

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**

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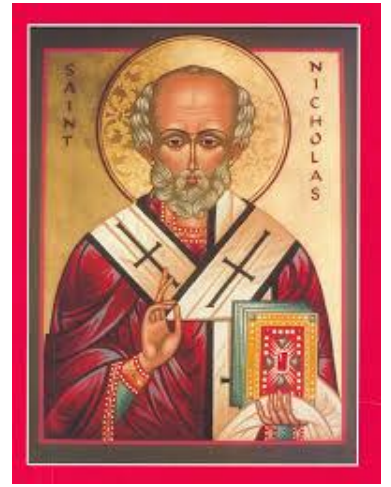
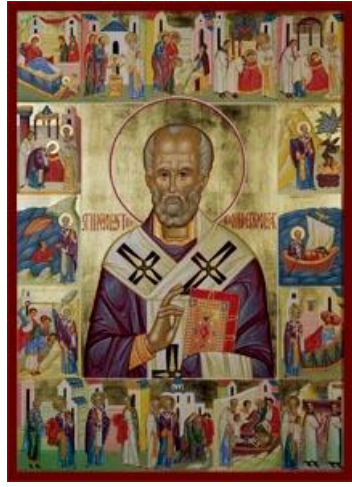
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, August 4, 2019

Memorial Service Next Sunday August 11th:

- ❖ One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **P.J. Boyle** offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

الرسالة: رومية ١٥ : ١-٧

يا إخوة، يجب علينا نحن الأقوياء أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء ولا نرضي أنفسنا. فليرض كل واحد منّا قريبه للخير لأجل البنيان، فإن المسيح لم يرض نفسه، ولكن كما كتبت: تعبيرات معيريك وقعت عليّ، لأن كل ما كتبت من قبل إنما كتبت لتعليمنا ليكون لنا الرجاء بالصبر وبتعزية الكتب. وليعطكم إله الصبر والتعزية أن تكونوا متفقي الآراء في ما بينكم بحسب المسيح يسوع، حتى إنكم بنفس واحدة وفم واحد تمجدون الله أبا ربنا يسوع المسيح. من أجل هذا فليأخذ بعضكم بعضًا كما اتخذكم المسيح لمجد الله.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (9:27-35)


At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

في ذلك الزمان، فيما يسوع مجتاز، تبعه أعميان بصيحان ويقولان: ارحمنا يا ابن داود. فلما دخل البيت دنا إليه الأعميان، فقال لهما يسوع: هل تؤمنان بأنني أقدر على أن أفعل ذلك؟ فقالا له: نعم يا رب. حينئذ لمس أعينهما. فانتهرهما يسوع قائلاً: انظرا، لا يعلم أحد. فلما خرجا شهراه في تلك الأرض كلها. وبعد خروجهما قدّما إليه أخرس به شيطان. فلما أخرج الشيطان تكلم الأخرس. فتعجب الجموع قائلين: لم يظهر قطّ مثل هذا في إسرائيل. أمّا الفرّيسيّون فقالوا: إنّه برئيس الشياطين يُخرج الشياطين. وكان يسوع يطوف المدن كلها والقرى، يعلم في مجامعهم ويكرز ببشارة الملكوت ويشفي كلّ مرض وكلّ ضعف في الشعب.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **TEEN SOYO ELECTIONS: Sunday August 4th** directly after Divine Liturgy.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT SPONSORED BY THE LADIES**
AUXILIARY: Friday August 16th. Doors at 7:00 PM. Donation: Adults \$25. Children 12 & under \$15. Please join us for a fun family night with dinner and entertainment. Please call to reserve your spot.
- ❖ **CAMP THY REUNION: Friday August 30th.** Doors at 6:30 PM. Join us for a night of fellowship, dinner, spirituality, joy and camp activities. RSVP by emailing admin@campthy.com or contacting Ilyan Baalbaki at (586) 604 5331.
- ❖ **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, قناديل الهيكل August 4th, offered by:

- ❖  Your prayer is wanted for the good health and well-being of our dear Father in Christ, our beloved Pastor Emeritus **Fr. Gregory Ofiesh**. Also for the good health of **Badia Fashho, Chris Atwan, and Sub Dn. Michel Khoury**. God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by the **Tannous and Wais** families in memory of their Mother **Jannette Tannous** on the occasion of her Birthday (August 7th); May her memory be eternal.
- ❖ Offered by the **Jarjura** family in loving memory of beloved parents **George and Najla Jarjura**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by the **Madback** family for the good health of **Salim Rami Madback** on the occasion of his birthday. God bless and many years!

Holy Bread of Oblation:

- ❖ Blessing of the Grapes offered by **Afaf Dudum** in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum** on his 6 year memorial and for the good health of the **Dudum, Imprescia, and Strickland families**.
May his memory be eternal and May God bless them for many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Sue Wais** for the good health of her husband **Donald Wais** on the occasion of his Birthday August 5th, her Daughter **Jeanette** and Son in-law **Jason** on the occasion of their wedding anniversary August 7th and the good health of grandsons **Anthon, Khalil and Dylan** – God grant them all many years.
 - ❖ Blessing of the Grapes offered by **Andy Azar** and family for the good health of his family.

DORMITION FAST (The Fast of St. Mary)

On August 1st the fast of the Dormition feast of St. Mary starts, and it will end on August 15th, the feast of the Dormition of St. Mary. During this fast we abstain from eating: Fish, Meat, Milk and dairy food. On Transfiguration we may eat fish, olive oil and wine.

