

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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of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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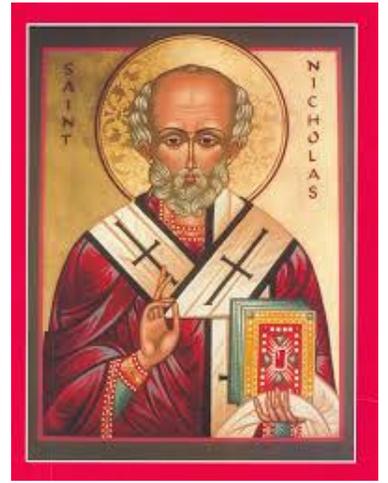
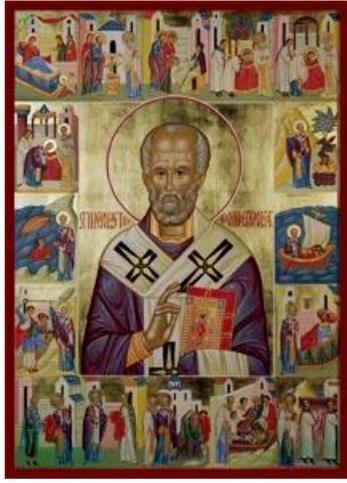
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Parish Council Chairman: **Maher Munib Zabaneh (650) 219-3779**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



**Sunday, May 05, 2019**

**New Sunday or Anti-Pascha**

**Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin" // أحد توما**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

**Al Maseeh Qam! Haqan Qam!**

**Kristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!**

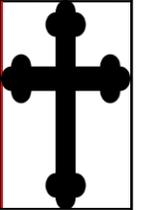
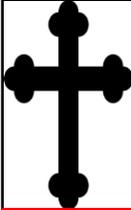
**المسيح قام! حقا قام كل عام وأنتم بخير**



**Memorial Service Sunday May 12:**

Nine and Forty-Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God  
**Ester Clemence Antone Lama, wife of (Late) Abdallah Hanna Shami.**

May her memory be eternal!



**Ladies Auxiliary Fashion Show:**

This Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> after church. Don't miss a spectacular afternoon with our beautiful youth, young adults, and Ladies Auxiliary showcasing a wonderful line of fashion. Hope to see you there!



**THE EPISTLE: The Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (5:12-20)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

**الرسالة: أعمال الرسل ٥: ١٢-٢٠** في تلك الأيام جرت على أيدي الرسل آيات وعجائب كثيرة في الشعب، وكانوا كلهم بنفس واحدة في رواق سليمان، ولم يكن أحد من الآخرين يجترئ على أن يُخالطهم. لكن كان الشعب يُعظمهم، وكانت جماعات من رجال ونساء ينضمون بكثرةً بمؤمنين بالرب حتى إن الناس كانوا يخرجون بالمرضى إلى الشوارع ويضعونهم على فرش وأسرة ليَقَع ولو ظل بطرس عند اجتيازه على بعض منهم. وكان يجتمع أيضًا إلى أورشليم جمهور المدن التي حولها يحملون مرضى ومعذبين من أرواح نجسة، فكانوا يُشْفون جميعهم. فقام رئيس الكهنة وكل الذين معه وهم من شيعة الصدوقيين وامتأوا غيره. فألقوا أيديهم على الرسل وجعلوهم في الحبس العام. ففتح ملاك الرب أبواب السجن ليلاً وأخرجهم وقال: امضوا وقفوا في الهيكل، وكلموا الشعب بجميع كلمات هذه الحياة.

### **THE GOSPEL: St. John. (20:19-31)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

### **الإنجيل: يوحنا ٢٠: ١٩-٣١**

لما كانت عشية ذلك اليوم وهو أول الأسبوع والأبواب مغلقة حيث كان التلاميذ مجتمعين خوفاً من اليهود، جاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط وقال لهم: السلام لكم. فلما قال هذا أراه يديه وجنبه ففرح التلاميذ حين أبصروا الرب. وقال لهم ثانية: السلام لكم، كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم. ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال: خذوا الروح القدس. من غفرتهم خطاياهم تُغفر لهم ومن أمسكتهم خطاياهم أمسكت. أما توما أحد الاثني عشر الذي يقال له التوأم فلم يكن معهم حين جاء يسوع، فقال له التلاميذ الآخرون: إتنا قد رأينا الرب. فقال لهم: إن لم أعين أثر المسامير في يديه وأضع إصبعي في أثر المسامير وأضع يدي في جنبه لا أؤمن. وبعد ثمانية أيام كان تلاميذه أيضاً داخلاً وتوما معهم، فأتى يسوع والأبواب مغلقة ووقف في الوسط وقال: السلام لكم. ثم قال لتوما: هات إصبعك إلى ههنا وعين يدي، وهات يدك وضَعْها في جنبها ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً. أجاب توما وقال له: ربّي وإلهي. قال له يسوع: لأنك رأيتني آمنت؟ طوبى للذين لم يروا وأمنوا. وآيات أخر كثيرة صنع يسوع لم تُكتب في هذا الكتاب. وأما هذه فقد كُتبت لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع هو المسيح ابن الله، ولكي تكون لكم إذا آمنتم حياةً باسمه.

