

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**

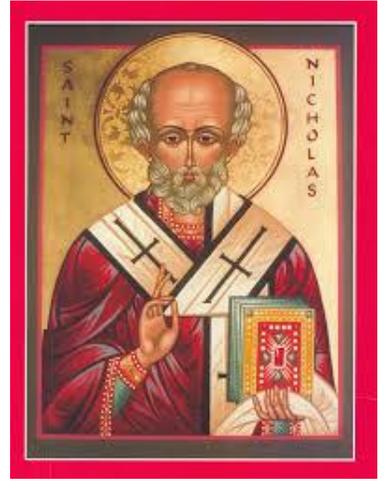
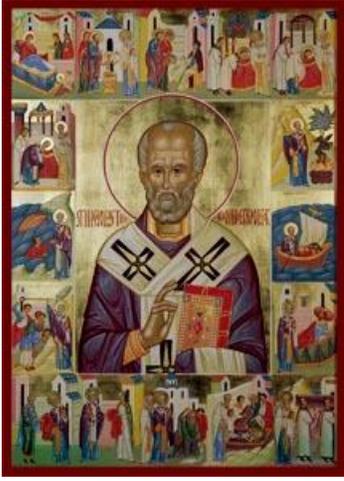
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

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

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, December 02, 2018

Memorial Service:

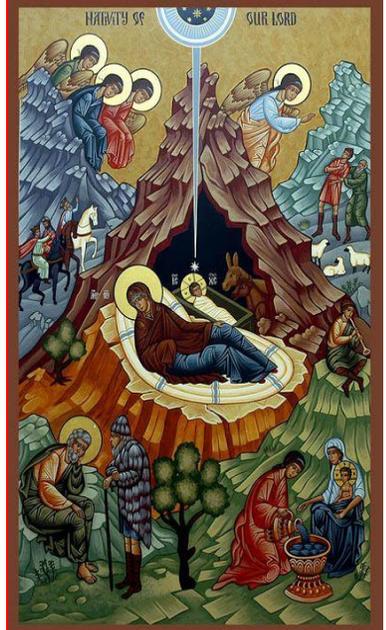
One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Hanna Saddalah Yanni** and the Handmaiden of God **Georgette Yanni** offered by their family.

May their memory be eternal!

NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 24th 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 25th.

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحياء: 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. (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

يا إخوة تقوّوا في الربّ وفي عزّة قدرته. البسوا سلاح الله الكامل لتستطيعوا أن تقفوا ضدّ مكاييد إبليس، فإنّ مصارعنا ليست ضدّ لحمٍ ودمٍ بل ضدّ الرئاسات، ضدّ السلاطين، ضدّ ولاة العالم، عالم ظلمة هذا الدهر، ضدّ أجناد الشرّ الروحية في السماويات. فلذلك احملوا سلاح الله الكامل لتستطيعوا المقاومة في اليوم الشرير، حتّى إذا تمّتم كلّ برّ تثبتون. فاثبتوا إذا ممنطقين أحقاءكم بالحقّ، ولا بسين درع البرّ، وانعلوا أقدامكم باستعداد إنجيل السلام، واحملوا علاوةً على ذلك ترس الإيمان الذي به تقدرّون على أن تُظفّون جميع سهام الشرير الملتهبة، واتّخذوا خوذة الخلاص وسيف الروح الذي هو كلمة الله.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨: ٣٥-٤٣

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع بالقرب من أريحا كان أعمى جالساً على الطريق يستعطي. فلما سمع الجمع مجتازاً سأل: ما هذا؟ فأخبر بأن يسوع الناصريّ عابراً. فصرخ قائلاً: يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني. فجزره المتقدّمون ليسكت فازداد صراخاً: يا ابن داود ارحمني. فوقف يسوع وأمر بأن يُقدّم إليه. فلما قرّب سأله: ماذا تريد أن أصنع لك؟ فقال: يا ربّ أن أبصر. فقال له يسوع: أبصر، إيمانك قد خلّصك. وفي الحال أبصر وتبعه وهو يمجّد الله. وجميع الشعب إذ رأوا سبّحوا الله.

BURBARA: December 2nd: 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 80th 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 9th. We thank you for all your love and support. Photos can be uploaded at: <https://tinyurl.com/yaqwxad>

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS DAY/80TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON:** Sunday December 9th after Divine Liturgy please join us in celebrating the Feast of Saint Nicholas Day as well as our 80th anniversary.
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT WHITE ELEPHANT POT LUCK:** Thursday December 20th at 7PM. Location: TBA. Gifts will be no more than \$25.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Saturday December 22nd. Starring Special Guest: Bishara Sakhnini. Donation: \$95 includes Mezza, Premium Dinner, and Open Bar. Doors at 7:30 PM.

