

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

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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, November 18, 2018**

**Memorial Service:** Three and Nine Day Memorial Service for the Servant of  
God **Ayyoub Jad Habash** who passed away in Palestine, offered by the  
**Habash** families. Condolences to his brothers **Ibrahim, Elias and Audeh**.

May his memory be eternal!

**NATIVITY FAST: November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 24<sup>th</sup>** We would like to wish  
you a happy Advent season!

Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period proceeding the Christmas season in  
which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed  
except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like  
breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the  
spirituality and the preparation for the feast of the advent of our Lord on  
December 25<sup>th</sup>.

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحباء: كل عام وأنتم بألف خير.

في كنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد هذا العام الخميس الواقع فيه ١٥ تشرين  
الثاني، وسيستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول.

وهذا الصوم لا يوجد فيه "صوم انقطاعي". أي لا يوجد صوم للساعة ١٢:٠٠، فهو صوم خفيف.  
أي نستطيع أن نتناول وجبة افطار صباحا، من مواد صيامية.

وفي ٢٥ كانون الأول سنحتفل بعيد "الميلاد" الذي فيه أتى ابن الله إلى العالم ليدلنا على طريق  
الخلاص، الطريق إلى الله الأب. صوم مبارك

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)** Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to  
lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with  
patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of  
peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your  
call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all  
and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

الرسالة: أفسس ٤: ١-٧ يا إخوة، أطلب إليكم أنا الأسير في الرب أن تسلكوا كما يحق للدعوة التي دُعيتُم بها، بكل  
تواضع ووداعة وبطول أناة محتملين بعضكم بعضًا بالمحبة، ومجتهدين في حفظ وحدة الروح برباط السلام. فإنكم جسّد  
واحد وروح واحد، كما دُعيتُم إلى رجاء دعوتكم الواحد رب واحد وإيمان واحد ومعمودية واحدة وإله أب للجميع واحد  
هو فوق الجميع وبالجميع وفي جميعكم. ولكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح.

## **THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (12:16-21)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٢: ١٦-٢١

قال الربّ هذا المثل: إنسان غنيّ أخصبت أرضه ففكر في نفسه قائلاً: ماذا أصنع فإنّه ليس لي موضع أخزن فيه أثماري. ثمّ قال: أصنع هذا. أهدم أهرائي وأبني أكبر منها وأجمع هناك كلّ غلاتي وخيراتي. وأقول لنفسي: يا نفس إنّ لك خيرات كثيرة موضوعة لسنين كثيرة فاستريح وكلي واشربي وافرحي. فقال له الله: يا جاهل، في هذه الليلة تُطلب نفسك منك. فهذه التي أعدتها لمن تكون؟ فهكذا من يدخر لنفسه ولا يستغني بالله. ولما قال هذا نادى: من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

## **Parish Council Election will take place on Sunday December 2nd.**

There will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the upcoming term. Three are to be elected and one to be appointed by the Pastor.

**The candidate or nominated person for the Parish Council should be fully pledged for the previous two years and should be spiritually qualified.** *Please submit your candidate's name to Father George and/or Chairman Maher Shami as soon as possible.*

In order to vote in the elections, members must be in spiritual and financial good standing with the church.

**BURBARA:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Delicious "Burbara" Pudding will be served after Liturgy donated by **Diana Batshon** in memory of her Husband **Michel Batshon**. May his memory be eternal! Many thanks to **Diana**. May God bless you and your family.

## **ST. NICHOLAS DAY/80 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PHOTO GALLERY:**

Our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Feast of Saint Nicholas is right around the corner! We would like to encourage all of you to send us any memorable pictures/photos that you may have from any part of our special history at this church over the last 80 years. The pictures will be put into a slideshow at our Luncheon on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for all your love and support. Photos can be uploaded at: <https://tinyurl.com/yaqwxxad>

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FAMILY NIGHT:** Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Rantisi Families. Doors at 7 PM. Donation: \$30. Special Guest Singer: Rami Keila.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS DAY/80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON:** Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> after Divine Liturgy please join us in celebrating the Feast of Saint Nicholas Day as well as our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Starring Special Guest: Bishara Sakhnini. Donation: \$95 includes Mezza, Premium Dinner, and Open Bar. Doors at 7:30 PM.

**LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING/ELECTION RESCHEDULED:** We are going to have our annual Ladies Auxiliary meeting, on Tuesday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Agenda: Election! The Election will be held to select new officers. Location: St. Nicholas Church @ 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served

## **THANKSGIVING:**

As we gather with our families this Thanksgiving to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us, we also need to be mindful of the needs of others. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Father George Baalbaki at [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com) or 586 214 4428.

### **Metropolitan Anthony: The Parable of the Rich Man**

The end of today's Gospel reading is a warning about something that we could all be aware of all the time, that is that death is at our elbow, that much, very much, of what we do will perish with us as unnecessary, mortal.

Does this mean that Christ's warning about the closeness of death should frighten us and deprive us of creative strength? No, on the contrary; the Fathers used to say, "keep a constant memory of death," not in the sense that we should be afraid of death and live under its constant shadow, but rather because nothing but the awareness of the fact that life is short, that it may end at any moment, can give to every moment its final meaning, and to the whole of life the feeling that we must hurry to do good, that we must hurry to live in such a way that at whatever moment death overtakes us, it will be a moment of triumphant life. We would live with such depth, so intensely, if only this awareness were with us constantly. If we were to know that the words that I am now speaking to you were the last, how differently would I say them, and how differently would you listen! If we were to feel that the person we were talking to might be dead within a few minutes, how careful we should be that our words and actions in relation to him should be the culmination of all the love and care of which we are capable, that they should be the triumph of everything that is best and highest in our relationship.

The reason that we live so badly, utter so many empty words, rotten words, dead words, commit so many actions that afterwards burn in our soul like wounds, is that we live as though this life was merely a rough draft of the life we will one day be living, when we have had time to shape the draft into the final story. But that is not how things work; death comes and the draft remains rough, his life has not been lived, just blotted, and there remains regret for the person who could have been great, but turned out shallow and insignificant.

That is what today's Gospel is about, not that we should be afraid of death, but that, knowing that it can come at any moment, every moment must be perfect, every word must be a word of life, filled with the Spirit, fit to enter eternity. And every action of ours in relation to each one of us should be such as to give life and express the fullness and depth and strength of the love and reverence which we should feel for each other and for all. Let us consider this, and then if we can act upon it, every word and every action will acquire the dimension of eternity and shine with its light.

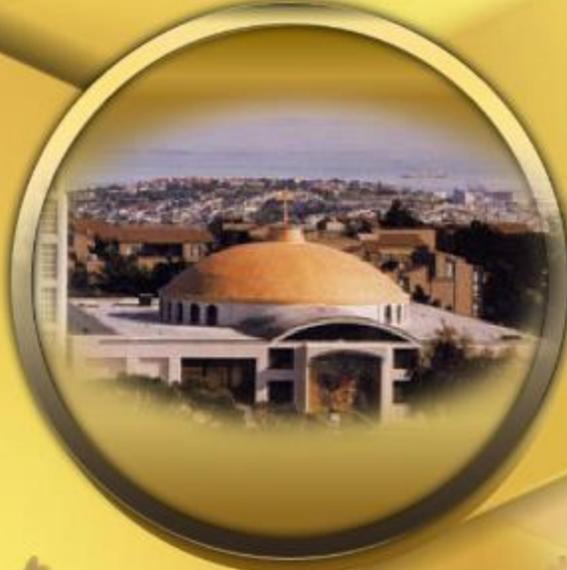
**الغني الغبي:** يحدّثنا إنجيل اليوم عن غنيّ انشغل بغيره. ويسوع يبيّن لنا في هذا المثل ان الذي جعل قلبه في المال لا يبقى في قلبه موضع لشيء آخر. وعلى العموم إذا جعلنا في القلب أي شيء أو أي شخص يتحكّم بنا لا يبقى في القلب مكان لشيء آخر. مغزى النص الإنجيلي هو أن يكون المال خاضعاً للإنسان، أن يكون المال شيئاً نستعمله لا شيئاً يستعملنا. المال يُقتنى ولا يُحبّ حباً. وبالتالي لا بدّ من تبيده، في وقت من الأوقات، في ظل النظام الذي نحيا فيه عندما يُعرفل حياتنا الأخلاقية. تحدّث الإنجيل عن إنسان أراد أن يجمع الممتلكات لنفسه ولا يشارك فيها أحداً. ولكي تبقى له وحده، أراد ان يبني مخازن ومستودعات أكبر من التي لديه. فقال لنفسه أن استمتعي في هذه الحياة وكلي واشربي، فالحياة كلها طعام ولذة، والحياة كلها أموال وما تشتريه الأموال.

