

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

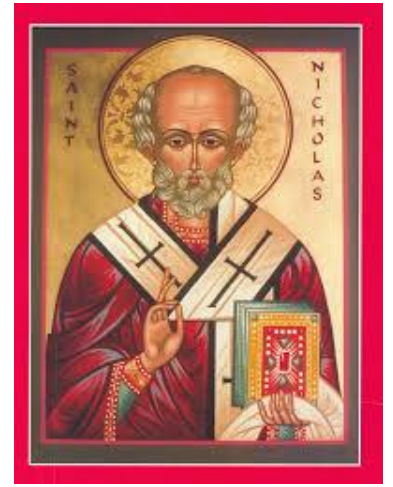
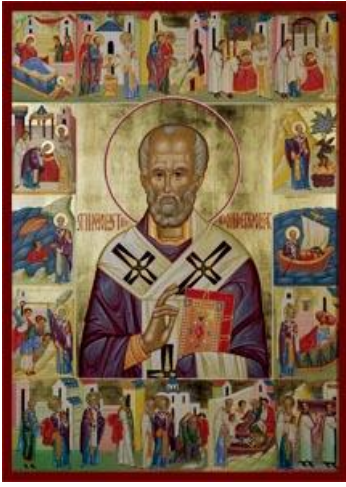
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

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

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**



Sunday, January 05, 2020

Paramon (Eve) of & Sunday before Theophany of Christ

الأحد قبل الظهور الإلهي

خدمة تقديس المياه

January 6th celebration of the great Feast of Epiphany (الغطاس) عيد الظهور الإلهي

Service of Water Blessing will take place on Sunday January 5th

House Blessing Starts on Monday, January 6th

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Monday, January 6th. You will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you would like to reschedule to another date, please call the church office or Fr. George's cellphone: 586 214-4428



Memorial Service:

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Ghada & Jubrael Rantisi** and the **Dabit** family for the passing of **Ghada's sister Suzan Dabit** in the old country.

Three, Nine, & Forty-Day Memorial Service will take place this Sunday January 5th, 2020.

May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

الرسالة: ٢ تيموثاوس ٤ : ٥-٨

يا ولدي تيموثاوس تيقظ في كل شيء واحتمل المشقات واعمل عمل المبشر وأوف خدمتك. أمّا أنا فقد أريق السكيب علي ووقت انحلامي قد اقترب. وقد جاهدت الجهاد الحسن وأتممت شوطي وحفظت الإيمان. وإتّما يبقى محفوظاً لي إكليل العدل الذي يجزييني به في ذلك اليوم الربّ الديان العادل، لا إياي فقط بل جميع الذين يحبّون ظهوره أيضاً.

THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

الإنجيل: مرقس ١: ١-١٨

بدء إنجيل يسوع المسيح ابن الله كما هو مكتوب في الأنبياء: ها أنذا مرسل ملاكي أمام وجهك بهيئتي طريقك قدامك. صوت صارخ في البرية أعدوا طريق الرب، اجعلوا سبله قويمه. كان يوحنا يعمد في البرية ويكرز بمعمودية التوبة لغفران الخطايا. وكان يخرج إليه جميع أهل بلد اليهودية وأورشليم فيعتمدون جميعهم منه في نهر الأردن معترفين بخطاياهم. وكان يوحنا يلبس وبر الإبل، وعلى حذاه من جلد، ويأكل جراداً وعسلًا برياً. وكان يكرز قائلاً: إنه يأتي بعدي من هو أقوى مني، وأنا لا أستحق أن أنحني وأحل سير حذائه. أنا عمدتكم بالماء، وأما هو فيعمدكم بالروح القدس.

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SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ **AWAMAT: Sunday January 5th.** We will have Awamat (Zalabieh زلابية) offered by **Radi and Janet Baqleh**. God bless you and your family. كل عام وأنتم بخير.
- ❖ **ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING: Sunday January 19th, 2020** The main item on the agenda is to discuss and approve a budget for 2020. In order to have the right to vote, you have to be spiritually qualified, a member in good standing, and dues for 2019 should be paid. Thank you.
- ❖ **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2020: We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the PLC this year. July 1-5th at Hyatt Burlingame. More info at: www.laplc.org**

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: BAPTISM OF CHRIST

The day of the Epiphany is the day when the whole world is being renewed and becomes a partaker of the saintliness of God. But at the same time, it is the day when Christ enters on the way to Calvary. He came to John the Baptist on Jordan, not in order to be cleansed, because he was pure of sin, both as God and in the humanity made pure throughout the history of Israel by those ancestors who had given their lives to God and whose saintliness culminated in the all-purity of the Mother of God, so pure, so stainless that She could be brought into the Holy of Holies, into which even the High Priest dared not come except once a year, and only after a special sanctification. Christ did not need cleansing. But these waters, into which all the sinners who had come to John the Baptist confessing the evil of their lives had washed themselves, were as it were heavy with the sinfulness and therefore the mortality of mankind. They had become waters of death, and it is in these waters that the Lord Jesus Christ merges Himself on that day, taking upon Himself the mortality resulting from the sin of man.

