

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Sunday, November 24, 2019



Memorial Service Sunday December 1st: Forty Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Samir Halteh** offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

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 الأحياء: كل عام وأنتم بألف خير.

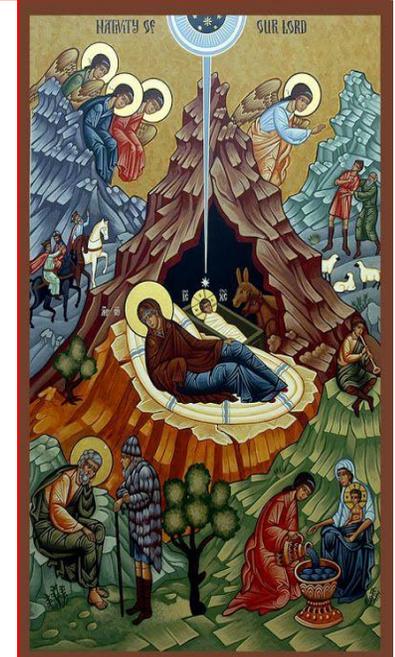
في كنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد هذا العام الجمعة الواقع فيه ١٥ تشرين الثاني، وسيستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول.

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 Ephesians. (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

الرسالة: أفسس ٢: ٤-١٠ يا إخوة، إنَّ الله لكونه غنيًا بالرحمة ومن أجل كثرة محبته التي أحببنا بها حين كنّا أمواتًا بالزلات أحيانا مع المسيح، فإنكم بالنعمة مُخلَّصون، وأقامنا معه وأجلسنا معه في السماويات في المسيح يسوع ليُظهرَ في الدهور المستقبلية فرط غنى نعمته باللطف بنا في المسيح يسوع. فإنكم بالنعمة مُخلَّصون بواسطة الإيمان، وذلك ليس منكم إنّما هو عطية الله. وليس من الأعمال لئلا يفخر أحدٌ، لأننا نحن صنعُه مخلوقين في المسيح يسوع للأعمال الصالحة التي سبق الله فأعدّها لنسلك فيها.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨ : ١٨ - ٢٧ في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان مجرباً له وقائلاً: أيها المعلم الصالح، ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية؟ فقال له يسوع: لماذا تدعوني صالحاً، وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله. إنك تعرف الوصايا: لا تزني، لا تقتل، لا تسرق، لا تشهد بالزور، أكرم أباك وأمك. فقال: كل هذا حفظته منذ صباهي. فلما سمع يسوع ذلك قال له: واحدة تعوزك بعد: بع كل شيء لك وورّعه على المساكين، فيكون لك كنز في السماء وتعال اتبعني. فلما سمع ذلك حزن لأنه كان غنياً جداً. فلما رآه يسوع قد حزن قال: ما أعسر على ذوي الأموال أن يدخلوا ملكوت الله. إنه لأسهل أن يدخل الجمل في ثقب الإبرة من أن يدخل غني ملكوت الله. فقال السامعون: فمن يستطيع إذاً أن يخلص؟ فقال: ما لا يستطيع عند الناس مستطاع عند الله.

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.

The Feast of the Patron Saint of our Church: Saint Nicholas

Friday December 6th Celebrating the great Feast of St. Nicholas the

Patron Saint of our Church / نيقولاوس العجائبي، رئيس أساقفة ميرا

Matins at 10:00 AM, Diving Liturgy at 11:00 AM followed by a luncheon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT (Sponsored by the Rantisi Families): Saturday November 23rd.** Adults: \$30. Children: \$15. Doors at 7 PM. Special guest singer: Rami Keila.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Friday December 20th featuring the musically talented: BISHARA SAKHNINI.** Open bar, Elegant Mezza Dinner. Donation: \$95 Please call in advance to reserve seats.

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!

