

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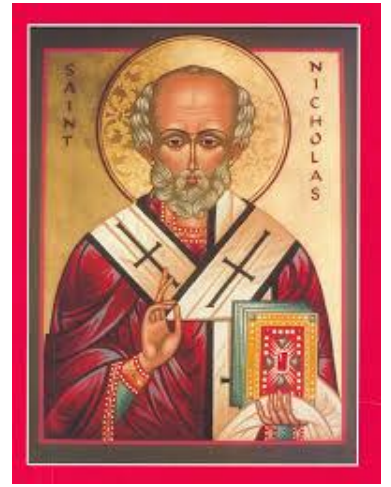
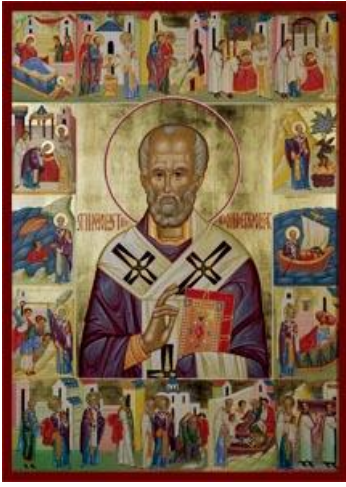
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

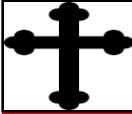
Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, December 08, 2019



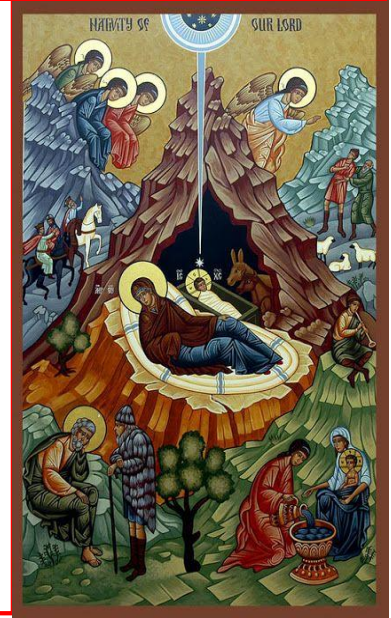
Condolences: Deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Ayoub** family for the passing of
Hon Consul of Jordan Mr. Kamel Ayoub. May his memory be eternal!

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.

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.

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

الرسالة: أفسس ٤ : ٧-١

يا إخوة أطلب إليكم أنا الأسير في الرب أن تسلكوا كما يحق للدعوة التي دُعيتم بها، بكل تواضع ووداعة وبطول أناة، محتملين بعضكم بعضًا بالمحبة، ومجتهدين في حفظ وحدة الروح برباط السلام، فإنكم جسد واحد وروح واحد كما دُعيتم إلى رجاء دعوتكم الواحد، رب واحد وإيمان واحد وعموديّة واحدة وإله أب للجميع واحد هو فوق الجميع وبالجميع وفي جميعكم، ولكل واحد منا أُعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٣ : ١٠-١٧

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجامع يوم السبت، وإذا بامرأة بها روح مرض منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية لا تستطيع أن تنتصب البتة. فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها: إنك مُطلقة من مرضك، ووضع يديه عليها، وفي الحال استقامت ومجّدت الله. فأجاب رئيس المجمع، وهو مغتاظ لإبراء يسوع في السبت، وقال للمجمع: هي ستّة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون، لا في يوم السبت. فأجاب الرب وقال: يا مرائي، أليس كلّ واحد منكم يحلّ ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود وينطلق به فيسقيه؟ وهذه، وهي ابنة إبراهيم التي ربطها الشيطان منذ ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تُطلق من هذا الرباط يوم السبت؟ ولما قال هذا، خزي كلّ من كان يقاوم، وفرح المجمع بجميع الأمور المجيدة التي كانت تصدر منه.

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

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

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

Altar Candle Offering: By St. Nicholas church for the good health of all who are named Nick, Nicholas, Nicole, Nicola after the **feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6th** on the occasion of their Names' Day! **Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Nicholas Baalbaki, Nicholas Habeeb, Nicholas Haddad, Nicholas Katout, Nicholas Houli, Nicholas Nabil Hanhan, Nicholas Tannous, Nicholas Qaqish, Nicole Aho, Nicole Hanhan, Nikki Hanhan, Nicole Jadelrab, Nicole Wahab, Nicole Bekhete, Nick Nichola, Nicola Akik, Nick John Saba, Nicholas Maalouf, Nick Baba,** and in loving memory of **Fr. Nicholas Habib and Nichola Saba.** God Bless!

