

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**

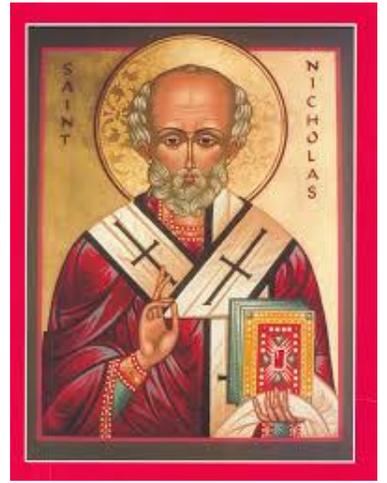
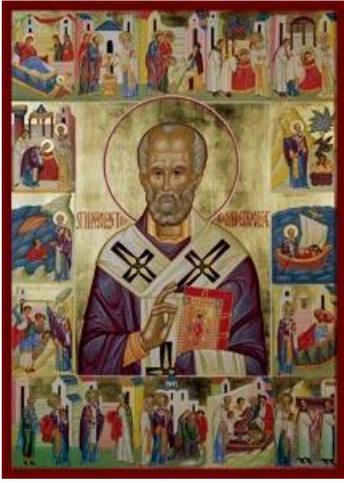
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

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

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Shami**



Sunday, December 09, 2018

Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna

حَبَل حنة بوالدة الإله

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

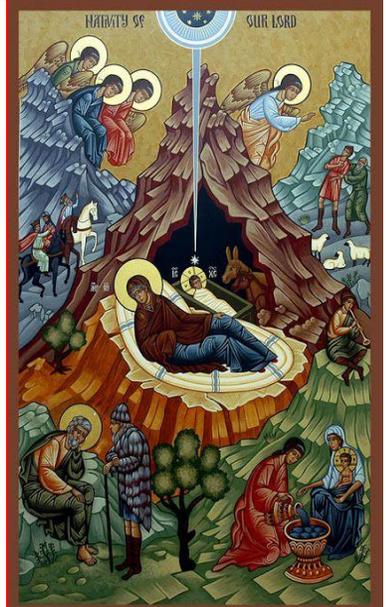
Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period preceding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality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

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

نحن في منتصف صوم الميلاد الذي سوف يستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول.

هذا 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 Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

الرسالة: غلاطية ٤: ٢٢-٢٧ يا إخوة إنّه كان لإبراهيم ابنان أحدهما من الجارية والآخر من الحرّة. غير أنّ الذي من الجارية وُلد بحسب الجسد، أمّا الذي من الحرّة فبالوعد. وذلك إنّما هو رمز، لأنّ هاتين هما العهدان أحدهما من طور سينا الذي يلد للعبوديّة وهو هاجر. فإنّ هاجر بل طور سينا جبل في ديار العرب ويناسب أورشليم الحاليّة، لأنّ هذه حاصلّة في العبوديّة مع أولادها. أمّا أورشليم العليا فهي حرّة وهي أمنا كلّنا. لأنّه كُتب أفرحي أيّتها العاقر التي لم تلد، اهتفي واصرخي أيّتها التي لم تتمخض، لأنّ أولاد المهجورة أكثر من أولاد ذات الرجل.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٣: ١٠-١٧

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجمع يوم السبت، وإذا بامرأة بها روح مرض منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية لا تستطيع أن تنتصب البتة. فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها: إنك مُطلقة من مرضك، ووضع يديه عليها، وفي الحال استقامت ومجّدت الله. فأجاب رئيس المجمع، وهو مغتاظ لإبراء يسوع في السبت، وقال للمجمع: هي سنّة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون، لا في يوم السبت. فأجاب الرب وقال: يا مرائي، أليس كلّ واحد منكم يحلّ ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود وينطلق به فيسقيه؟ وهذه، وهي ابنة إبراهيم التي ربطها الشيطان منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تُطلق من هذا الرباط يوم السبت؟ ولما قال هذا، خزي كلّ من كان يقاوم، وفرح الجمع بجميع الأمور المجيدة التي كانت تصدر منه.

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://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tcgw7vBroKWGvEYMqnUDRkmEWEqosxd3?usp=sharing>

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.
- ❖ **CHOIR CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER:** Thursday December 13th at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish for the potluck. The main dish will be provided by the church.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** December 24th. Orthros: 5:30 PM. Divine Liturgy: 6 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.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Jarjoura Family** in loving memory of beloved parents **George and Najla Jarjura**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Altar Candles offered in loving memory of **Eman Tarazi**. May her memory be eternal!

