

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**

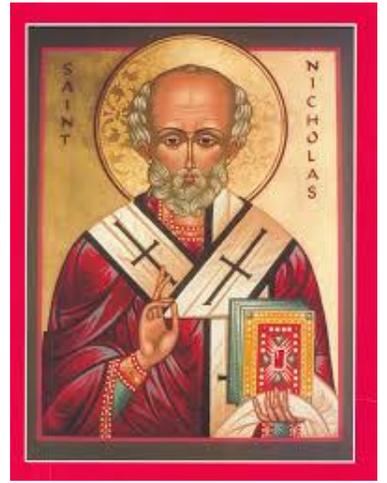
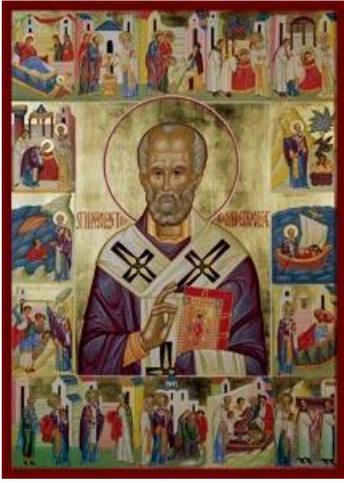
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, October 07, 2018 // Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus of Syria

القديسان الشهيدان سرجيوس وباخوس

Memorial Service Sunday October 7th:

Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Jalil Saliba Jada** who passed in
Amman, Jordan offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Corinthians. (11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He Who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

الرسالة: ٢ كورنثوس ١١ : ٣١-٣٣ و ١٢ : ١-٩

يا إخوة، قد علم الله أبو ربنا يسوع المسيح المبارك إلى الأبد أنني لا أكذب. كان بدمشق الحاكم تحت إمرة الملك الحارث يحرس مدينة الدمشقيين ليقبض عليّ. فدليت من كوة في زنبيل من السور ونجوت من يديه. إنه لا يوافقني أن أفخر فأنتي إلى رؤي الرب وإعلاناته. إنني أعرف إنساناً في المسيح منذ أربع عشرة سنة (أفي الجسد لست أعلم أم خارج الجسد لست أعلم. الله يعلم) اختطف إلى السماء الثالثة. وأعرف أن هذا الإنسان (أفي الجسد أم خارج الجسد لست أعلم، الله يعلم) اختطف إلى الفردوس وسمع كلمات سرية لا يحل لإنسان أن ينطق بها. فمن جهة هذا أفخر. أما من جهة نفسي فلا أفخر إلا بأوهاني. فإني لو أردت الافتخار لم أكن جاهلاً لأنني أقول الحق. لكنني أتحاشى لنأ يظن بي أحد فوق ما يراني عليه أو يسمعه مني. ولئلا أستكبر بفرط الإعلانات، أعطيت شوكة في الجسد، ملاك الشيطان ليلاطمني لنأ أستكبر. ولهذا طلبت إلى الرب ثلاث مرات أن تفارقني فقال لي: تكفيك نعمتي لأن قوتي في الضعف تكمل. فبكل سرور أفخر بالحري بأوهاني لتستقر في قوة المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (7:11-16)

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you: arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

الإنجيل: لوقا ٧: ١١-١٦

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع منطلقاً إلى مدينة اسمها نابين، وكان كثيرون من تلاميذه وجمع غفير منطلقين معه. فلما قرب من باب المدينة إذا ميتٌ محمولٌ وهو ابنٌ وحيدٌ لأمه وكانت أرملة وكان معها جمع كثير من المدينة. فلما رآها الربّ تحننّ عليها وقال لها: لا تبكي. ودنا ولمس النعش فوقف الحاملون. فقال: أيها الشاب لك أقول قم. فاستوى الميت وبدأ يتكلم فسلمه إلى أمه. فأخذ الجميع خوفٌ ومجدوا الله قائلين: لقد قام فينا نبيّ عظيم وافتقد الله شعبه.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS TARAB NIGHT:** Saturday October 20th featuring NABIL EL SAFE with the maestro RADWAN SHAKHSIR. Donation: \$60. For further information please contact Gladys Maalouf @ 415-832-0316.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FAMILY NIGHT:** Friday November 16th sponsored by the Rantisi Families. More info to come.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Saturday December 22nd. More info to come.

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for making our festival a big success!

A big thank you to all who worked hard to prepare and plan this year's festival. Thank you to those who were very generous in donating financially or with items toward this event. Also, we wish to extend many thanks to our friends who supported us by attending this annual event. May God bless you all!

Special thanks to the festival committee for the hard work, great job and for the time they invested towards the festival. God bless you and your families!

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH!

