

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**

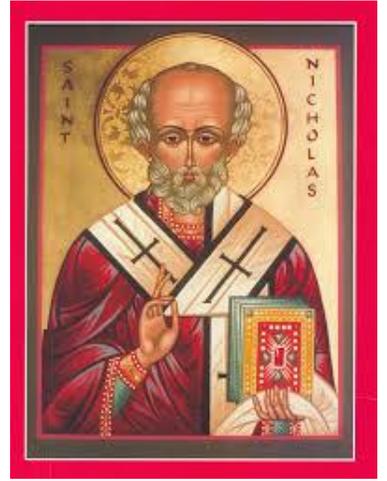
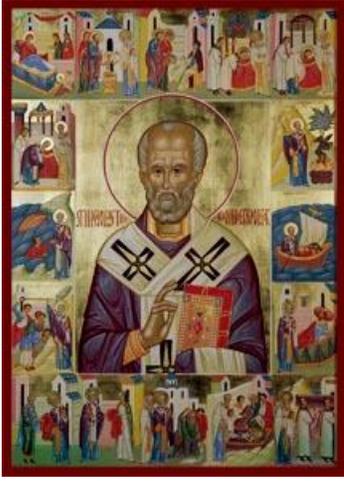
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, August 05, 2018

Forefeast of the Transfiguration of Christ // مقدمة عيد التجلي

Memorial Service:

- ❖ **THIS SUNDAY:** Three, Nine, and Forty-Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Jaleela Dabit** offered by her family.
- ❖ **SUNDAY AUGUST 12TH:** Six Month Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Jeanette Tannous** offered by her family.

May their memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:9-16) Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

الرسالة: ١ كورنثوس ٤: ٩-١٦ يا إخوة إن الله قد أبرزنا نحن الرسل آخري الناس كأنا مجعولون للموت، لأننا قد صرنا مشهدا للعالم والملائكة والبشر. نحن جهال من أجل المسيح، أما أنتم فحكما في المسيح. نحن ضعفاء وأنتم أقوياء. أنتم مكرمون ونحن مهانون. وإلى هذه الساعة نحن نجوع ونعطش ونعزى ونلطم ولا قرار لنا، ونتعب عاملين. نُشتم فنبارك، نُضطهد فنحتمل، يُشتم علينا فنترضع. قد صرنا كأقذار العالم وكأوساخ يستخبثها الجميع إلى الآن. ولست لأخجلكم أكتب هذا وإنما أعظمكم كأولادي الأحباء، لأنه ولو كان لكم ربوة من المرشدين في المسيح ليس لكم آباء كثيرون، لأنني أنا ولدتكم في المسيح يسوع بالإنجيل. فأطلب اليكم ان تكونوا مُقتدين بي.

الإنجيل: متى ١٧: ١٤-٢٣ في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان فجثا له وقال: يا رب ارحم ابني فإنه يُعذب في رؤوس الأهلّة ويتألم شديداً لأنه يقع كثيراً في النار وكثيراً في الماء. وقد قدّمته لتلاميذك فلم يستطيعوا أن يشفوه. فأجاب يسوع وقال: أيها الجيل غير المؤمن الأعوج، إلى متى أكون معكم؟ حتى متى أحتملكم؟ هلّم به إليّ ههنا. وانتهره يسوع فخرج منه الشيطان وشفى الغلام من تلك الساعة. حينئذ دنا التلاميذ إلى يسوع على انفراد وقالوا له: لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نخرجه؟ فقال لهم يسوع: لعدم إيمانكم. فإني الحق أقول لكم، لو كان لكم إيمان مثل حبة الخردل لكنتم تقولون لهذا الجبل انتقل من ههنا إلى هناك فينتقل ولا يتعذر عليكم شيء. وهذا الجنس لا يخرج إلا بالصلاة والصوم. وإذ كانوا يترددون في الجليل قال لهم يسوع: إن ابن البشر مزعم أن يسلم إلى أيدي الناس فيقتلونه، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:14-23)

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **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.

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!

DORMITION FAST (The fast of St. Mary)

On August 1st the fast of the Dormition feast of St. Mary starts, and it will end on August 15th, the feast of the Dormition of St. Mary. During this fast we abstain from eating: fish, Meat, Milk and dairy food. On Transfiguration we may eat fish, olive oil and wine.

- ❖ The Paraklesis Service to the Virgin Mary (Every Wednesday & Friday @ 7:00 P.M.)
- ❖ Transfiguration Service عيد التجلي (Sunday August 5th)
- ❖ Dormition Feast Wednesday August 15th. Vespers Divine Liturgy Service and Lamentation of St. Mary on Tuesday August 14th @ 7PM.

HELP NEEDED:

- ❖ **We are looking for a group of energized and motivated people, ages 5 to 31 years old, to join our Dabkeh group!** The group will be performing at our annual festival on September 29th and 30th. If you or anyone you know is interested or if you have any questions please contact Gladys Maalouf at 415 832 0316.

ST NICHOLAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- ❖ **We will be awarding four students with a \$500 scholarship each.** This scholarship is for incoming high school seniors and incoming college freshman. The deadline for the scholarship is September 20th, 2018 by 5 PM. For more information please visit <https://www.stnicholas-sf.com/scholarship/>

Deepest Sympathy:

- ❖ And condolences to the **Ahwal** family for the passing of **Jamil Mitri Ahwal**. May his memory be eternal!

