

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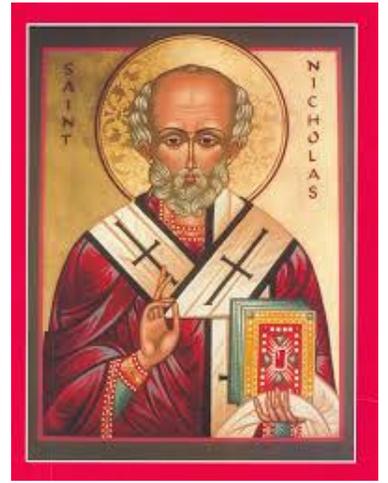
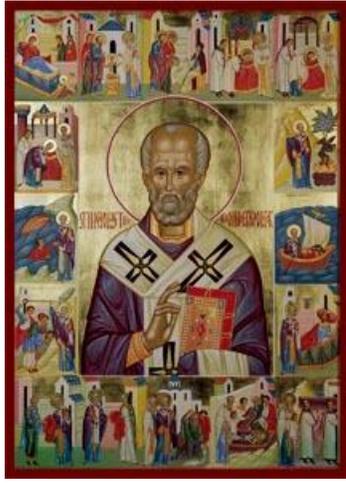
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, July 14, 2019

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Fourth Ecumenical Council

أحد آباء المجمع المسكوني الرابع

**THIS SUNDAY'S DIVINE LITURGY WILL TAKE PLACE AT HANNA
WINERY. ADDRESS: 5353 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

Memorial Service Next Sunday July 21st:

❖ Forty-Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God

Amal Abou-Daoud offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة: تيطس ٣: ٨-١٥ يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تقرّر حتى يهتّم الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة والنافعة. أمّا المباحثات الهذيانّة والأنساب والخصومات والمماحكات الناموسية فاجتنبها فإنّها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة بعد الإنذار مرّة وأخرى أعرض عنه، عالمًا أنّ من هو كذلك قد اعتسف وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه. ومتى أرسلت إليك أرتيماس أو تيكوكوس فبادر أن تأتيني إلى نيكوبولس لأنّي عزمّت أن أشتّي هناك. أمّا زيناس معلّم الناموس وأبلوس فاجتهد في تشييعهما متأهّبين لنّلا يعوزهما شيء. وليتعلّم ذوّونا أن يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضروريّة حتّى لا يكونوا غير مثمرين. يُسلّم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلّم على الذين يحبّوننا في الإيمان. النعمة معكم أجمعين. آمين.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

الإنجيل: متى ٥ : ١٤-١٩

قال الرب لتلاميذه: أنتم نور العالم. لا يمكن أن تخفى مدينة واقعة على جبل ولا يوقد سراج ويوضع تحت المكيال، لكن على المنارة ليضيء لجميع الذين في البيت. هكذا فليضيء نوركم قدام الناس ليروا أعمالكم الصالحة ويمجدوا أباكم الذي في السموات. لا تظنوا أنني أتيت لأحلّ الناموس والأنبياء. إنني لم أت لأحلّ لكن لأتمم. الحق أقول لكم إنه إلى أن تزول السماء والأرض لا يزول حرف واحد أو نقطة واحدة من الناموس حتى يتم الكل. فكل من يحلّ واحدة من هذه الوصايا الصغار ويعلم الناس هكذا فإنه يدعى صغيراً في ملكوت السموات. أما الذي يعمل ويعلم فهذا يدعى عظيماً في ملكوت السموات.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PICNIC: Sunday July 14th 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.** Transportation will be provided to those who are unable to drive and reserve in advance! 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 21st-28th in Grand Rapids, MI. For more info please visit: <https://ac2019gr.org/>
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT SPONSORED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY: Friday August 16th More info to come.**
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL: September 28th & 29th.** More info to come.
- ❖ **FALL GATHERING:** Hosted by Saint Peter and Saint Paul Orthodox Church, 9980 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. **October 25th-27th.**

Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh: On Confession

When we come to Confession we come to meet a friend face to face. We are not coming to be judged and condemned. We do not come in terror of what will happen. We come to the One who, being God, beyond suffering, beyond death, has chosen, for the love of us, to become Man, to take upon Himself all our human destiny and to give His life for us. His life, His death are to us evidence that we are so loved of God that we can come up to Him whether we are good or bad with hope that He will receive us with open arms; that if anyone is to cry over our unworthiness and our sins it is Him, for compassion, for pity, for love - with a readiness, as He said in a vision to one of the saints, that if there was only one sinner in the world He would again become Man and again die for him, because He cannot endure the thought of anyone perishing.

This is the God, the Christ, to Whom we come when we come to Confession - to the One who is open to us with all His life and death; One who waits for us to come to be healed, to be consoled, to be supported - not to be condemned, not to be judged.

And then, what is the role of the priest? In the prayer which is read before Confession we are told, 'I am but a witness'. What does it mean? A witness to what? To the fact that you have come? That would not be enough. But if you think of what witnesses are: there are accidental, occasional witnesses. You are present in the street when an accident takes place. You are asked: what did happen? You are neither in favor of the ones or the others. You are just telling what your eyes have seen. It's for others to judge and to know.

There are other forms of witness. At times a friend of ours is brought to judgement. And we come to defend him, to testify for him, to save him. That's another kind of witness.

And then there is the witness which the Holy Gospel mentions speaking of St. John the Baptist: as the friend of the Bridegroom, the one who comes to the wedding, invited both by the bride and the bridegroom, because he is the nearest, the closest, to them both. And he is there to share their joy, the miracle of their encounter, the miracle of a blessing that will come upon them and out of two make one, unite them so that they are inseparable for ever in the mystery of eternal love, of divine love shared with them.

This is the position of the priest. He is called by Christ to be before the person, the sinner, a witness to the fact that he, the sinner, is loved, that Christ is there, that He has no other desire or intention but the salvation and the joy eternal of the one who has come today. And the priest comes also in the name of the sinner saying: Christ, my God, our Lord, this person has sinned, yes, but look, he trusts in You, he believes in You, we all love him with the same love as You possess. We are prepared to give our lives for him to be reconciled and find peace and joy and be at one with You, our Lord, our God, our Saviour, our Lover.

When you come to Confession next time, think of these things. Think of the way you come: not with fear of punishment or of rejection but with open heart to pour out everything evil or doubtful there is in this heart. And Christ will receive you. Your confession may be to Him a new crucifixion but He accepts it. He doesn't reject it. He does not reject you. Come, open your heart, speak in all truth to Him, knowing that you are loved beyond judgement, to the point of sacrifice and death: His death, and your life - life in time and life eternal.

ST. Nicholas CHURCH PICNIC

Hanna Winery

Sunday July 14th

**DIVINE LITURGY CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE
HELD AT THE WINERY AT 11 AM!**

Address: 5353 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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24th Annual Middle Eastern Festival

September
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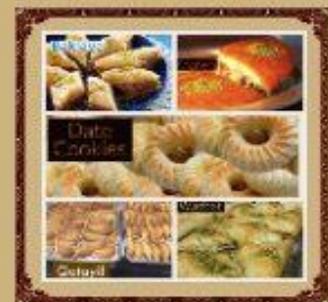
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For more information contact our Church office at (415) 648-5200 or info@stnicholas-sf.com



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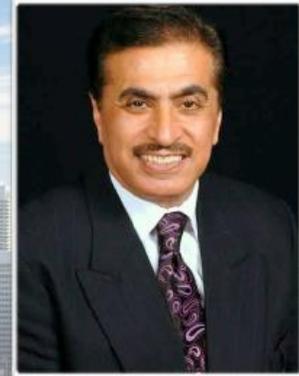
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