- ❖ The Paraklesis Service to the Virgin Mary (Every Wednesday & Friday @ 7:00 P.M.)
- ❖ Transfiguration Service عيد التجلي (Sunday August 4th)

Pledge Reminder:

- ❖ **We would like to remind you to honor your pledge.** The annual pledge for the members of our church is \$600 per family or \$300 per individual. Your support is truly needed and appreciated and it helps fulfill our commitment. God bless!

CHURCH ANNUAL FESTIVALS:

- ❖ Church of the Redeemer (Los Altos Hills, Fr. Samer Yousif): **September 7th & 8th**
- ❖ Holy Virgin Mary (West Sacramento, Fr. Paul Baba): **September 14th & 15th**
- ❖ St. James Orthodox Church (Milpitas, Fr. Jeries Hanna): **September 13th – 15th**
- ❖ St. John the Evangelist (Orinda, Fr. Nicholas Borzghol): **September 21st & 22nd**
- ❖ St. George Orthodox Cathedral (Daly City, Fr. George Jweinat): **September 21st & 22nd**
- ❖ **St. Nicholas Church (San Francisco, Fr. George Baalbaki): September 28th & 29th.**

Metropolitan Anthony: "Carry one another's burdens"

Saint Paul's Epistle to the Romans XV: 1-7

How beautiful and seemingly simple are the last words of to-day's Epistle: 'Carry one another's burdens, and so you will fulfil the Law of Christ'. But how much they claim from us! Linking it with Christ means that we must be prepared to carry the burden of each person, of everyone, whether it is a friend or a foe, whether the burden seems to be great and honourable, or whether it is humiliating to us as it is defiling to the other person.

Christ became man and took upon Himself all the weight not only of our creaturely condition, but of the condition of the fallen world. He took upon Himself the weight, the crushing weight of the lives of everyone who came to Him; not only of the sick and the needy, not only of those who were clean and persecuted, but of those who were wallowing in filth, those who were evil, as it seemed to others, at the very core of their being. But through the darkness that blinded people He saw the light at the core, He saw that the divine image was imprinted at the very heart of every person, and it was to this image He addressed Himself; it was this life eternal that was dormant in each that He awoke through a touch, through a word, by His presence.

And so, when we hear the words of Paul that we should carry one another's burdens, it is against this background of Christ's readiness never to reject anyone, never to see in anyone a person for whom there was no hope left, that we must turn to our neighbour. When the burdens we have to carry are noble and tragic it seems to us easy to do so; it is easy to be full of compassion, of

sympathy for the persecuted, to be full of sympathy and compassion for those who are in desperate material need, for those who are in agony of mind, who suffer in all possible ways. It is easy to have a moment of compassion for those who are sick in body; but how difficult it is to have a steady sense of compassion for those who are sick for a very long time and who claim our attention week after week, year after year, at times for decades. And even more so for people who are mentally disturbed and who need our attention still more, who need us to stand by them, carry them indeed on our shoulders; how many of us are capable of this? But there is another way in which we have to carry one another's burdens; the examples which I gave were burdens that afflicted others and burdens we were only to share, and to share for moments. It is only for a few hours that we visit the sick; it is only for a short while that we carry the burdens of those who are in agony of mind and in distress, because having been with them, stood by them, expressed all the genuine concern which was ours, we will walk out and put down this burden while the other will continue to carry it.

How much more difficult it is when the burden is laid upon ourselves, and this burden is not one that ennobles us in our own eyes or in the eyes of others, but is simply pure ugly suffering and distress: the dislike of others for us, the hatred of others, slander and calumny, and the various many, many ways in which our neighbour can make our lives almost unbearable. How difficult it is then to think of them not just as the cause of all that destroys our lives, but as people who are blind, who are unaware of what they are doing. We pray in the litanies by saying that we ask God to be merciful to those who hate and wrong us, who devise and do evil against us!

How often it is that people devise nothing, mean nothing, but are totally thoughtless. At that moment how difficult it becomes to see this person as someone whom we must take upon ourselves, with all the consequences of it and bring this person before God; to bring before God ugliness, meanness, thoughtlessness, unintentional cruelty - bring it before God and say: 'Forgive, Lord! They do not know what they are doing'... These words that are so beautiful and so inspiring. Carry one another's burdens and so you will have fulfilled the Law of Christ, claim from us a generosity, a steadiness and courage and a likeness to Christ which is far beyond what we are prepared to offer most of the time to most of the people, even to the people whom we love, whose burdens we are prepared to carry for a moment and then leave the burden on them.

Let us reflect on every person who is of our acquaintance, beginning with the closest ones, who have claims on us, or who burden us by their very existence, or the way they behave. And then, let us look farther and learn to accept the burden and carry it as Christ did - up to death upon the Cross.

St. Nicholas Church

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September
28th & 29th

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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.

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



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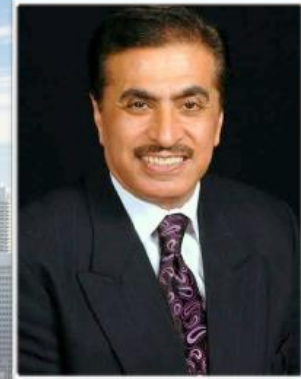
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