

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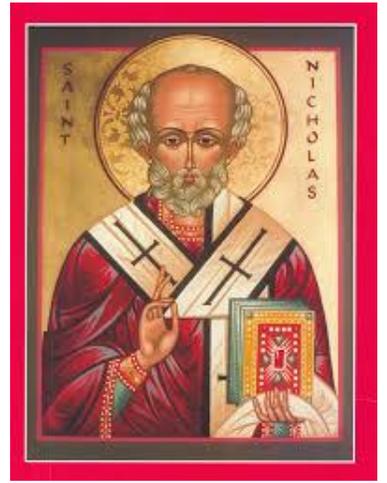
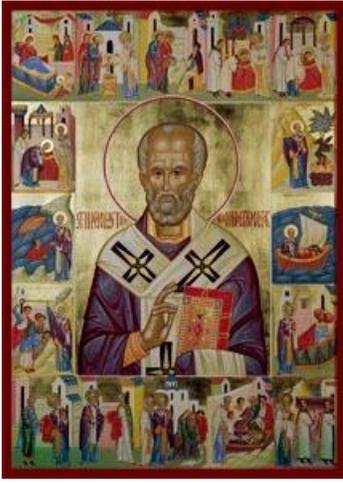
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, November 10, 2019

NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 24th We would like to wish you a happy Advent season!

Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period preceding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality and the preparation for the feast of the advent of our Lord on December 25th.

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحباء: كل عام وأنتم بألف خير.

في كنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد هذا العام الجمعة الواقع فيه ١٥ تشرين

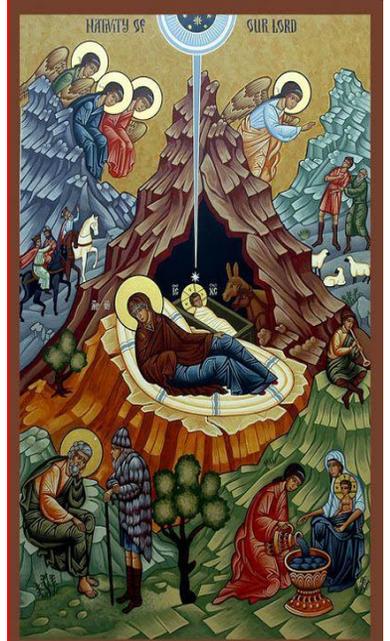
الثاني، وسيستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول.

وهذا الصوم لا يوجد فيه "صوم انقطاعي". أي لا يوجد صوم للساعة ١٢:٠٠، فهو صوم خفيف.

أي نستطيع أن نتناول وجبة افطار صباحا، من مواد صيامية.

وفي ٢٥ كانون الأول سنحتفل بعيد "الميلاد" الذي فيه أتى ابن الله إلى العالم ليدلنا على طريق

الخلاص، الطريق إلى الله الأب. صوم مبارك



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

الرسالة: غلاطية ٢: ١٦-٢٠ يا إخوة، إذ نعلم أن الإنسان لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس بل إنَّما بالإيمان بيسوع المسيح، أمَّا نحن أيضًا بيسوع المسيح لكي نُبرَّر بالإيمان بالمسيح لا بأعمال الناموس، إذ لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس أحدٌ من ذوي الجسد. فإن كنا ونحن طالبون التبرير بالمسيح وُجدنا نحن أيضًا خطاة، أفَيكون المسيح إذاً خادماً للخطيئة؟ حاشى. فإني إن عدتُ أبنى ما قد هدمتُ أجعل نفسي متعدّيًا، لأنِّي بالناموس مُتُّ للناموس لكي أحيأ الله. مع المسيح صُلِّبتُ فأحيأ، لا أنا، بل المسيح يحيأ فيّ. وما لي من الحياة في الجسد أنا أحيأه في إيمان ابن الله الذي أحبَّني وبذل نفسه عني.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٠ : ٢٥-٣٧