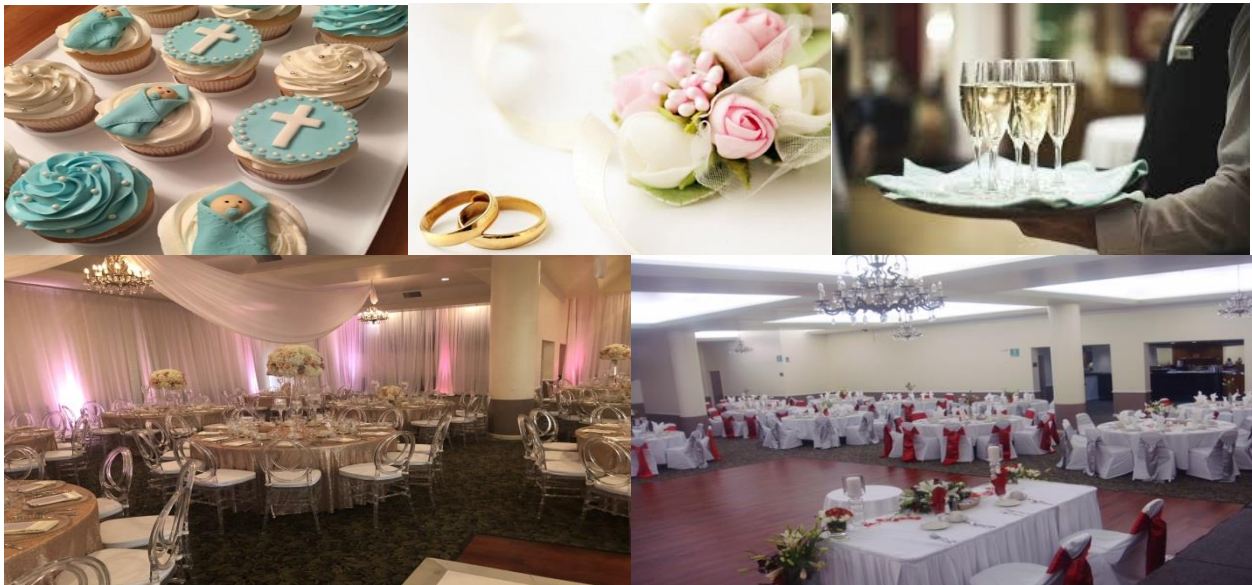
He comes, immortal in His humanity and His divinity, and at the same time He vests Himself with the mortality of the sinful world. This is the beginning of the way to Calvary. This is a day when we marvel at the infinite love of God. But as on every other occasion, man had to participate completely in the ways of salvation which God had provided. And this is why Christ comes and becomes partaker of our mortality, to save us. The culminating point will come on Calvary when He will say, 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?' It will be a moment when God as He was in His humanity will have lost communion with the Father by partaking of the destiny of mankind. This is the ultimate act of divine love.

Let us therefore today wonder and marvel, and worship this love of God, and learn from Him; because He said in the Gospel, 'I have given you an example. Follow it.' We are called, within the limits of our sinfulness and humanity, to carry one another's burdens, unto life and unto death. Let us learn from this. We find it so difficult to carry the burdens even of those whom we love; and practically impossible to shoulder the burdens of those whom we do not love with a natural, direct tenderness. Let us learn, because otherwise we will not have learned the first lesson which Christ gives us when He enters upon His ministry.

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For more information contact our Church office at (415) 648-5200 or info@stnicholas-sf.com



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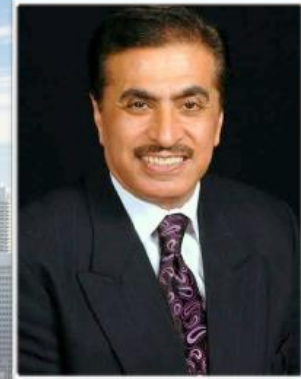
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