Pledge Commitments & Archdiocese Fees:

- ❖ **Friendly reminder:** Before the end of this year, we humbly ask you to honor your pledge commitments and archdiocese fees. God bless you!

MIRACLES OF CHRIST ON THE SABBATH DAY: Time and again we read in the Gospel of the anger which the Lord Jesus Christ provoked by performing an act of mercy, a miracle of healing on a Sabbath day. And we cannot help asking ourselves a question: Why did He do it so constantly, so persistently, with such insistence? Could it be to challenge those who surrounded Him? Could it be to provoke them? Could it be simply a pedagogical action?

I believe that there is a great deal more in His action. The Lord created the world in six days; on the seventh day He rested of His toils and labours. But what happened to the world then? The seventh day was the day when the world came into the hands of man to be brought to its fulfillment and to its completeness; the seventh day, the Sabbath of the Lord is the day of man. The whole of human history falls in that day. But God did not leave man to work alone as the Lord Jesus Christ says in the Gospel, as reported by Saint John, My Father still works, He shows His work to His Son for Him to fulfill them. And in another passage He teaches us, He tells us that His judgment is true because it is not His judgment; He hears the words of the Father and that is the judgment He pronounces. And so, history is the day of man, but man is called to be guided by the wisdom, by the love of God. It is because we are so often seeking for our own ways, it is because we do not ask ourselves what is God's way in one situation or the other that the world has become so ugly, and so frightening, and so tragic. There is a Hebrew poem that describes the misery of this world into which man does not bring the love of God; it says, Man has ceased to believe in God and love has departed this world. Men have hanged themselves in forests, have drowned themselves in lakes, in rivers. Heaven is no longer mirrored in the lakes, in the woods; the bird does no longer sing songs of paradise, and the Prophet himself on his pedestal has become a mere statue. Is this not what we have become? Not statues but so much alike the wife of Lot who turned back and who became a statue of salt. We have remained salt and yet we are petrified, immobile, we do not fulfill on earth this function of ours. And Christ shows us, by working His miracles, His acts of love and of compassion on Sabbath day, time and again, He Who is the only true man, the only man who is in total, ultimate oneness with God, what our part should be: take on the history of mankind, take every situation in which we or others find themselves, and carry them on our shoulders in an act of mercy and of love. A Western writer has said that a Christian is the one to whom God has committed the care of His world and of other people. Are we discharging this basic central commission of ours, do we care? We may care with tenderness, we may care sternly, but we must care. And then, this seventh day when God in His mercy and love has committed this world to our care, still can become the day of the Lord. And the City of man which is been built without God, which so often is like the Tower of Babylon, may still unfold and attain the greatness and the holiness of the City of God in which the Lord Jesus Christ, true God but also true Man, is called to be a citizen, the heart of it, but also one of us. Is not this call great enough? Is not God's faith in us sufficiently inspiring? Are we going to defeat His hope, to reject His love for ourselves or for others? Or are we going to learn from the ways in which Christ fulfills His human vocation in the day of the Lord, shall we not learn from Him and together with Him build the world which

God has dreamed, has willed and is still loving in his distress and so often in our betrayal of Him!
Let us learn to love one another actively, bear one another's burdens, listen to the Living God when He speaks, listen with all our energy, look into His ways and be those who fulfill His will and bring the world to the perfect beauty He has willed for it!

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القديس نيقولاوس

نعيد في زمن التقدم السابق لعيد الميلاد لقديسين قدموا للكنيسة خدمات جلّي، من بينهم القديس أندراوس (٣٠ تشرين الثاني) والقديس يوحنا الدمشقي المعلم الكبير (٤ كانون الاول)، والقديس أمبروسيو أسقف ميلان (٧ كانون الأول)، ونعرف عنهم أكثر مما نعرف عن القديس نيقولاوس أسقف ميرا العجائبي. ولكن يمكن القول ان أيًا من هؤلاء لا يحتل مكانة في التقوى الشعبية كنيقولاوس العجائبي. هذا القديس الذي نحوط عيده باحتفالات خاصة لا تعرف عنه شيئًا تقريبًا. فمراحل حياته التي تُذكر بعامة لا تنتمي عموماً إلى التاريخ بل الأفاصيص الشعبية. ولكن لهذه القصص الشعبية، مع التقوى ووجه القديس، لها جميعاً معنى روحيّ نحاول الآن استخلاصه.

