

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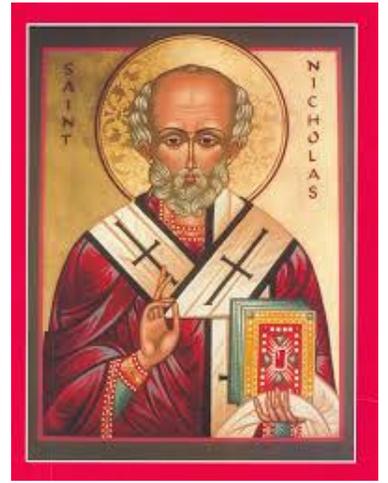
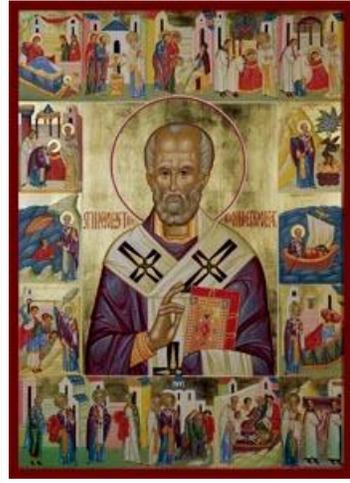
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**Memorial Service:**

- ❖ Three and Nine Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Jurjitte Nicola Toma Riziq Munayer**. May her memory be eternal!

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:6-11)**

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

الرسالة: ٢ كورنثوس ٩: ٦-١١

يا إخوة إن من يزرع شحيحاً فشحيحاً أيضاً يحصد، ومن يزرع بالبركات فبالبركات أيضاً يحصد، كل واحد كما نوى في قلبه لا عن ابتئاس أو اضطرار، فإن الله يحب المعطي المتهلل. والله قادر على أن يزيديكم كل نعمة حتى تكون لكم كل كفاية كل حين في كل شيء فتزدادوا في كل عمل صالح. كما كتب إنه بدد، أعطى المساكين، فبره يوم إلى الأبد. والذي يزرع الزارع زرعاً وخبزاً للقوت يزرعكم زرعكم وبكثرة ويزيد غلال بركم، فتستغنون في كل شيء لكل سقاء خالص ينشئ شكرًا لله.

الإنجيل: لوقا ٨: ٢٧-٣٩

في ذلك الزمان أتى يسوع إلى كورة الجرجسيين فاستقبله رجل من المدينة به شياطين منذ زمان طويل، ولم يكن يلبس ثوباً ولا يأوي إلى بيت بل إلى القبور. فلما رأى يسوع صاح وخر له بصوت عظيم: ما لي ولك يا يسوع ابن الله العلي، أطلب اليك ألا تعذبني. فإنه أمر الروح النجس بأن يخرج من الإنسان لأنه كان قد اختطفه منذ زمان طويل، وكان يربط بسلاسل ويحبس بقيود فيقطع الربط ويساق من الشيطان إلى البراري فسأله يسوع قائلاً: ما اسمك؟ فقال: لحيون، لأن شياطين كثيرين كانوا قد دخلوا فيه وطلبوا إليه ألا يأمرهم بالذهاب إلى الهاوية. وكان هناك قطيع خنازير كثيرة ترعى في الجبل. فطلبوا إليه أن يأذن لهم بالدخول إليها فأذن لهم. فخرج الشياطين من الإنسان ودخلوا في الخنازير. فوثب القطيع عن الجرف إلى البحيرة فاختنق. فلما رأى الرعاة ما حدث هربوا فأخبروا في المدينة وفي الحقول، فخرجوا ليروا ما حدث وأتوا إلى يسوع، فوجدوا الإنسان الذي خرجت منه الشياطين عند قدمي يسوع لابساً صحيح العقل فخافوا. وأخبرهم الناظرون أيضاً كيف أبرئ المجنون. فسأله جميع جمهور كورة الجرجسيين أن ينصرف عنهم لأنه اعتراهم خوف عظيم. فدخل السفينة ورجع. فسأله الرجل الذي خرجت منه الشياطين أن يكون معه، فصرفه يسوع قائلاً: ارجع إلى بيتك وحدث بما صنع الله إليك. فذهب وهو ينادي في المدينة كلها بما صنع إليه يسوع.

## **THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (8:26-39)**

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **FALL GATHERING:** Hosted by Saint Peter and Saint Paul Orthodox Church, 9980 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. **October 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.** Information and on-line registration at [www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org](http://www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org)
- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING:** **Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>.** Make sure to bring your children and teens for a pumpkin carving event hosted by our Sunday School! We will have pumpkins and tools for carving. We hope to see everyone there! Any questions please contact our Sunday School Director Clemence Batarse ([estherbatarse@gmail.com](mailto:estherbatarse@gmail.com))
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT OUTING:** **Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 PM – 7 PM,** come hang out and grab a tasty bite to eat at Spark Social in Mission Bay. We will have a bonfire pit reserved in front of the big bus. Contact Shadi Azar for more info. Hope to see you there!
- ❖ **METROPOLITAN JOSEPH VISIT + YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE:** **November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. 6:00 PM vespers on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas followed by a young adult dinner.** Please do your best to join us!
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT (Sponsored by the Rantisi Families):** **Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.** More info soon!
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** **Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>.** More info soon.