HOLIDAY SEASON:

As we gather with our families this Advent/Holiday Season 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 or 586 214 4428.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- ❖ And best wishes to the newly elected officers of the Ladies Auxiliary: **Randa Shatara (President), Salwa Batshon (Vice President), Gladys Maalouf (Secretary), Ida Batshon (Treasurer).**
- ❖ And best wishes to the renewal of elected officers for the second term of the Men's Fellowship: **Elias Batshon (President), Rimon Jada (Vice President).**
- ❖ **We would also like to thank those who fulfilled their duties and responsibilities to their church by serving on these committees. We wish you and your families the best and pray that you will continue to help in the future.**

Metropolitan Anthony: The Eucharist

When the Lord instituted at the Last Supper that mystery of our faith which we call the Holy Liturgy or the Eucharist, He gathered round Himself His Disciples, both those who were later to be faithful even unto death, and also the one who was already prepared to betray his Master. And He confronted him together with the others, with the extraordinary love of God, because to be admitted to a man's table means that he, our host, consider us to be his equals, his companions in the old sense of this word, those who are untitled to break the bread with him, to share with him the substance of life. Equals in the love of God, equals of God through His love to us, - this is one of the aspects of this extraordinary event which we call the Last Supper. But we have given it also another name, we call it the Eucharist, from a Greek word which means simultaneously "gift" and "thanksgiving". Indeed we can see that communion to the Body and Blood of Christ is the greatest gift which the Lord can grant us: companionship and equality, becoming the co-workers of God. And through the incredible, unfathomable action and power of the Spirit, because this bread is no longer bread only and this wine is no longer only wine, but have truly become the Body and the Blood of the Giver, we become incipiently and increasingly partakers of the divine nature, Gods by adoption, Gods by participation, so that together with the One Who is the Incarnate Son of God, we became the total revelation of man as well as the total revelation of God's presence, the total Christ of whom St Ignatius of Antioche spoke. And beyond this, higher, deeper even than this, in this community of nature and of life with the Only-Begotten Son of God in the words of St Irenaeus of Lyon, we become truly with regard to God Himself the only begotten son.

This is the gift, but where is the thanksgiving? What can we bring to the Lord? Bread and wine, they belong to Him; our own lives? Are we not His? He has called us out of naught, He has brought us into being, He has endowed us with all that we are and all that we possess. What then can we give which is really ours? St Maxim the Confessor says that God can do all things, save one: He cannot compel the smallest of His creatures to love Him, because love is supreme freedom. This is the only gift which we can bring to God: the gift of a trusting heart.

But why is this mysterious Supper of the Eucharist called the thanksgiving more than any other service, more than any action of ours? What can be given to God? This is a question which the Psalmist was asking himself centuries before Christ appeared and revealed the divine love, and his answer was so unexpected and so true. He says "What reward shall I give to the Lord for all His benefits?" and he replies

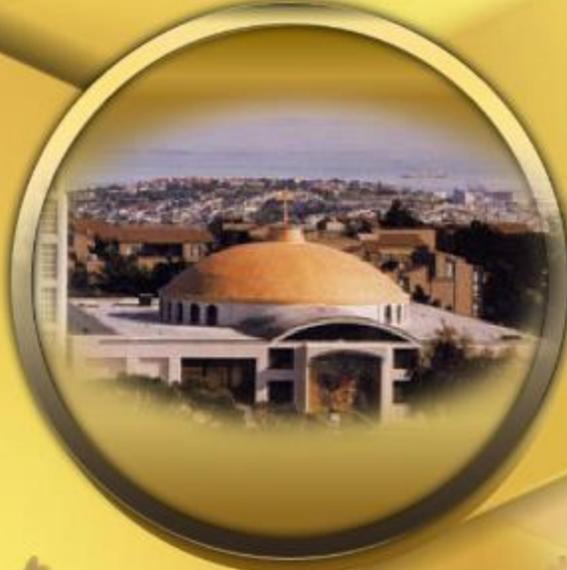
"I shall take the Cup of salvation, I will give thanks unto the Lord, I will sing praise in the courts of the Temple of the Lord". The supreme act of thanksgiving is not to give back, because one who receives and pays back, repays the gift and in some sort of way, destroys the gift; both indeed become equal, both have given, both have been at the giving end of the chain, but this reciprocal giving has destroyed both joy up to a point. If we wish, if we are capable of receiving, of receiving whole-heartedly, then we are expressing truly our total trust, our assurance that the love of the giver is perfect and it is in receiving whole-heartedly in all simplicity that we bring joy to the one who has given from all his heart.