## **SPECIAL THANK YOU:**

To all those who donated time, labor, energy, items, finances, food, and to those who took part in our church services and activities during this Holy Season. It truly was a special time and we could not have done it without each and every one of you. May God bless you and your families.

توما أراد الإنجيليون وقبلهم بولس أن يؤكدوا القيامة ليس فقط بذكرها لقارئ العهد الجديد ولكن بالإتيان بأمر محسوسة هي ظهورات السيد وعددها أحد عشر. أولى الظهورات تمت عند دخول السيد علي التلاميذ مساء القيامة وهم مجتمعون خوفاً من اليهود إذ كانوا معرضين للموت والسجن والتعذيب لانتمائهم الي هذا الذي رفعه اليهود على الصليب.

بعد أن ألقى السلام عليهم "أراهم يديه وجنبه" حتى لا يظنوا أنه خيال، أي حتى يتأكدوا أن هذا الذي عرفوه وشاهدوه مصلوباً هو نفسه الذي دخل عليهم. هناك أهمية كبيرة على أن الجسد الذي علّقه اليهود على الخشبة هو ذاته الذي قام من بين الأموات ليكون الفداء قد حصل. توأ بعد التسليم عليهم قال: "كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم". واضح انه دعاهم في بدء البشارة، ولكنه الآن تثبتهم في الرسالة لأن إرسالهم مرتبط بقوة القيامة. بعد هذا بخمسين يوماً بعث اليهم بالروح القدس ليمتلئوا من قوة القيامة ويُعطوا الناس هذه القوة. في هذا الاجتماع الأول، ما كان توما معهم، فأخبروه بما رأوا، ولكنه كان يريد تأكيداً فقال: "إن لم أعاين أثر المسامير في يديه وأضع يدي في جنبه لا أوّمن". كيف عايش توما رفقاءه بعد هذا، هل كانوا يناقشون حول القيامة؟ بالتأكيد كانوا يُصلّون معاً حتى جاء الأحد اللاحق ليوم القيامة، هذا الذي نقيم ذكره اليوم ونُسّميه أحد توما أو الأحد الجديد، وهو اليوم الثامن بعد الفصح. فيه أتى يسوع والأبواب مغلقة. المعنى أن يسوع لم تمنعه الجدران من الدخول الي القاعة التي كان فيها التلاميذ. لم يقل الكتاب ان السيد اخترقها. تراءى يسوع بقوته وحلّ بينهم. لا يفسّر الإنجيل كيف كان الحلول. سلّم عليهم وتوجّه مباشرة الي توما قائلاً له: "هات إصبعك الي ههنا وعاين يدي، وهات يدك وضعها في جنبي، ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً". لا نعرف حقاً اذا تغلب توما على شكّه بتفتيش جنب يسوع وأثر المسامير أم أن كلام يسوع وحده أقنعه وأحجم عن التفتيش. المهم أنه قال له: "ربّي وإلهي". وكلمة ربّي واردة باليونانية بصيغة التعريف، والمعنى: أنت هو الرب وأنت ربّي. هي اعتراف من توما على أن يسوع هو الرب الوحيد. وحتى لا يظنّ أحد أنه يُسمّيه ربّاً بمعنى سيّد من الأسياد، أضاف توما أنت إلهي. هذا اعتراف أن يسوع الناصري هو الإله الحقيقيّ الكامل.

كان شكّ توما مفيداً حتى يتكوّن عندنا اليقين بأن يسوع قام من بين الأموات وأنه بهذه القيامة تيقن تلاميذه أنه الرب والإله. شهادة توما هي من الشهادات القوية إن لم تكن الأقوى على أن يسوع قام حياً غالباً الموت.

أعاننا توما على أن نؤمن دون أن نرى وأن نستحقّ سرور السيد بنا وهو القائل: "طوبى للذين لم يروا وآمنوا". أعطنا يا سيّد أن نكون من هؤلاء. المطران جاورجيوس

### Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: ST THOMAS

Twice in the Gospels we read the solemn declaration of a man who has recognised in Christ his Lord and his God. The first time was at the beginning of the Lord's ministry: after His Baptism, when He was entering upon the way of the cross, He met Nathaniel and testified to the others that here was a man pure and without guile. Nathaniel asked how He knew this, and the Saviour answered with the mysterious words, "Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." And Nathaniel reverencing Him said, "My Lord and my God." In a life of the holy Apostle Nathaniel we read that at the time of his call he was standing before God in prayer, and that Christ's words about seeing him under the fig tree suddenly lifted a veil from his eyes and he realised that he was standing before the very God to whom he had been praying.

