

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**

(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

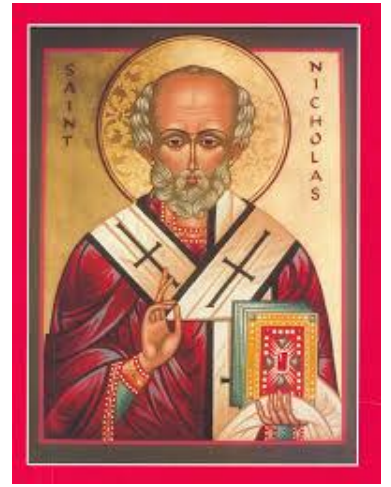
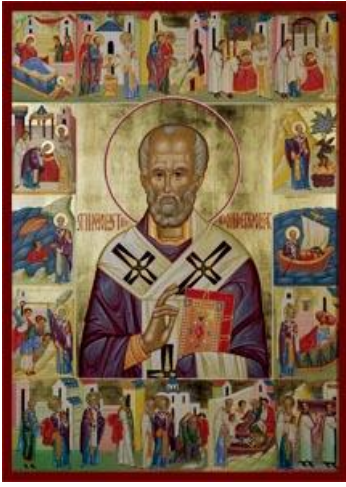
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

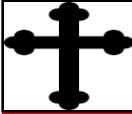
Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, December 01, 2019



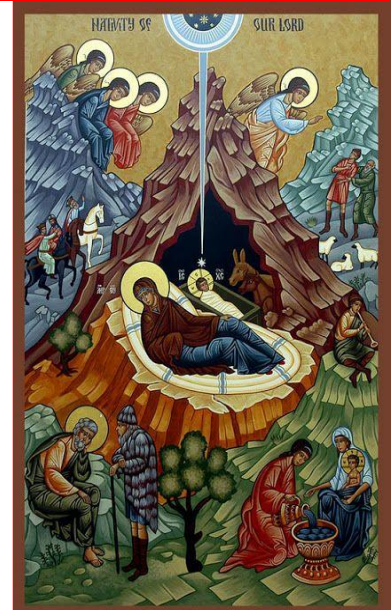
Memorial Service: Forty Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Samir Halteh**
offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

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 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



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

The deadline to submit your candidate's name to Father George and/or Maheer Zabaneh is Sunday December 1st.

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

الرسالة: أفسس ٢: ١٤-٢٢ يا إخوة، إن المسيح هو سلامنا، هو جعل الاثنين واحداً ونقض في جسده حائط السياج الحاجز أي العداوة، وأبطل ناموس الوصايا في فرائضه ليخلق الاثنين في نفسه إنساناً واحداً جديداً بإجرائه السلام، ويصالح كليهما في جسد واحد مع الله في الصليب بقتله العداوة في نفسه، فجاء وبشركم بالسلام، البعيدين منكم والقريبين، لأنّ به لنا كلينا التوصل إلى الأب في روح واحد. فلستم غرباء بعد ونزلاء بل مواطني القديسين وأهل بيت الله، وقد بُنيتم على أساس الرسل والأنبياء، وحجر الزاوية هو يسوع المسيح نفسه، الذي به يُنسَق البنيان كلّه فينمو هيكلًا مقدّسًا في الربّ، وفيه أنتم أيضاً تُبَنُونَ معاً مسكنًا لله في الروح.

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨ : ٣٥-٤٣

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع بالقرب من أريحا كان أعمى جالساً على الطريق يستعطي. فلما سمع الجمع مجتازاً سأل: ما هذا؟ فأخبر بأن يسوع الناصريّ عابر. فصرخ قائلاً: يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني. فزجره المتقدمون ليسكت فازداد صراخاً: يا ابن داود ارحمني. فوقف يسوع وأمر بأن يُقدم إليه. فلما قُرب سألته: ماذا تريد أن أصنع لك؟ فقال: يا رب أن أبصر. فقال له يسوع: أبصر، إيمانك قد خلّصك. وفي الحال أبصر وتبعه وهو يمجّد الله. وجميع الشعب إذ رأوا سبّحوا الله.

HOLIDAY SEASON:

As we gather with our families this Advent/Holiday Season 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.

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

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

نيقولاوس العجائبي، رئيس أساقفة ميرا /

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

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.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- ❖ And best wishes to the newly elected officers of the Ladies Auxiliary: **Randa Shatara (President), Rogette Bazouzi, Mimi Hanhan, Sue Rantisi, Ida Batshon, and Salwa Shnoudi.**
- ❖ We would also like to thank those who fulfilled their duties and responsibilities to their church by serving on these committees. We wish you and your families the best and pray that you will continue to help in the future.