This is true even in human relationship; we wish to repay a gift only to make ourselves free from gratitude and from a certain enslavement in which we are put when we receive from one who does not love us enough to give whole-heartedly and whom we do not love enough to receive whole-heartedly. And this is why the Eucharist is the supreme thanksgiving of the Church and the supreme thanksgiving of our earth: people who trust the love of God open-heartedly, without any thought of repaying the gift, only rejoicing in the love it expresses, receive from God not only what He can grant but also what He is, participation to His life, to His nature, to His eternity, to His love divine. Only if we are capable of receiving with perfect gratitude and perfect joy can our participation in the Eucharist be true, only then does the Eucharist become for us also the supreme act of gratitude. But gratitude is difficult because it requires both a loving heart capable of rejoicing when it receives and a perfect trust and faith in the love of the one who gives, trust that this gift is not meant as an humiliation or as an act of enslavement. And this is why we must grow from day to day into the ability to love and to be loved, into the ability to be grateful and to rejoice, and only then does become the Last Supper of the Lord the perfect gift of God and the perfect response of the earth.

أعياد الأنبياء نلاحظ أنّ الكنيسة وضعت أعياداً للأنبياء في أوّل شهر كانون الأوّل استعداداً لعيد الميلاد، لكثرة النبوءات في العهد القديم عن مجيء المخلص وولادته كطفل. إليكم نبذة عن الأنبياء الثلاثة الذين يقع عيدهم هذا الأسبوع وهم من الأنبياء الاثني عشر الصغار الذين كتبوا أحد أسفار الكتاب المقدّس: - القدّيس ناحوم النبيّ من الجليل من سبط شمعون، وتنبأ أيام حزقيّا النبيّ وهو كاتب النبوءة السابعة من سلسلة نبوءات العهد القديم الاثنتي عشرة الصغيرة، التي كُتبت على الأرجح قبل أن أحترق الماديون والكلدانيون مدينة نينوى السنة ٦١٢ ق.م لأنّ ناحوم تنبأ وأنذر بخرابها. - القدّيس حبقوق النبيّ قام في مملكة يهوذا أيام بواخين الملك، قبل جلاء الشعب إلى بابل السنة ٥٩٩ ق.م. وهو صاحب السفر الثامن من أسفار الأنبياء الاثني عشر الصغار. يُستنتج من مزموه في الإصحاح الثالث أنّه كان من سبط لاويّ وأتّه كان من بين المرتلين في الهيكل. هذا المزمور عندنا اليوم في التسبحة الرابعة: يا ربّ إنّي سمعت سماعك ففزعت، يا ربّ عملك في وسط السنين أحبّه...». - القدّيس صفنيا النبيّ: يُرَجّح أنّه من سبط لاويّ. تنبأ أيام يوشيا ملك اليهوديّة (٦٤١-٦١٠). أساس تعليمه ما كتبه عن الدينونة. يدعو النبيّ إلى التوبة ويتحدّث عن «بقية إسرائيل» التي ستبقى مقدّسة لإلهها، ويرى الآباء في ذلك إشارة إلى الكنيسة، وأورشليم الجديدة. نبوءته التاسعة بين النبوءات الاثنتي عشرة الصغيرة.

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

1938 - 2018

Celebrating 80 years of compassionate service to the community

Remembering the past, embracing the present, and looking forward to the future

ST. NICHOLAS

Church

Presents

The Musically Talented

BISHARA SAKHNINI

Live band led by Maestro
Radwan Shakshir

Saturday December 22nd 2018



St. Nicholas Church Hall:

5200 Diamond Heights, SF

Doors open @ 7:30

Donation: \$95 per Person

Mezza, Premium Dinner

(Open Bar)

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Available

For Reservations,

Please Call:

Church Office: 415 648 5200

Salim Daru: 650 642 0168

Maurice Kari: 650 455 1600

Elias Batshon: 650 580 7185

Jeries Azar: 415 710 0456

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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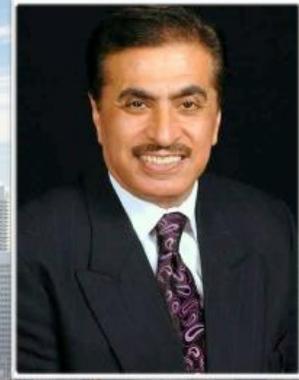
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