In October, we celebrate youth month within our archdiocese, where our youth are designated to take higher roles in the church. Likewise the entire archdiocese participates in more network based SOYO activities as well as one of our largest fundraisers of the year. The money goes towards Special Olympics hosted by our very own Antiochian Village and is one of the largest Special Olympics in the world. **Please contact the Teen Soyo, or Ilyan Baalbaki** if you'd like your teen to participate in any of the roles listed: Epistle reader, chanter, usher, and sermons.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran**, for the good health of **Jennifer and Brandon Howell** on the occasion of their birthdays October 6th and 12th. God bless and many years!



Sunday School:

ATTENTION Sunday School Students & Parents:

Sunday school starts THIS Sunday, October 7th, 2018. Regular attendance is very important. Please try your best to keep your children regularly involved.

Metropolitan Anthony: On Prayer for the Departed

Whenever someone dear to us departs this earthly life and enters into eternity, we pray for God's mercy, indeed for God's love to enfold the person and bring him into the eternity of joy which is in God. Every Saturday, as on certain other occasions, we pray regularly for the departed, but on Saturdays in a special context - we pray also to the Mother of God and sing her glory. And it is not by chance or in vain that the two prayers are intertwined. When we pray for the departed, we do not ask God to be unjust and to pardon sins gratuitously, and not to reject those who have rejected Him and are still unable to commune with Him before the love of God has penetrated them, as the warmth of the sun penetrates the cold bodies of the earth.. We pray for the departed testifying thereby that they have not lived in vain on earth, that they have, while they were on earth, kindled in our hearts a flame, a flame of gratitude, of reverence, of love; this flame may be small or great; it may be nothing more than the flickering light of a candle, but it can also be like the burning bush, shining with all the glory of the love of God, of His divine presence. We testify, when we pray for the departed, that we have received from them a message, a message of truth, of faith, of hope, of joy; that they have been for us a way to God, that they have opened to us a door which leads into eternal life, because life eternal consists in knowing the living God, and we pray to Him indeed, because He is not the God of the dead but the God of those who live. And if our love can be undying, if the Old Testament could say that love is stronger than death - how much more can we say that the love of God in Christ is stronger than anything - death indeed, among other things, because in Christ death has been defeated, death has been harrowed, life has gushed forth like a torrent from the tomb of the Resurrection. And this is why we turn to the Mother of God, both in prayer and in veneration, rejoicing that She is one of us, a Woman among women, and yet - a Woman like none for the greatness, the perfection of her gift of self to God, of her transparency to God, for her suppleness in the creative hands of God. Indeed, it is because She could believe unreservedly, heroically that the Incarnation was made possible! She is truly the Mother of Life, but not as the first Eve, the mother of all those who live on earth and are doomed one day to depart this life. - No, She is the Mother of Life because She has brought into the world Life Eternal, God Himself become man, the Son of God Who in, but also through Her, has become the Son of man. She also had to die, as Christ did, in total solidarity, in union with us; but She died inseparably united to the God to Whom She had given her soul and her body, her life without reserve, and indeed, as we are told in one of the Church's prayers, the grave and death proved incapable of keeping her a prisoner. She so communed to eternal life by her total gift of self to God and for unity with Christ, that She rose alive, and She is after Christ the first fruit of all those who have lived on earth, departed this earthly life and entered into eternity; She alone, after Christ, entered it fulfilled, entered it in body and soul. We are expecting the glorious resurrection of the last day, when living souls, cleansed, renewed by repentance, by the tears of our broken-heartedness and washed in the blood of the Lamb will be reunited to our bodies and stand, an incarnate humanity beyond death, beyond sin, beyond everything which is less than communion with God, since we are promised that the day will come when God shall be all in all. And when we pray now to the Mother of God, and for the departed, these are thoughts which are in our hearts and minds. Yes, death is overcome, and we have evidence of it in the person of the Mother of God, and not only in the unique victory of Christ.

But can we, frail, hesitant in our faith, hope to follow her into eternity? Indeed, yes, if we learn from her the transparency that allowed the light of God to shine through her, the surrender that allowed her to become the vessel of the Incarnation, the gift of self, heroic, courageous, self-sacrificing that allowed her to be the Mother of our Saviour. We must remember the words of Saint Paul, or rather of Christ spoken to Paul when he felt unable to fulfil his earthly mission and asked for strength, "My grace sufficeth unto thee, My power is made manifest in weakness", - not in laziness, not in cowardice, but in that weakness which is perfect surrender.

Let us learn from the Mother of God so to surrender that the life of God may pervade us; and let us pray for all the departed who entered into eternity in twilight that they should be enlightened, indeed, more that this - be filled with light, in the words of Saint Gregory Palamas, like pure crystals which obscure no light that flows through them, and yet reflect it in all directions through the many, many facets of their unique personality

Let us hope, let us believe, let us surrender, let us learn, and give glory to the Mother of God, and to our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ!