THANK YOU:

We would like to wish everyone a huge thank you for coming to our Thanksgiving family night and making it a success! We couldn't have done it without you and we are grateful to have spent the night with all who attended. We would like to give a special thank you to **Janet Baqleh, Jehan Al Halabi, Suha Haddad, and Basma Tannous** as they prepared the wonderful meal we had. God bless and many years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **TEEN SOYO CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** Sunday December 1st, our teens and youth will be assisting Khourieh with the Christmas decorations in the church.
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO CHURCH CLEAN UP/ BAKE HOLY BREAD:** Saturday December 7th, our teens and youth will be cleaning up around the church and making Holy Bread for Divine Liturgy.
- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY:** Sunday December 8th, our Sunday School students will be creating snowflakes and Christmas tree ornaments! Make sure to bring your children so we can gather in the spirit of the Holidays and create some beautiful decorations. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to email the Director: estherbatarse@gmail.com
- ❖ **ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS ANNUAL DINNER:** Wednesday December 11th at 6:30 PM. \$50/person. Tannourine Restaurant. 120 W 25th Ave San Mateo, CA 94403. Please join us for the annual Northern California Deanery St. IGNATIUS dinner. RSVP by Friday 12/6/19 Julianna3ds@gmail.com or 408-375-5539.
- ❖ **TOYS FOR TOTS:** Saturday December 14th, Teen SOYO officers and members will be purchasing toys to donate to the Toys for Tots drive. Come and join us at Target in Foster City at 2 PM!
- ❖ **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.

Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh: On Holy Communion

Through living the whole life of the church, and pre-eminently by Communion in the Holy Mysteries, we seek participation in the common life with Christ the Saviour. Living in the church, being the body of Christ in the midst of the world, being the presence of the living Christ incarnate through us, being the lodging place of the Holy Spirit, His Temple, being children of the heavenly Father in the most literal and unconditional sense, this is precisely what we seek, to make our life one with Christ.

What does this mean? When we come to Holy Communion we ask and we dream that eternal life, with its light, its joy, and its solemn victory should be actualized in us. And we often forget that on earth Christ's victory was concealed. Yes, the whole fullness of the Godhead dwelt among us physically, but how hidden it was! How much grief of body and soul Christ as a man lived through, how many times people went past Him not seeing God in Him, and only hearing words - for them frighteningly incomprehensible and unacceptable, about such love as we wish for ourselves, but which we are so rarely prepared to give to others. And so, when we partake of the Holy Mysteries, when we wish to live the life of the church, we should remember that we are asking for communion to the whole life of Christ and to His mysterious, deep relationship with the Father; to the breath of the Holy Spirit, and to that eternal, unconquerable purity.

But together with this, we should be prepared to share the fate of the Saviour on earth. He came to His own, and His own did not recognize Him; He preached love, and people ran away from this love in terror, because love demanded the rejection of self. Each of His words was both life and temptation, and therefore a judgement on each man and on the world. And in answer to love, and in answer to the truth, and in answer to the fact that in boundless love God had wished to dwell amidst His people and share all with them, Christ was rejected. But in Him love did not falter. He gave up His life; people thought they were taking it away, but He freely gave it up. We too are called to do the same thing by partaking of the Holy Mysteries, by our communion with the church, by reason of our love towards Christ, feeble though, it may be. And when we shall seek not only heaven, joy and protection, but a fully common life and full communion with Him, and when like Him we shall be ready to carry the cross together with Him - not just what we call our cross, the troubles of life, our personal sorrows, our illnesses,- but His cross which means suffering with all who suffer, with each and all who are perishing in sin: only then will the Saviour's prayer be fulfilled that His joy should be fully realized in us. If we so long for communion with Christ that we are prepared to share His cross on earth, then on earth we shall already have shared in His sonhood and in the victory of love. May the Lord give us courage, may He make us understand that Christ called us to live upon earth as He lived. He did not come to suffer torment for our sake in order that we might live according to our own senseless sinful will. And then our Communion with Him must be full. But we must begin with this, to acquire the mind of Christ on earth. When His disciples asked, begged, prayed that He should grant them to sit on His right hand and on His left hand in the Kingdom of Heaven, He said: "Are you ready to drink of the cup which I shall drink, are you prepared to be plunged into that horror into which I shall be plunged?" And they answered; "Yes, we are." And then the Saviour said these words to them which He still repeats to us when we share the cup of life with Him, He told them. "You shall indeed drink of the cup which I shall drink. You shall indeed be baptized with the baptism wherewith I am baptized, but to judge who shall sit on my right hand and on my left is not given to Me but to the Father."

If our love is real, if we love Him, if we have learned from Him how to love, if we could only truly share with Him His whole life beginning with the cross, should we not then understand that it is too soon to begin to think about where we shall sit, whether on His right or His left, whether far or near? And should we not then be able to entrust ourselves with complete confidence in the love of the Lord?

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

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- Bar available
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- Tables, chairs, linens, flatware, silverware available
- Event set up, tear down and cleaning services available
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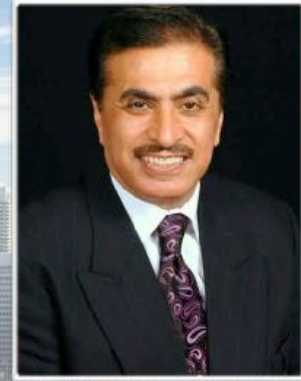
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