STEWARDSHIP 2020:

As we reflect on the past year, we pause to give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed on us and our church community. If you have not paid your pledge in full for this year, we pray that you will do so today before the end of the year. We are pleased to tell you that you can now pay your pledge online. Go to our website <https://www.stnicholas-sf.com/>, **Click here to Donate Online.** Many of us today pay most of our bills online, so now you can pay your church pledge as well. Going forward into next year, you can decide how you want to make your payment(s). Check it out. Now you can pay using your envelope, by mail and online. Thank you for your support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **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.

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ By St. Nicholas Church for the good health and speedy recovery of **Marilyn Habeeb.** God bless and many years!
- ❖ By St. Nicholas Church for the good health of **Dr. Tali and Maryanne Bashour** for their donation of our beautiful Christmas Tree. God bless and many years!

CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY:

We set aside one Sunday in December each year to honor our choirs and chanters. This year, that day is Sunday, December 8th. Let us use this day to honor them and say thank you for their effort to enrich our worship through the proper singing of our sacred music throughout the year. May God grant them many years!

Wishing you all a blessed remainder of the Fast and, in advance, a blessed feast, I remain,
Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Metropolitan Anthony: MIRACLES OF CHRIST ON THE SABBATH DAY

Time and again we read in the Gospel of the anger which the Lord Jesus Christ provoked by performing an act of mercy, a miracle of healing on a Sabbath day. And we cannot help asking ourselves a question: Why did He do it so constantly, so persistently, with such insistence? Could it be to challenge those who surrounded Him? Could it be to provoke them? Could it be simply a pedagogical action? I believe that there is a great deal more in His action. The Lord created the world in six days; on the seventh day He rested of His toils and labours. But what happened to the world then? The seventh day was the day when the world came into the hands of man to be brought to its fulfilment and to its completeness; the seventh day, the Sabbath of the Lord is the day of man. The whole of human history falls in that day. But God did not leave man to work alone as the Lord Jesus Christ says in the Gospel, as reported by Saint John, My Father still works, He shows His work to His Son for Him to fulfil them. And in another passage He teaches us, He tells us that His judgment is true because it is not His judgment; He hears the words of the Father and that is the judgment He pronounces. And so, history is the day of man, but man is called to be guided by the wisdom, by the love of God. It is because we are so often seeking for our own ways, it is because we do not ask ourselves what is God's way in one situation or the other that the world has become so ugly, and so frightening, and so tragic. There is a Hebrew poem that describes the misery of this world into which man does not bring the love of God; it says, Man has ceased to believe in God and love has departed this world. Men have hanged themselves in forests, have drowned themselves in lakes, in rivers. Heaven is no longer mirrored in the lakes, in the woods; the bird does no longer sing songs of paradise, and the Prophet himself on his pedestal has become a mere statue. Is this not what we have become? Not statues but so much alike the wife of Lot who turned back and who became a statue of salt. We have remained salt and yet we are petrified, immobile, we do not fulfil on earth this function of ours. And Christ shows us, by working His miracles, His acts of love and of compassion on Sabbath day, time and again, He Who is the only true man, the only man who is in total, ultimate oneness with God, what our part should be: take on the history of mankind, take every situation in which we or others find themselves, and carry them on our shoulders in an act of mercy and of love. A Western writer has said that a Christian is the one to whom God has committed the care of His world and of other people. Are we discharging this basic central commission of ours, do we care? We may care with tenderness, we may care sternly, but we must care. And then, this seventh day when God in His mercy and love has committed this world to our care, still can become the day of the Lord. And the City of man which is been built without God, which so often is like the Tower, may still unfold and attain the greatness and the holiness of the City of God in which the Lord Jesus Christ, true God but also true Man, is called to be a citizen, the heart of it, but also one of us.

Is not this call great enough? Is not God's faith in us sufficiently inspiring? Are we going to defeat His hope, to reject His love for ourselves or for others? Or are we going to learn from the ways in which Christ fulfils His human vocation in the day of the Lord, shall we not learn from Him and together with Him build the world which God has dreamed, has willed and is still loving in his distress and so often in our betrayal of Him!

Let us learn to love one another actively, bear one another's burdens, listen to the Living God when He speaks, listen with all our energy, look into His ways and be those who fulfil His will and bring the world to the perfect beauty He has willed for it!

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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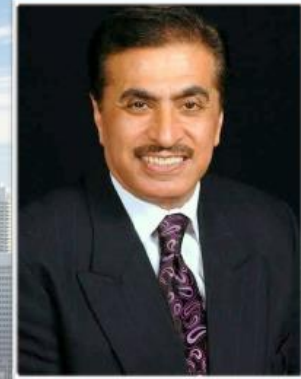
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