

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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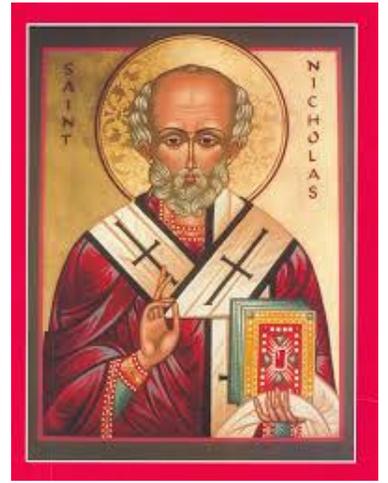
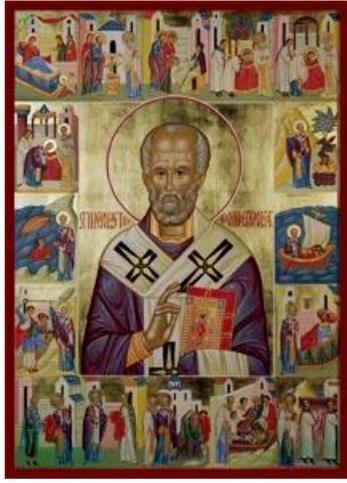
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**Sunday, June 09, 2019**

**the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**

أحد آباء المجمع المسكوني الأول

**THE EPISTLE: The Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)**

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

الرسالة: أعمال الرسل ٢٠: ١٦-١٨ و ٢٨-٣٦

في تلك الأيام ارتأى بولس أن يتجاوز أفسس في البحر لئلا يعرض له أن يبطن في آسية، لأنه كان يعجل حتى يكون في أورشليم يوم العنصرة إن أمكنه. فمن ميليتس بعث إلى أفسس فاستدعى قسوس الكنيسة، فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: احذروا لأنفسكم ولجميع الرعية التي أقامكم الروح القدس فيها أساقفة لترعوا كنيسة الله التي اقتناها بدمه. فإني أعلم هذا أنه سيدخل بينكم بعد ذهابي ذئاب خاطفة لا تشفق على الرعية، ومنكم أنفسكم سيقوم رجال يتكلمون بأمر ملتوية ليجتذبوا التلاميذ وراءهم. لذلك اسهروا متذكّرين أنني مدة ثلاث سنين لم أكف ليلاً ونهاراً عن أن أنصح كل واحد بدموع. والآن أستودعكم يا إخوتي الله وكلمة نعمته القادرة على أن تبنيكم وتمنحكم ميراثاً مع جميع القديسين. إنني لم أسته فضة أحد أو ذهبه أو لباسه. وأنتم تعلمون أن حاجاتي وحاجات الذين معي خدمتها هاتان اليدان. في كل شيء بيئت لكم أنه هكذا ينبغي أن نتعب لنساعد الضعفاء، وأن نتذكر كلام الرب يسوع، فإنه قال «إن العطاء هو مغبوط أكثر من الأخذ». ولما قال هذا جثا على ركبتيه مع جميعهم وصلّى.

### THE GOSPEL: St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

### الإنجيل: يوحنا ١٧: ١-١٣

في ذلك الزمان رفع يسوع عينيه إلى السماء وقال: يا أبت قد أتت الساعة، مجد ابنك ليُمجّدك ابنك أيضًا، كما أعطيتَه سلطانًا على كلّ بشر ليُعطي كلّ من أعطيتَه له حياة أبدية. وهذه هي الحياة الأبدية أن يعرفوك أنت الإله الحقيقي وحدك والذي أرسلته يسوع المسيح. أنا قد مجدتك على الأرض، قد أتممت العمل الذي أعطيتني لأعمله. والآن مجدني أنت يا أبت عندك بالمجد الذي كان لي عندك من قبل كون العالم. قد أعلنت اسمك للناس الذين أعطيتهم لي من العالم. هم كانوا لك وأنت أعطيتهم لي وقد حفظوا كلامك. والآن قد علموا أن كلّ ما أعطيتَه لي هو منك، لأنّ الكلام الذي أعطيتَه لي أعطيتَه لهم، وهم قبلوا وعلموا حقًا أنني منك خرجتُ وأمنوا بأنك أرسلتني. أنا من أجلهم أسأل، لا أسأل من أجل العالم بل من أجل الذين أعطيتهم لي لأنهم لك. كلّ شيء لي هو لك وكلّ شيء لك هو لي وأنا قد مجدت فيهم. ولست أنا بعد في العالم، وهؤلاء هم في العالم، وأنا آتي إليك. أيها الأب القدوس احفظهم باسمك الذين أعطيتهم لي ليكونوا واحدًا كما نحن. حين كنت معهم في العالم كنتُ أحفظهم باسمك. إنّ الذين أعطيتهم لي قد حفظتهم ولم يهلك منهم أحد إلا ابن الهلاك ليتّم الكتاب. أمّا الآن فإنّي آتي إليك. وأنا أتكلّم بهذا في العالم ليكون فرحًا كاملاً فيهم.

### Congratulations:

- ❖ And best wishes to **Nabil Hanhan and Jane (Keishk) Hanhan** on their holy matrimony.  
God bless and many years!

### Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Nadia Wehab and family** in loving memory of **Bishara Wehab**.  
May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ For the continued good health of **Almaz Tannous** offered by her children.  
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma and Brandon Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran** for the good health of **Janan Howell** on the occasion of her birthday on June 10th.  
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Nabil Hanhan & Jane (Keishk) Hanhan** for the good health of their family on the special occasions of **Nabil's birthday** on June 6<sup>th</sup>, **Jane's birthday** on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and **Nicholas and Alexander's birthday's** on June 18<sup>th</sup>. God bless and many years!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION: Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>.** Please come support all our children with their graduation from Sunday School!
- ❖ **CAMP THREE HOLY YOUTHS: June 16-21<sup>st</sup>** \$150 per camper. We would like to encourage you to bring all the youth ages 9-17 where they will learn the word of God, learn discipline, have fun and fellowship and make their Orthodox faith stronger. Register online at [www.camphy.com](http://www.camphy.com)
- ❖ **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST:** The annual PLC will take place this year on July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in San Diego area. For more info please go to <https://antiochianevents.com/la.html>
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PICNIC: Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>** at Hanna Winery at 5353 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. **DIVINE LITURGY CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE WINERY AT 11 AM! Donation: \$25 Adults. \$10 Children 12 & Under. Food, live music, pool, great company.** We will have a bus leaving from the church to transport those who are unable to drive. There will be limited capacity so please call us in advance to reserve a seat.
- ❖ **ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The national convention of our Archdiocese will take place on July 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids, MI. For more info please visit: <https://ac2019gr.org/>
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT SPONSORED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY:** Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> More info to come.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL: September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.** More info to come.

**Parents of Campers:** Camp THY is right around the corner. We are asking for your help and generosity. We made a wish list of items that we need for activities for the children. Donations are greatly appreciated! The items can be found here:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VB2TZBJKZ90?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VB2TZBJKZ90?ref=wl_share).

### **Metropolitan Anthony: Sunday before Pentecost**

We have heard in the Acts of the Apostles how, as the Feast of Pentecost was approaching, Paul the Apostle had started on his journey to Jerusalem to be there together with all those who on that very day received the Holy Spirit. Of all of them he was the only one who had not been present in the High Room where the event took place. And yet, God had given him a true, a perfect conversion of heart, and of mind and of life, and had given him freely the gift of the Holy Spirit in response to his total, ultimate gift of self to Him, the God Whom he did not know but Whom he worshipped.

We also are on our way to the day of Pentecost, next week we will keep this event. When Paul was on his way, he thought of what had happened to himself in the solitude of his journey from Jerusalem to Damascus and in the gift of the Spirit mediated to him by Ananias. And we also, each of us singly and all of us together should reflect on all that God has given us. He has given us existence and breathed life into us, - not only the life of the body, but a life that makes us akin to Him, His life. He has given us to know Him, the Living God, and He has given us to meet, in the Gospel and in life, His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In Baptism, in the Anointment with Holy Chrism, in Communion to the Body and Blood of Christ, in the mysterious, silent communion of prayer, in the moments when God Himself came near, although we were not thinking of Him, He has given us so much.

Let us reflect on all that is given us, asking ourselves whether we are truly disciples of Christ. We know from Saint Paul what it means to be a disciple: he said that for him, to live is Christ, to die will be a gain, because as long as he is in the flesh he is separated from Christ, Christ Whom he loves, Christ Who has become everything to his life, not only in time but for all eternity. And yet, says he, he is prepared to live, not to die, because his presence on earth is necessary to others. This is the measure of communion he had with Christ. And this is shown so movingly in a parallel between a small phrase in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Gospel: both the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciple say that they are now going back to the Father, that the time of their departure has come. His life in Christ had culminated in such identification with what Christ stood for, and beyond that with what Christ was, that whatever was applicable to Christ became applicable to him. Indeed, for him to live was Christ, and he longed for his death, but he had learned from God something more than this longing for freedom, for communion with the God Whom he adored and served so faithfully, - he had learned that to give is a greater joy than to receive.

The saints had heard Christ say, 'No one has greater love than he who gives his life for his friends'. Paul, the other apostles, and innumerable saints after them gave their lives, shed their lives day after day forgetting themselves, rejecting every thought, every concern about themselves, having thought only for those who needed God, who needed the word of truth, who needed love divine. They lived for others, they gave as generously as they had received.

We also are called to learn the joy, the exhilarating, the wonderful joy of giving, of turning away from ourselves to be free to give, and of giving on all levels, the smallest things and the greatest things. And this can be taught us only by the power of the Holy Spirit that unites us to Christ, makes us into one body with Him, a body of people, bound with each other in their total togetherness, one with the God who is our unity.

Let us think of all we have received from God and ask ourselves: what can we give first to Him so that He can rejoice in us, so that He can know that He has not lived and died in vain. And what can we give to all those who surround us, beginning with the smallest, the humblest gifts to those closest to us and ending with giving all we can to those who need more. And then truly Pentecost will come as a gift of life, a gift that unites us, welds us into one body capable of being to others a vision on earth of the Kingdom, but also a source of life and of joy, so that truly our joy, and the joy of all those whom we meet should be fulfilled. Amen.

# ST. Nicholas CHURCH PICNIC

## Hanna Winery

Sunday July 14th

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# 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.

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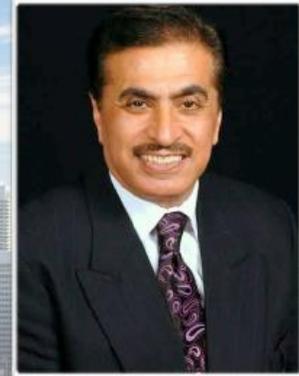
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