من الموت الى الحياة

لنا في إنجيل اليوم صورة شاب ميت ابن أرملة يقيمه السيد. يلتقي السيد الجنازة خارج السوق، والقوم قد وصلوا الى المقابر، ومع هذا لا يُسَلَّم المسيح للموت، لا يُسَلَّم لنهاية الموت، ويأمر الفتى أن يقوم، ويدفعه الى أمه. سيد الحياة والموت يستطيع أن يُقيمنا في اليوم الأخير، وهو يقيمنا دوماً. تبدأ القيامة اليوم في القلب البشريّ حسبما أجاب السيد أخت لعازر لما قالت ان أخاها سيقوم في اليوم الأخير، قال لها: «انا القيامة والحياة». معنى ذلك أن من كان للمسيح يتجاوز كل ترضيض وكل تكسير يُحدثهما الموت فينا والخطيئة. ليس الموت سوى تجمّع خطايا، اذا تكدست طوال العمر وفعلت في هذا الجسد. النفس والجسد واحد. انهما متماسكان حتى الموت. وينهار الجسد، ينهار بعد أن ورث من الطبيعة فسادها ومن الكون زواله ومن النفس كل تقهقر فيها. تتوافر هذه الاشياء لتحجب الجسد الى حين، لتجعله في الرحمة، حتى اذا انقضت الرحمانية كاملة في اليوم الأخير نُبعث الى الحياة الجديدة التي لنا في المسيح يسوع.

الإيمان من شروطه أن يُحسّ الانسان بأنه معرّض للكسر بالنهاية، انه وحده لا شيء، وان الله كل شيء. الانسان الذي يتبجّح ويحسب انه شيء قد أضاع الإيمان. والانسان الذي يحسب انه لا يستطيع النهوض بعد سقطة هو ايضاً أضاع الرجاء. ولكن الانسان الذي يعرف بأن معاً أنه معرّض للسقوط وقابل للنهوض من بعد سقوطه هو المؤمن الراسخ. إنجيل اليوم يعطي هذا حجماً كبيراً اذ يضعنا أمام شاب ميت زالت كل حياته منه، وأمام مخلص حي هو كل الحياة. واذا اجتمع الحي مع الميت، يحيا الميت من جديد، يحيا مع الحي. انعكاس هذا في حياتنا شرّحه الرسول بولس في رسالته الثانية الى أهل كورنثوس لما قال أن لنا هذا الكنز، اي كنز النعمة، في أنية خزفية، في أنية من فخار هشّة تُكسر ليكون فضل القوة لله لا للناس. كنز النعمة في أنية من فخار تُكسر ثم يجمع الله القطع بعضها الى بعض حتى يدرك الانسان انه كان لا شيء وانه أصبح بالله شيئاً.

ترجمة هذا في حياتنا اليومية ترجمة صعبة ولكنها منقذة. ليس صحيحاً أن الناس يعرفون أنهم خطأ. خبرتي الكهنوتية دلّنتني أن المسيحيين لا يعرفون حقاً أنهم خطأ. يقولونها كلمة، لفظة عندما يقولون: نحن خطأ. معظم المسيحيين يحسبون انهم صالحون. ولكن من استطاع أن يعرف انه في كل يوم يزني، في عينيه او أذنيه او في قلبه يزني، فهذا على طريق القداسة. من استطاع ان يعترف أن تعامله مع الآخرين في العمل وفي المجتمع، فيه سرقة واحتيال، هذا بدأ سر الموت والقيامة. أن نشعر بأننا خطأ وأن نرى أمامنا يسوع شافياً لكل مرض، ان نجثو أمامه، وأن نؤمن بأنه قادر أن يعطي وبأننا قادرين ان نُشفى الآن، وأن نبقى عارفين أن هذا الإناء الفخاريّ يبقى خزفاً هشاً، وانه معرّض للسقوط من جديد. وأن نعرف ايضاً أن الفضل لله لا لنا. هذا هو إيماننا. نحن اناس من فخار، والله هو إله العطاء والمحبة. الله يجمع الفخار ويجبله من جديد بالحب الذي عند الفخاريّ الكبير. شاب نايبين هو كل واحد منا، يقيمه الرب يسوع من الموت ويُسلّمه الى أمّه الكنيسة كي يفرح فيها وتفرح هي به. هكذا نحيا منبثقين من قلب الفجر في نور المسيح.

المطران جاورجيوس

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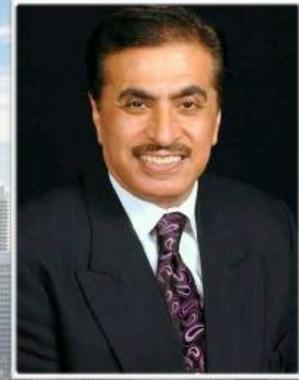
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