### **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!

***Parish Council Election will take place on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>.***

There will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the upcoming term. Three are to be elected and one to be appointed by the Pastor.

**Anyone interested in serving or nominating someone to serve on the Parish Council must be fully pledged and spiritually qualified. *Please submit your candidate's name to Father George and/or Maher Zabaneh as soon as possible.***

In order to vote in the elections, members must be in spiritual and financial good standing with the church.

**Special Olympics Tray Collection This Sunday:**

- ❖ “In October, we celebrate youth month within our archdiocese, where our youth are designated to take higher roles in the church. Likewise the entire archdiocese participates in more network based SOYO activities as well as one of our largest fundraisers of the year. The money goes towards Special Olympics hosted by our very own Antiochian Village and is one of the largest Special Olympics in the world. Please contact the Teen Soyo, or Ilyan Baalbaki if you'd like your teen to participate in any of the roles listed. Epistle reader, chanter, usher, and sermons.”

**Altar Candle Offering:**

- ❖ Offered by **Hilda Dabai** for the good health of **Sam, Reeta, Emily, & Jax Dabai, and Jennifer, Rob, Maeve, & Mara Newsom**. Also in loving memory for the 3 year memorial of **Nabeel Dabai**. God Bless and May His Memory Be Eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Sami & Maritsa Wahhab** for the good health of them and their family.  
God bless and many years!

**Luncheon This Sunday:**

- ❖ Our Charity committee is proud to offer a luncheon this Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> for the benefit of the needy. All proceeds will be donated during the upcoming holiday season.

## **Metropolitan Anthony: How can I deal with my sinful condition?**

So often we ask ourselves and one another a very tormenting question: How can I deal with my sinful condition? What can I do? I cannot avoid committing sins, Christ alone is sinless. I cannot, for lack of determination, or courage, or ability truly repent when I do commit a sin, or in general, of my sinful condition. What is left to me? I am tormented, I fight like one drowning, and I see no solution.

And there is a word which was spoken once by a Russian staretz, one of the last elders of Optina. He said to a visitor of his: No one can live without sin, few know how to repent in such a way that their sins are washed as white as fleece. But there is one thing which we all can do: when we can neither avoid sin, nor repent truly, we can then bear the burden of sin, bear it patiently, bear it with pain, bear it without doing anything to avoid the pain and the agony of it, bear it as one would bear a cross, — not Christ's cross, not the cross of true discipleship, but the cross of the thief who was crucified next to Him. Didn't the thief say to his companion who was blaspheming the Lord: We are enduring because we have committed crimes; He endures sinlessly... And it is to him, because he had accepted the punishment, the pain, the agony, the consequences indeed of evil he had committed, of being the man he was, that Christ said, 'Thou shalt be with Me today in Paradise...' I remember the life of one of the divines, the story of one who had come to him and have said that he had led all his life a life that was evil, impure, unworthy both of God and of himself; and then he had repented, he has rejected all evil he had done; and yet, he was in the power of the same evil. And the divine said to him: There was a time when you lapped up all this filth with delight; now you perceive it as filth and you feel that you are drowning in it with horror, with disgust. Take this to be your reward for your past, and endure...

This is something which all of us can do: to endure the consequences, to endure the enslavement which is our patiently, humbly, with a broken heart; not with indifference, not with a sense that as we are abandoned to it by God, then, why not sin? But taking it as a healing perception of what sin is, of what it does to us, of the horror of it. And if we patiently endure, a day will come when our inner rejection of sin will bear fruit, and when freedom will be given us.

So, if we can, in all the ways we can, let us avoid sin in all its forms, even those sins which seem to be so unimportant, because the slightest crack in a dam sooner or later leads to its bursting. If we can — let us truly repent, that is turn away from our past in a heroic, determined act; but if we can do neither of them — let us carry humbly and patiently all the pain and all the consequences. And this will also be accounted one day by the Lord Who in a folkloric life of Moses, in response to His angels saying, 'How long shall you endure their sins' — the sins of the Jews in the wilderness, answered: 'I will reject them when the measure of their sins will exceed the measure of their suffering'.

Let us therefore accept the pain as a redeeming pain, even if we cannot offer it as pain pure of stain.

# 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.

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



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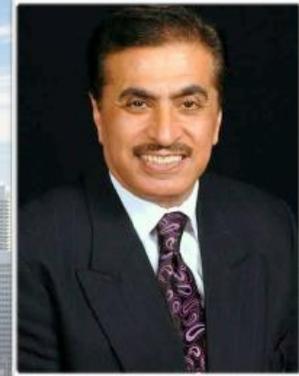
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