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع ناموسي وقال مجرباً له: يا معلم ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية؟ فقال له: ماذا كتب في الناموس، كيف تقرأ؟ فأجاب وقال: أحبب الرب إلهك من كل قلبك ومن كل نفسك ومن كل قدرتك ومن كل ذهنك، وقريبك كنفسك. فقال له: بالصواب أجبت، عمل هذا فتحياً. فأراد أن يزكي نفسه فقال ليسوع: ومن قريبي؟ فعاد يسوع وقال: كان إنساناً منحدرًا من أورشليم إلى أريحا، فوقع بين لصوص فعروه وجرحوه وتركوه بين حي وميت. فاتفق أن كاهناً كان منحدرًا في ذلك الطريق فأبصره وجاز من أمامه. وكذلك لاوي، وأتى إلى المكان فأبصره وجاز من أمامه. ثم إن سامرياً مسافراً مر به، فلما رآه تحن، فدنا إليه وضمّد جراحاته وصبّ عليها زيتاً وخبزاً، وحمله على دابته وأتى به إلى فندق واعتنى بأمره. وفي الغد فيما هو خارج أخرج دينارين وأعطاهما لصاحب الفندق وقال له: اعتن بأمره، ومهما تُنفق فوق هذا فأنا أدفعه لك عند عودتي. فأى هؤلاء الثلاثة تحسب صار قريباً للذي وقع بين اللصوص؟ قال: الذي صنع إليه الرحمة. فقال له يسوع: امض فاصنع أنت أيضاً كذلك.

Altar Candle Offering:

❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health of all who are named; Michael, Michelle, Gabriel, Gabi, Gabriela, etc. after **Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (November 8th)**, on the occasion of their Name's Day! Many years! Altar Candles will be offered for the good health of: **Sub-Deacon Michel Khoury, Michel Yousef Rantisi, Michael Habib, Michel Karim Rantisi, Micheal Dabit, Michael Ofiesh, Mikhael Saddekni, Mike Saba, Issa Michael and the entire Michael family, Gabriel Rantisi, Jabra Hanhan, and Gabriella Saoud.** God Bless and Many Years! Also in loving memory of **Michel Batshon.** May his memory be eternal!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT (Sponsored by the Rantisi Families): Saturday November 23rd.** Adults: \$25. Children: \$15. Doors at 7 PM. Special guest singer: Rami Keila.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Friday December 20th.**

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by **George & Evon Hanhan** for the good health of **Nicole, Spiro, Annette, & Aria Hanhan.** God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Nadia, Yousef, Tariq, and Rami Rantisi** for the good health of **Michael Rantisi** on the occasion of his Name's Day. Many Years !!

BURBARA: December 1st: Delicious “Burbara” Pudding will be served after Liturgy donated by **Diana Batshon** in memory of her Husband **Michel Batshon**. May his memory be eternal! Many thanks to **Diana**. May God bless you and your family.

THANKSGIVING:

As we gather with our families this Thanksgiving to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us, we also need to be mindful of the needs of others. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Father George Baalbaki at revbaalbaki@yahoo.com or 586 214 4428.

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.

St. Nicholas Food/Supply Drive:

On Saturday November 23rd, St Nicholas will be hosting a Thanksgiving food drive where we will prepare sandwiches for the less fortunate. We encourage and hope all young adults, teens and families can join us! The plan will consist of meeting at Church, preparing sandwiches and going out to hand them out to people in need. It would be such a blessing during the Holidays to help in any way we can. Here is a list of things we would need donated to make this event possible. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Food/ Drink Donation list:

- Bread
- Sandwich meat (preferably whole Turkey/Ham we can slice at church)
- Lettuce/Mixed Greens
- Tomatoes
- Cheese Slices
- Paper bags
- Foil
- Condiment packets
- Small bags of chips
- Any other types of snacks (fruit, granola, crackers, etc...)
- Water bottles

Non Food donations

- Old clothing (Jackets/sweaters/hoodies/long sleeves)
- T-shirts
- Pants/Shorts
- Socks!
- Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Feminem products
- Small combs
- Chapstick
- Band aids
- Hand wipes

Please contact info@stnicholas-sf.com with any donations or questions. Thank you in advance!