هكذا قال هذا الرجل الذي وصفه الكتاب على انه غبيّ، والغباء هو في انه أقبل فقط على اللذات ولم يستلذّ بالله، لم يحب الخالق. كانت نفسه فارغة من ربه، مليئة بالشهوة. أي انها كانت بالحقيقة لا شيء، كانت تتلاشى بتلاشي الشهوات، تنحطّ بانحطاط اللذات. كيف يكون المال أداة ولا يكون هو غاية جهودنا؟ كل إنسان يعرف ان المال ممكن ان يتملكه بدل ان يبقى سيّداً على ماله. المال أصلاً عبد يمكن ان ينقلب معبوداً. ولأن السيد يعرف هذا قال: «لا تقدرون ان تعبدوا الله والمال». إذا كثر المال أو لم يكثر وأحبيته كأنه معشوق أي تعيش ليس فقط به ولكن له، يحتلّ في قلبك مكانة الله. إذ ذاك يتحكّم بأعمالك من حيث انك في نهاية شوقك اليه

يصبح في قلبك هو المعبود وإن صعب عليك ان تعترف بذلك. ولكن هذه هي الحال ان المال معبود كثيرين أغنياء كانوا أم فقراء. يحزنون جدا حتى الخوف إذا خسروه ويكون وحده موضع سرورهم الحقيقي فلا يعادله سرور آخر. في الواقع النفسي يمكن ان يتحكم بك المال تحكما حقيقيا فتتابع حياتك فقط لاقتنائه وينتهي سرورك عنده. وفي أقصى السقوط لا تفضل شيئا عليه مهما ادعيت. إذ ذاك لا محل عندك للعاطفة وفي حالة تعلقك العظيم لا القربى ولا الصداقة وربما لا التقوى لها مكانة عندك. يصبح المال إلهاً حقا بمعنى انه يأخذ كل اهتمامك، كل عقلك، كل قلبك، وكل شيء آخر يصبح عندك وهماً أو خرافة أو كذبة. في أقصى التعلق به تضحي بالناس جميعا بما فيهم الأقربون. هو عندك بمثابة شخص حي. عندما يقول الناس هذا عاشق مال هم لا يبالغون. الكلمة في محلها. عشق الجنس الآخر يتلاشى أمام عشق المال إذا طغى. المطران جاورجيوس

*St. Nicholas Day/80 th Anniversary Luncheon*

CELEBRATES OUR  
**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
*80 th Anniversary*



**Luncheon**

*At St. Nicholas Church Hall*  
Sunday, December 9, 2018

Following Divine Liturgy  
Donation \$25 Adults - \$15 Children

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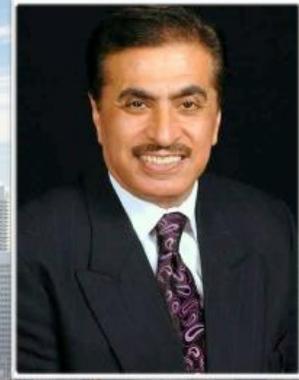
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