Later this testimony is somehow obscured; the apostles were blinded, as we all are, by the visible, and only very slowly did they begin to perceive the invisible. During a period of just over three years Christ gradually revealed His true nature to them: the fact that He is indeed a true, genuine man, but that at the same time He is God who has taken flesh and come to save the world. This gradually dawning understanding found its expression only on the way to Jerusalem, just before Christ's death, when the apostle Peter testified, "Thou are the Christ, the Son of God."

Before His crucifixion Christ gradually revealed Himself to disciples as God; after it He repeatedly and persistently, in a series of appearances, revealed Himself to them as man risen in the flesh. Everything we hear of Christ's Resurrection brings us face to face with this fact; this is not a ghost, this is not a vision; the disciples not only hear His voice, they touch His body, they see Him eating food with them. Later, St. John speaking of their witness rightly says that they spoke of what their eyes had seen, their ears had heard, their hands had felt: Christ had truly risen in the body, the body sanctified, the body transfigured, the body which had become entirely spirit without ceasing to be flesh. Together with the Apostle Thomas we too worship the risen Christ

and believing in Him, knowing Him as our God but also as Jesus of Nazareth risen from the dead, we hail Him, "My Lord and my God!"

On this fact the whole life of the Church depends, the whole Christian outlook, the greatness of man, the boundless humility of God. In Christ the one and the other is revealed to us, and we rejoice not only because God is the God of love and our Saviour, but because in Him we are shown how great Man is. He is so great that God can be contained in him. He is so great that He can pass through the gates of death into eternal life carrying us with Him as a torrent; that having united Himself with us in our humanity in every way except sin, He unites us completely with His Divinity if only we lay ourselves open to His influence. How wonderful that is!

So, during the next forty days Christ constantly appeared to His disciples and revealed to them the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; He showed them the name of God as Love, He unfolded to them the comprehension of the Church as a society of people who are bound by love; He explained to them that this temporal life will inevitably pass away, but that they have been granted eternal life, which is that life of God already planted in them, already working in them and conquering all. And in the ensuing weeks each Gospel reading will tell us of this triumph of life, of the victory of life, of the victory of love over everything else. Let us be glad and rejoice that the risen Christ has not only conquered death for Himself and in Himself, but that in us and for us He has conquered death, sin, fear — everything, and that we have now become close and intimate with the living God.

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**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

**Al Maseeh Qam! Haqan Qam!  
Kristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!**

**المسيح قام! حقا قام  
كل عام وأنتم بخير**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **LADIES AUXILIARY FASHION SHOW:** Sunday May 5th after church service.  
Time: 1:00 PM. Donation: \$50 Adults, \$25 12 Years and under.
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULTS GIANTS GAME OUTING:** On May 10<sup>th</sup> we will be going to the Giants Game @ Oracle Park! Game is at 7:15 PM. Please text or call Shadi Azar to reserve a seat with the group by May 6<sup>th</sup>. 415 279 2533.
- ❖ **CAMP THREE HOLY YOUTHS:** June 16-21<sup>st</sup>. [campthy.com](http://campthy.com)
- ❖ **2019 PLC BIBLE BOWL:** 2019 Bible Bowl : St Paul's Letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Main Website : <https://orthodoxyouth.org/bible-bowl/>  
We are seeking members to join the Bible Bowl Team Divisions; Juniors (ages: 13-15) , Seniors (ages:16-18) and Adults (ages: 18 and over). For those who would like to participate in this year's Bible Bowl and be part of the St. Nicholas Bible Bowl teams, please see Fr. George Baalbaki or Tariq Rantisi for more details.

## Holy Week Photos:

❖ **Palm Sunday 2019**

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❖ **Holy Unction Service**

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❖ **Great and Holy Thursday**

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❖ **Great and Holy Friday**

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❖ **Great & Holy Pascha**

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❖ **Agape Vespers 2019**

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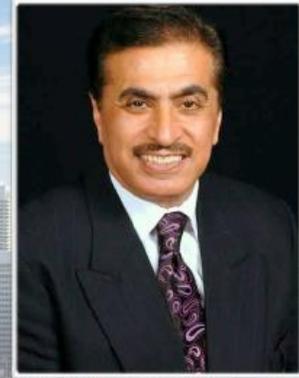
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