

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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Sunday, October 27, 2019

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Corinthians. (11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He Who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

الرسالة: ٢ كورنثوس ١١ : ٣١-٣٣ و ١٢ : ١-٩

يا إخوة قد علم الله أبو ربنا يسوع المسيح المبارك إلى الأبد أنني لا أكذب. كان بدمشق الحاكم تحت إمرة الملك الحارث يحرس مدينة الدمشقيين ليقبض عليّ. فدُلّيتُ من كوةٍ في زنبيل من السور ونجوتُ من يديه. إنّه لا يوافقني أن أفخر فأتيتُ إلى رؤى الرب وإعلاناته. إنّي أعرف إنساناً في المسيح منذ أربع عشرة سنة (أفي الجسد لستُ أعلم، أم خارج الجسد لستُ أعلم، الله يعلم) اختطف إلى السماء الثالثة. وأعرف أنّ هذا الإنسان (أفي الجسد أم خارج الجسد لستُ أعلم، الله يعلم) اختطف إلى الفردوس وسمع كلمات سرّية لا يحلّ لإنسان أن ينطق بها. فمن جهة هذا أفخر، وأمّا من جهة نفسي فلا أفخر إلاّ بأوهاني. فإنّي لو أردتُ الافتخار لم أكن جاهلاً لأنّي أقول الحقّ، لكنّي أتحاشى لئلاّ يظنّ بي أحد فوق ما يراني عليه أو يسمعه مني. ولئلاّ أستكبر بفرط الإعلانات أعطيتُ شوكةً في الجسد، ملاك الشيطان ليلطمني لئلاّ أستكبر. ولهذا طلبتُ إلى الربّ ثلاث مرّات أن تفارقني. فقال لي: تكفيك نعمتي، لأنّ قوّتي في الضعف تكمل. فبكلّ سرور أفخر بالحريّ بأوهاني لتستقرّ فيّ قوّة المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (8:41-56)

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round Him. And a woman, who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround Thee and press upon Thee! And Thou sayest, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While Jesus was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when Jesus came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

الإنجيل: لوقا ٨: ٤١-٥٦ في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان اسمه يابرس وهو رئيس للمجمع، وخر عند قدمي يسوع وطلب إليه أن يدخل إلى بيته لأن له ابنةً وحيدةً لها نحو اثنتي عشرة سنةً قد أشرفت على الموت. وبينما هو منطلق كان الجموع يزحمونه، وإن امرأة بها نزف دم منذ اثنتي عشرة سنةً وكانت قد أنفقت معيشتها كلها على الأطباء ولم يستطع أحد أن يشفيها. دنت من خلفه ومسّت هُذب ثوبه، وللوقت وقف نزف دمها. فقال يسوع: من لمسني؟ وإذ أنكر جميعهم، قال بطرس والذين معه: يا معلّم إن الجموع يضابقونك ويزحمونك وتفول من لمسني؟ فقال يسوع: إنه قد لمسني واحد، لأنّي علمت أنّ قوّة قد خرجت منّي. فلما رأّت المرأة أنّها لم تخف جاءت مرتعدّة وخرّت له وأخبرت أمام كلّ الشعب لأيةً علّة لمسته وكيف برئت للوقت. فقال لها: ثقي يا ابنة. إيمانك أبرأك فاذهبي بسلام. وفيما هو يتكلّم جاء واحد من ذوي رئيس المجمع وقال له: إنّ ابنتك قد ماتت فلا تتعب المعلّم. فسمع يسوع فأجاب قائلاً: لا تخف. أمن فقط فتبرأ هي. ولما دخل البيت لم يدع أحداً يدخل إلا بطرس ويعقوب ويوحنا وأبا الصبيّة وأمّها. فقال لهم: لا تبكوا، إنّها لم تمت ولكنّها نائمة. فضحكوا عليه لعلمهم بأنّها قد ماتت. فأمسك بيدها ونادى قائلاً: يا صبيّة قومي. فرجعت روحها وقامت في الحال، فأمر بأن تُعطى لتأكل. فدهش أبواها، فأوصاهما بالألا يقول لأحد ما جرى.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **FALL GATHERING:** Hosted by Saint Peter and Saint Paul Orthodox Church, 9980 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. **October 25th-27th.** Information and on-line registration at www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org
- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING:** **Sunday October 27th.** 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)
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT OUTING:** **Saturday November 2nd 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 9th-11th.** **6:00 PM** vespers on Saturday November 9th at St. Nicholas followed by a young adult dinner. We hope to see all our youth and young adults!
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT (Sponsored by the Rantisi Families):** **Saturday November 23rd.** More info soon!
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** **Date to be announced soon.**

Parish Council Election will take place on Sunday December 8th.