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church in loving memory of **Charles Tamoush**. We are very grateful for the generous donation he made to our church. May God have mercy on his soul!
- ❖ Offered by **Bashar Nashawati** and family in loving memory of **George Maatouk** who passed away in Los Angeles. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health of **Shawki Khalaf**. God bless and many years!

Metropolitan Anthony: The Rich Young Man

The Lord warns us today of how difficult it is for a man who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God. Does it mean that the Kingdom of God is open only to destitute, to those who are materially poor, who lack everything on earth? No. The Kingdom of God is open to all who are not enslaved by possessions. When we read the first Beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven', we are given a key to this saying: the poor in spirit are those who have understood that they possess nothing which is their own. We have been created as an act of God, loved into existence; we are offered by God communion with Him to which we have no rights. All we are, all we possess is not our own in the sense that we have not made ourselves, we did not create what is seemingly ours - everything which we are and which we have is love, the love of God and the love of people, and we cannot possess anything because everything is a gift that escapes us the moment we want to have possession of it and say, "It is mine". On the other hand, the Kingdom of God is really the kingdom of those who are aware that they are infinitely rich because we can expect everything from love divine and from human love. We are rich because we possess nothing, we are rich because we are given all things; and so, it is difficult for one who imagines that he is rich in his own right to belong to that kingdom in which everything is a sign of love, and nothing can be possessed, as it were - taken away from others; because the moment we say that we possess something which is not given us either by God or by human care, we subtract it from the mystery of love.

On the other hand, the moment we cling to anything we become slaves of it. I remember when I was young, a man telling me: Don't you understand that the moment you have taken a copper coin in your hand and are not prepared to open your hand to let it go, you have lost the use of a hand, the use of an arm, the use of your body, because all your attention will be concentrated on not losing this copper coin, - the rest will be forgotten.

Whether we keep in our hand a copper coin, or whether we feel rich in so many other ways - intellectually, emotionally, materially is irrelevant, - we are prisoners, we have lost the use of a limb, the use of our mind, the use of our heart; we can no longer be free, and the Kingdom of God is a kingdom of freedom.

On the other hand also, how difficult it is to one who has never lacked anything, who has always possessed more than he needs, to be aware of the poverty or the need of another: poverty - material, emotional or intellectual, or any other lack. It requires a great deal of understanding and sympathy, it requires from us that we should learn to be attentive to the movements of other people's hearts and to their material needs in order to respond to them. One says in Russian 'A satisfied person no longer understands a hungry one'; which of us can say that we are hungry in any respect? And this is why we do not understand the needs of people - of one another here, or of people beyond the confines of our congregation.

So, let us reflect on that; poverty does not mean destitution; it means freedom from enslavement to an illusion that we are self-sufficient, self-contained, the creator of what we are and what we possess. And also free from enslavement to what is given us to make husbandmen of God.

Let us reflect on this; because if we learn this, if we learn what Saint Paul said that whether he is rich, whether he is destitute, he is equally rich because his richness is in God and in the human love. Then we will be able, whether we possess material things or not, to be free of them, and to belong to God's Kingdom which is a Kingdom of mutual love, or mutual solidarity, of compassion for one another, of giving to one another what we were given freely.

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



Banquet Hall Amenities

- Over 6000 square feet
- Seating for up to 350 guests
- 200 square foot elevated stage
- 25ft x 25ft dance floor
- Lighting & Sound
- Bar available
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- External caterers are welcome
- Tables, chairs, linens, flatware, silverware available
- Event set up, tear down and cleaning services available
- Complimentary parking lot
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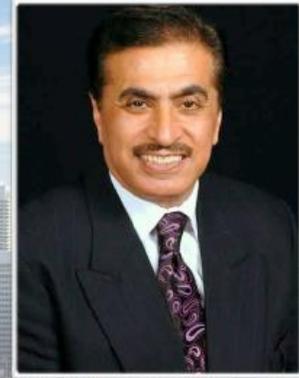
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