Metropolitan Anthony: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

I want to attract your attention to two or three of the features of today's parable. We are told that a man was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. In the Old Testament Jerusalem was the place where God lived; it was the place of worship, the place of prayer. And he was now on the way down to the plain, down from the mountain of vision to where human life takes place.

And on the way he was attacked, stripped of his clothes, wounded and lay on the wayside. And three men came one after the other following the same road. The three had been where God lives, the three had been in the place of worship, adoration and prayer. And two of them passed him by. The text is so vivid when it says that the priest simply passed by; it does not even indicate that he cast a glance on him. He was a man vested with high authority, he had nothing to do with common human needs - at least that is what he thought; he had learned nothing from praying to the God Who is love itself. And then another man came, a Levite, a man versed in the knowledge of the Scriptures, but not in the knowledge of God. He came, he stood above this man wounded and dying - and continued his way. His mind was on higher things than a human life, than human suffering - as he thought. And then came a man, a man who in the eyes of the Jews was despicable simply by being what he was; not for his personal moral or other defects, but because he was a Samaritan - an outcast, what Indians would call a pariah. And this man stopped over the wounded man because he knew what it was to be rejected, he knew what it was to be alone, to be passed by others in contempt and at times in hatred. And he bent over this man, he did what he could to heal his wounds, he took him to a place of rest; and all this he did at his own cost. Not only he paid the hostelry for the hospitality which they were bestowing on the wounded man; but he gave his time, he gave his mind, he gave his heart. He paid the cost in all ways in which we can pay the cost of being attentive to people around us. We have spent a whole morning in God's own presence, in the place where He lives; we have heard His voice speaking to us about love; we have proclaimed that we believe that God Who is Love itself, the God Who gave His Only-Begotten Son that each of us, and not all of us collectively, but each of us personally might be saved. And we are going to leave this church; we will meet more than one person in the course of the coming week or until at a later date we come again to church. Are we going to be like the priest or the Levite? Pondering on what we have learned here, keeping in our hearts the wonder and the joy, but passing by everyone because to care for things lesser might disturb our peace, take our mind and heart away from this sense of the marvel of having seen God, of having been in His presence? If we do this, then we have understood little, if anything, of the Gospel, of Christ, of God. And if we ask like the young man, or the lawyer, *But who is my neighbour? Who is he for whose sake I must be prepared to let go of the deepest feelings of my heart, of the most lofty concern of my mind, of the best I feel within me?* - the answer of Christ is direct and simple: anyone! Anyone who is in need of you on any possible level; on the simplest level of food or shelter, of gentleness and kindness, of thoughtfulness and friendliness. And if one day - and it may never come, but may come at any moment - more is asked, then we must be prepared to love our neighbour as Christ has taught us: with the readiness to lay down our lives for him. It is not a matter of giving one's life in the sense of being killed; it's a question of giving day in and day out our concern to all those who are in need of concern; those who sorrow need consolation; those who are lost need strength and support; those who are hungry need food; those who are destitute may need clothes; and those who are in spiritual disarray may need a word that streams from that very faith which we receive here and which is our life. Let us therefore go from this place remembering this parable not as one of the most beautiful things which Christ has said, but as a direct itinerary, a direct way in which He calls us to be and to treat one another and to look round with attentive eyes, remembering that at times the smallest kindness, one warm word, one attentive gesture may make all the difference to the life of a person who is alone to face his or her own life. May God help us to be like the Good Samaritan on all levels and to all people.

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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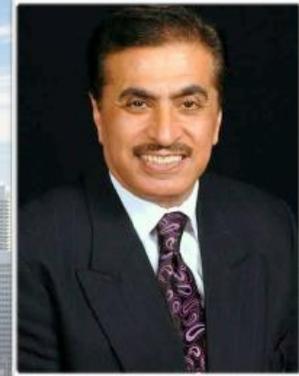
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