتمة التي فينا، نرى بشاعتنا. فإن تناسينا ما يكشفه لنا، إن اختلقنا أذارًا، إن تقاعسنا وتكاسلنا، تتمكّن العتمة منّا وتنمو نفسنا في بشاعتها فتستفيق ذات يوم في ظلام دامس بنفس مسخّة.

دعوة الرسول لنا اليوم أن نحيا بلا رياء، في محبة معطاء، ناظرين إلى الكمال الذي في المسيح يسوع مثالاً لنا. هكذا نغيّر إلى صورته، وهكذا نُغيّر العالم بأسره.

SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

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For more information contact our Church office at (415) 648-5200 or info@stnicholas-sf.com



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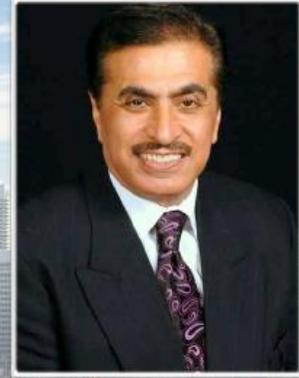
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