

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكيهالأرثوذكسيه

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
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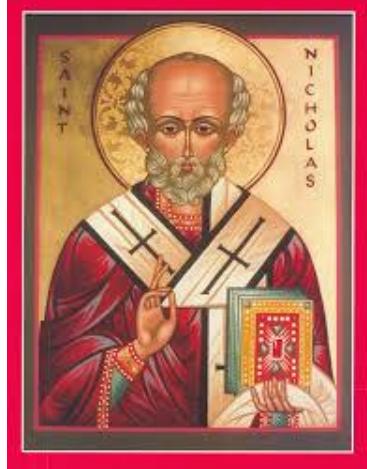
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

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 21, 2019

Memorial Service:

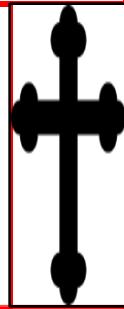
❖ Forty-Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God

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

❖ One-Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Jaleela**

Salem (Qarmout) Dabit offered by her family.

May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10): Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

الرسالة: رومية: يا إخوة إن بُعْدَة قلبي وابتهاجي إلى الله هما لأجل إسرائيل لخلاصه، فإني أشهد لهم أنَّ فيهم غيرة الله إِلَّا أنها ليست عن معرفة، لأنَّهم إذ كانوا يجهلون بَرَّ الله ويطلبون أن يقيموا بِرَّ أنفسهم لم يخضعوا لبَرَّ الله. إنَّما غاية الناموس هي المسيح للبَرَّ لكلَّ من يؤمن. فإنَّ موسى يصف البرَّ الذي من الناموس بأنَّ الإنسان الذي يعمل هذه الأشياء سيحيا فيها. أمَّا البرَّ الذي من الإيمان فهكذا يقول فيه: لا تقلُّ في قلبك مَن يصعد إلى السماء؟ اي ليُنزل المسيح؛ او من يهبط إلى الهاوية؟ اي ليُصعد المسيح من بين الأموات. لكن ماذا يقول؟ إن الكلمة قريبة منك، في فمك وفي قلبك، اي كلمة الإيمان التي نبشر بها. لأنك إن اعترفت بفمك بالربَّ يسوع وأمنت بقلبك أنَّ الله قد أقامه من بين الأموات فإنك تخلُصُ لأنَّه بالقلب يؤمن للبرَّ وبالفم يُعترف للخلاص.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

الإنجيل: متى ٨:٢٨-٩:

في ذلك الزمان لما أتى يسوع إلى كورة الجرجسيين استقبله مجنونان خارجان من القبور، شرسان جداً، حتى إنه لم يكن أحد يقدر أن يجتاز من تلك الطريق. فصاحا قائلين: ما لنا ولك يا يسوع ابن الله؟ أجيئت إلى هنا قبل الزمان لتعذبنا؟ وكان بعيداً عنهم قطيع خنازير كثيرة ترعى. فأخذ الشياطين يطلبون إليه قائلين: إن كنت تُخرجنَا فاذْأْنَّ لَنَا أن نذهب إلى قطيع الخنازير. فقال لهم: اذهبوا. فخرعوا وذهبوا إلى قطيع الخنازير. فإذا بالقطيع كله قد وثب عن الجرف إلى البحر ومات في المياه. أما الرعاعة فهربوا ومضوا إلى المدينة، وأخبروا بكل شيء وبأمر المجنونين. فخرجت المدينة كلها للقاء يسوع. ولمّا رأوه طلبوا إليه أن يتحوّل عن تخومهم. فدخل السفينة واجتاز وأتى إلى مدينته.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **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.

Altar Candles this Sunday, July 21st, offered by:



Your prayer is wanted for the health and well-being of our dear father in Christ our beloved Pastor Emeritus Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**.

Alter Candle is being offered by our parish family for the full health and length of days of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ: **Tawfiq Hanhan, Dr. Elias Hanna, Dr. Tali Bashour, Sally Habeeb, Rose Habib, Jaleela Naser, Daoud and Farida Srouji, Zakia Tamey, Melachye Skaff, Henriette Saoud and Fr. Gregory Ofiesh.**

Many Years! God bless!

Metropolitan Anthony: The healing of the men of Gergesene

How familiar is this story to us. Yet every time we read it we rediscover something in it which touches our heart, or gives a new light to our mind. And to-day I would like to attract your attention to three features of this passage.

The first is the attitude of the devils, of the powers of evil, to their victims. The powers of evil have no other intention or desire than to take possession of a living creature and to make it both a sufferer and one that will fulfil their will. The Fathers of the Church teach us that the devils can have no direct action in this world; all they can do is enslave human beings and through them work the evil within them. So this is what these powers of evil had intended: to enslave these men and to make them instruments of destruction, but at the same time to make them suffer for it.

When Christ commanded them to leave their victims they cried, shall I say, for a place of refuge, a place where they could dwell and work destruction. And Christ allowed them to in-dwell the pigs. Pigs, in the eyes of Jews, were a symbol of impurity; the request to be lodged in their bodies was a sign for all who could understand - and every Jew could - that they were as impure as the impurest of the animals. But what happened next was a demonstration to people of what happens when we allow ourselves to be possessed of evil, when we allow passions to have power over us - hatred, lust, jealousy, and all the passions of body and soul. Being possessed by them we are doomed to destruction, as this herd ended in death.

We should remember this because we do not always realise how much we are in the grip, in the power of those things which rule our life: likes and dislikes, hatreds, resentments and so on. We are not only possessed, but we are also working evil through our subjection to the power of evil. And the warning is clear: if we only allow evil to take possession of us completely, it will mean death; not physical death, but a total, tragic alienation from all that is life: from God, from love, from beauty, from meaning. We cannot fall out of existence but we can be possessed of an existence which is a ghostly one, an existence without life, without content - a shell that is empty, and yet a torment.