تشير إحدى تراتيل عيده بدقة إلى ما يمكن ان يشكّل قيمة هذه الصورة وأصالتها: «أيها الأب المتوشح بالله، لقد صيرت جمال حلّة الكهنوت بالفضائل العملية أبهى إشراقاً، فلذلك يا خادم الأسرار، تصنع لنا معجزات العجائب الدائمة الذكر، منقذاً إيانا من المصاعب». هذه الكلمات تقول كل شيء على أكمل وجه. فالقديس نيقولاوس هو مثال رئيس الكهنة الذي يعتني بالمؤمنين. انه يلبس الحلّة الكهنوتية التي تتألق عليه تألقاً بهياً لأنه يضيف إليها الفضائل العملية. الأفاصيص الشعبية التي تدور حوله تُظهره منجداً لمن هم في الشدائد والضيقات. وتُعبّر حياته عن مثال أعلى للقداسة. هذا ما تكررّه تراتيل عيده: «مدعوًا من كل صوب، كنت تبادر إلى مؤازرة الساعين إلى ظلّ حمايتك... ظاهراً لهم بالإيمان ليل نهار مخلصاً إياهم من فقرهم وتجاربهم... من ذا الذي أمام حنوك اللامتناهي لا يندهل من صبرك ورحمتك للفقراء ورافتك بالمكروبين».

واليوم أيضاً تلجأ حشود الأرثوذكسيين إلى رعاية القديس نيقولاوس، شافي المرضى ومحرر الأسرى وكنز الفقراء ومعزي المكروبين ومرشد المسافرين. هو حيّ كرمز للرحمة ومحبة البشر المخلصين بيسوع، ذلك ان التقوى الشعبية تجاه القديس نيقولاوس تصل في نهاية المطاف إلى يسوع نفسه.
من كتاب «سنة الرب المقبولة» للأب ليف (جبله).

Altar Candle Offering:

❖ By St. Nicholas church for the good health of all who are named Nick, Nicholas, Nicole, Nicola after the **feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6th** on the occasion of their Names' Day! **Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Nicholas Baalbaki, Nicholas Katout, Nicholas Nabil Hanhan, Nicholas Tannous, Nicholas Qaqish, Nicole Aho, Nicole Hanhan, Nikki Hanhan, Nicole Jadelrab, Nicole Wahab, Nicole Bekhete, Nick Nichola, Nicola Akik, Nick John Saba , Nicholas Maalouf, Nick Baba,** and in loving memory of **Fr. Nicholas Habib and Nichola Saba,** God Bless!

CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY:

We set aside one Sunday in December each year to honor our choirs and chanters. This year, that day is Sunday, December 9th. Let us use this day to honor them and say thank you for their effort to enrich our worship through the proper singing of our sacred music throughout the year. May God grant them many years!

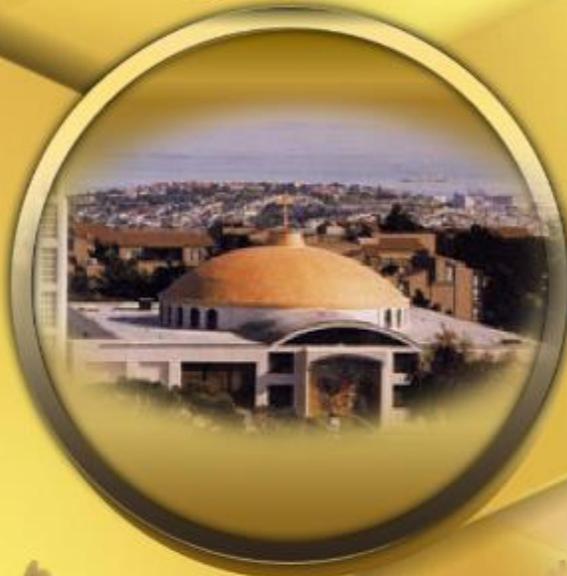
Wishing you all a blessed remainder of the Fast and, in advance, a blessed feast, I remain,
Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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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Presents

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Live band led by Maestro
Radwan Shakshir

Saturday December 22nd 2018



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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

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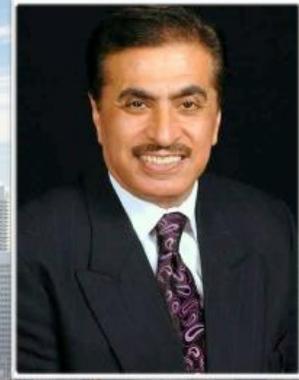
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