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.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **Basma, Janan, Jim, & Ivette Howell, Jane & Oscar Moran** for the speedy recovery of **Nadim Howell** and for the continued good health for **Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell** on the occasion of their birthdays October 6th, 12th, and 26th. God bless and many years!

Metropolitan Anthony: RAISING OF JAIRUS DAUGHTER

Today's Gospel is not only about miracles and the mercy of God; to me it is about hope beyond hope. In the story of the daughter of Jairus we see a child already dead; everyone knows about it; there is such certainty that when the Son of God, become the Son of Man, says, No! This child has not died, it is fallen asleep, everyone contradicts Him: No, this child has died. And then Christ, with a word of power, but in an act of love calls the child to earthly life again.

Isn't this, - apart from being a true event of our human history, - isn't this also a parable, and an image of so many human situations? How often we would say, There is no point in doing anything about this person, this person is lost anyhow; there is nothing to do about redeeming a given situation, this situation is beyond redemption. And we must remember the words which were spoken by Christ to Peter when he said, Who then can be saved? and the Lord said to him, What is impossible to man, is possible unto God.

Hope beyond hope: not because we have got good reasons to hope, but because we can be possessed of a passionate certainty that not only love divine but human love can bring back to life what was lost. People who have fallen into the deepest dereliction, people who seem to us to be hopelessly evil, if they are met by the sacrificial love, - and the word sacrificial is essential, - the sacrificial love of God and the same sacrificial love in us, can be redeemed.

In the case of this child it happened immediately. In our relation to one another and to people it may take years, years of patient love, years during which we will give ourselves, but also endure, endure endlessly the most unendurable things; and in the end there can be redemption. There can be redemption on this earth, in the form of a person who was thought to be hopeless, beyond help, and who begins to change, and then we see a miracle, and we are elated, and hope becomes complete and real, and joy fills our heart.

But there is also another way in which this sacrificial love can be redemption. A western theologian has said around the time of the last war, when feelings were deep and pain acute, he said that suffering is the meeting place between evil and humanity; suffering is always caused by human agency or human agency turns away from it and does not alleviate it. And suffering always cuts into the soul or into the body of people. But when it has happened, the victim acquires divine power to forgive, and by forgiveness to undo the evil, and to redeem those who have done the evil. Let us reflect on this; this thought has come to me not out of reflection, and indeed not out of my life that has always been too easy for me to be able to speak such words. But after the war a

document was found in one of the concentration camps. It was written on a torn sheet of wrapping paper by a man who died in this camp. And the substance of his message was a prayer in which he said, Lord, when you come as a Judge of the earth, do not condemn the people who have done such atrocious things to us; do not hold against them their cruelty and our suffering, their violence and our despair, but look at the fruit which we have borne in patience, in humility, in fortitude, in forgiveness, in loyalty, in solidarity; and may these fruits be accounted unto their salvation. Do not allow the memory of us to be in eternity horror to them; may it be their salvation.

This is also hope beyond hope. And to me it is connected with this contrast between the sinful, the false, the blind knowledge expressed by the people in the house: they laugh at Christ, they know that the child is dead, hope is superfluous, it is drowned in despair, - and the victory of love and of mercy which is shown in the event but which can extend in so many ways into our personal lives on the simplest level, and on the most heroic ones.

Let us therefore give thought to it, and choose for hope beyond hope, for that love and that faith that conquer.

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



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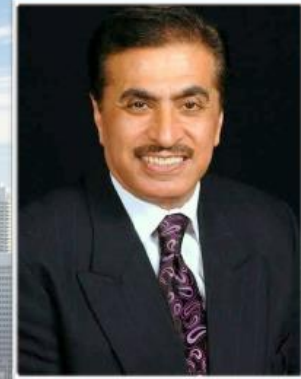
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