And in contrast to this we see the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God become Man. He is the Creator, He is the Lord, He is the Saviour of the whole world; and He forgets everything, as it were, the whole of creation to pay attention to nothing but these two men who are in need of salvation, indeed He is prepared to leave ninety-nine righteous, whole people who do not need Him at that moment alone in order to give all His attention, all His life, indeed all His power to save these two men. In the face of all the need of the world He can see every individual need and respond to it with all His love, all His compassion, all His understanding and all His divine power to save and to heal.

There is a third group of people whom we see in action in this Gospel story; it is the inhabitants of the country. They had known of the desperate condition of these two men; they were told of what Christ did for them; they were told who their master was, who was their tormentor; should they not have come to give glory to God and thank Him for delivering the two men from the power of evil?

NO! All they saw in the act of Christ was that they were deprived of their herd of swine. What mattered to them the wholeness and the life and the salvation of these two men? They were deprived of what was important to them, what mattered to them more than a human life, and they asked Christ to leave their borders, to go because they did not want to risk another miracle that would be costly to them. What a tragic - not monstrous, but just tragic contrast between the attitude of God and the attitude of these people. Let us give thought and ask ourselves, where do we stand? Of course, the first movement we shall have is to say, 'On God's side' - it is not true. When there is a tragic need, and the cost of helping would be perhaps not a disaster but a pain or loss to us, what would we choose? Let us reflect on this: are we really on the side of Christ Who can forget the whole world because His Heart is pierced, transfixed with compassion, or - do we allow our heart to be moved one moment, and then recalculate the cost and turn away from the need?

Let us reflect - because every one of these stories, every parable, every image, every act of God is challenging us: Where do you stand? Who are you? The person possessed, to whatever extent? A disciple of Christ ready to forget everything for the sake of a desperate need? Or rather one of those who say to Christ: Go, go away - you are disturbing our peace, the harmony of our life and our security?

Let us reflect deeply; but not only reflect, take a decision and act.

ST. Nicholas CHURCH PICNIC



Hanna Winery

Sunday July 14th

DIVINE LITURGY CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE
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St. Nicholas Church

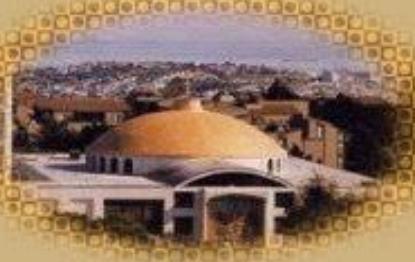
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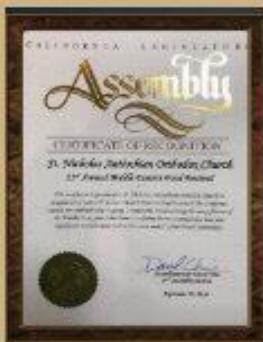


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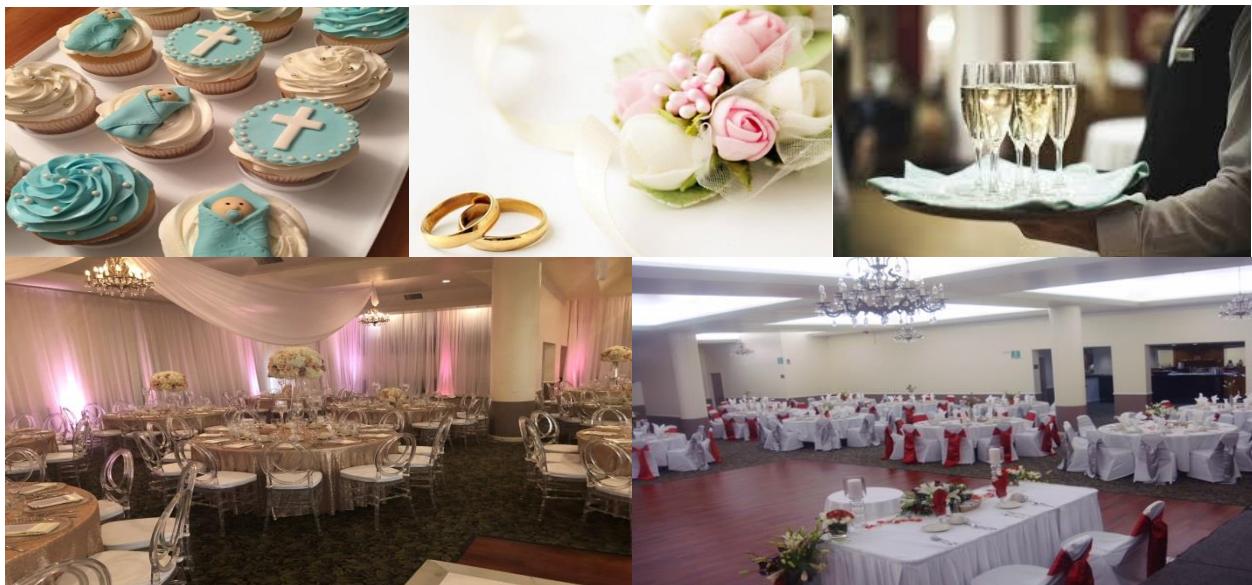


SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



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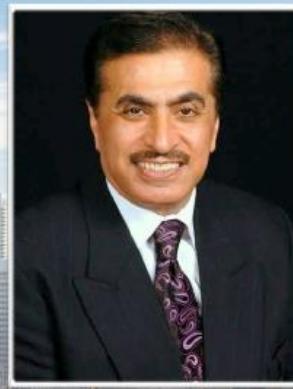


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