Holy Bread of Oblation:

- ❖ Blessing of the Grapes offered by **Afaf Dudum** in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum** and **mother Odette Khalaf** and for the good health of the **Dudum, Imprescias, and Stricklands families**.

Alter Candle offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Sahouria** family in loving memory of the 10 year observation of **Saba Kalil Sahouria**, beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather. May his memory be eternal!

Metropolitan Anthony: TRANSFIGURATION

There are blessed or tragic moments when we can see a person revealed to us in a light with a depth, with an awesome beauty which we have never suspected before.

It happens when our eyes are open, at a moment of purity of heart; because it is not only God Himself Whom the pure in heart will see; it is also the divine image, the light shining in the darkness of a human soul, of the human life that we can see at moments when our heart becomes still, becomes transparent, becomes pure.

But there are also other moments when we can see a person whom we thought we have always known, in a light that is a revelation. It happens when someone is aglow with joy, with love, with a sense of worship and adoration. It happens also when a person is at the deepest point, the crucifying point of suffering, but when the suffering remains pure, when no hatred, no resentment, no bitterness, no evil is mixed to it, when pure suffering shines out, as it shone invisibly to many from the crucified Christ.

This can help us to understand what the Apostles saw when they were on the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw Christ in glory at a moment when His total surrender to the will of the Father, His final and ultimate acceptance of His own human destiny, became revealed to them. Moses and Elijah, we are told, stood by Him; the one representing the Law and the other one representing the Prophets: both have proclaimed the time when salvation would come, when the Man of suffering will take upon Himself all the burdens of the world, when the Lamb of God slain before all ages would take upon Himself all the tragedy of this world. It was a moment when in His humanity Christ, in humble and triumphant surrender, gave Himself ultimately to the Cross.

Last week we heard Him say that the Son of God will be delivered in the hand of men, and they will crucify Him, but on the third day He will rise. At that moment it became imminent, it was a decisive point, and He shone with the glory of the perfect, sacrificial, crucified love of the Holy Trinity, and the responsive love of Jesus the Man, as Saint Paul calls Him. The Apostles saw the shining, they saw the divine light streaming through the transparent flesh of Christ, falling on all the things around Him, touching rock and plant, and calling out of them a response of light. They alone did not understand, because in all the created world man alone has sinned and became blind. And yet, they were shown the mystery, and yet, they entered into that cloud which is the divine glory, that filled them with awe, with fear, but at the same time with such exulting joy and wonder!

Moses had entered that cloud and was allowed to speak to God as a friend speaks to a friend; he was allowed to see God passing by him, still without a name, still without a face; and now, they saw

the face of God in the Incarnation. They saw His face and they saw His glory shining out of tragedy. What they perceived was the glory, what they perceived was the wonder of being there, in the glory of God, in the presence of Christ revealed to them in glory. They wanted to stay there forever, as we do at moments when something fills us with adoration, with worship, with awe, with unutterable joy, but Christ had told them that the time has come to go down into the valley, to leave the Mount of Transfiguration because this was the beginning of the way of the Cross, and He had to be merged into all that was tragic in human life. He brought them down into the valley to be confronted with the agony of the father whose child could not be cured, with the inability of the disciples to do anything for this child, with the expectation of the people who now could turn to no-one but Him - that is where He brought them.

And we are told that He had chosen these three disciples because together, in their togetherness they held the three great virtues that make us capable of sharing with God the mystery of His incarnation, of His Divinity, of His crucifixion, to face His descent into hell after His death and to receive the news of His resurrection: the faith of Peter, the love of John, the righteousness of James.

There are moments when we also see something which is beyond us, and how much we wish we could stay, stay forever in this blissful condition; and it is not only because we are incapable of it that we are not allowed to stay in it, but because the Lord says, You are now on the Mount of Transfiguration, you have seen Christ ready to be crucified for the life of the world - go now together with Him, go now in His name, go now, and bring people to Him that they may live!

This is our vocation. May God give us faith, and the purity of heart that allows us to see God in every brother and sister of ours! Didn't one of the Desert Fathers say, 'He who has seen his brother has seen God'? - and serve one another with love sacrificial, with the exulting joy of giving our lives to one another as Christ gave His life for us.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd San Francisco, CA 94131
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SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

The Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Banquet Hall, is the perfect venue for your next wedding reception, baptism, graduation, birthday, or conference. We offer a range of professional banquet and catering services for making any event a very personal experience for our community. Our vast and eclectic menu showcases a variety of banquet menu options and premium beverages. Our friendly and professionally trained staff will work with you to identify your needs, budget and develop the perfect event for you.

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



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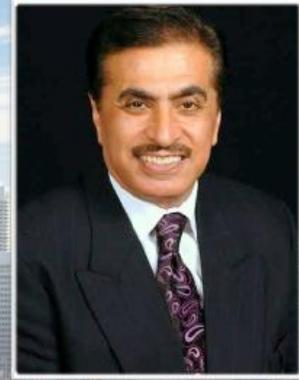
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