

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](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com)

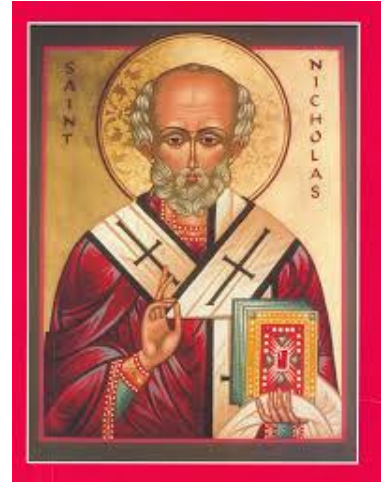
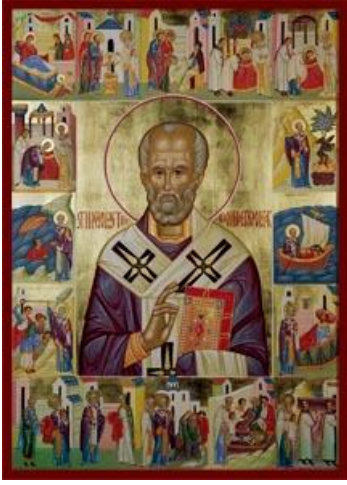
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

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 12, 2020**

**Sunday after the Theophany of Christ**

الأحد بعد عيد الظهور الإلهي

**Memorial Service & Condolences:**

- ❖ We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Khourieh Faizeh** and the **Awwad family** on the passing of **The Very Reverend Father Issa Awwad**.
  - ❖ One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Abdallah Hanna Shami** offered by his family.
- May their memory be eternal!

**House Blessings are underway:**

If you have not received a phone call from the church office yet, please reach out and contact us to set up a time for a home blessing from Father George. You can also reach him at 586 214 4428

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

الرسالة: أفسس ٤ : ٧-١٣

يا إخوة لكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. فلذلك يقول: لَمَّا صعد إلى العلى سبى سبياً وأعطى الناس عطايا. فكونه صعد، هل هو إلا أنه نزل أولاً إلى أسافل الأرض؟ فذاك الذي نزل هو الذي صعد أيضاً فوق السماوات كلها ليملأ كل شيء، وهو قد أعطى أن يكون البعض رسلاً والبعض أنبياءً والبعض مبشرين والبعض رعاة ومعلمين، لأجل تكميل القديسين ولعمل الخدمة وبنيان جسد المسيح، إلى أن ننتهي جميعنا إلى وحدة الإيمان ومعرفة ابن الله، إلى إنسان كامل، إلى مقدار قامته ملء المسيح.

## **THE GOSPEL: Matthew. (4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

الإنجيل: متى ٤: ١٢-١٧

في ذلك الزمان لما سمع يسوع أن يوحنا قد أُسلم، انصرف إلى الجليل وترك الناصرة وجاء فسكن في كفرناحوم التي على شاطئ البحر في تخوم زبولون ونفتاليم، ليتم ما قيل بأشعيا النبي القائل: أرض زبولون وأرض نفتاليم، طريق البحر، عبر الأردن، جليل الأمم. الشعب الجالس في الظلمة أبصر نوراً عظيماً والجالسون في بقعة الموت وظلاله أشرق عليهم نور. ومنذئذ ابتدأ يسوع يكرز ويقول: توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات.

## **ONLINE GIVING:**

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. Thank you for your support.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

- ❖ **\*DATE CHANGED\* ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING:** Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT DOWNTOWN SF SCAVENGER HUNT:** Two hours. One epic adventure. Your team will solve puzzles, complete challenges, and explore historic landmarks. **SATURDAY JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 2PM.** Any questions contact Shadi Azar @ tel: (415)2792533 or follow our Instagram account @stnickscavengerhunt ! Looking forward to seeing everyone.
- ❖ **ANNUAL VALENTINE PARTY:** Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Doors: 7:00 PM. The first time in San Francisco we proudly present the famous singer from Aleppo: **YOUSEF SHAMOUN**. Open bar, premium dinner, and mezza. Please reserve your seats by contacting the church office.
- ❖ **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2020:** We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the PLC this year. July 1-5<sup>th</sup> at Hyatt Burlingame. More info at: [www.laplc.org](http://www.laplc.org)

## **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered by **Afaf Dudum** in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum** on the occasion of his birthday January 14<sup>th</sup> and for the good health of the **Dudum, Imprescias and the Strickland families**. God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Basima Atwan** for the good health of her and her family on the special occasion of her birthday. God bless and many years!

## **Metropolitan Anthony: BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

When a human enters into the world, he enters from nowhere, from total, radical absence enters through the gates of time in order to grow into eternity. He enters an ephemeral world in order to become citizen of God's Kingdom. When Christ was born, the Eternal entered into the narrow limits of time; He Who was immensity itself was limited by space and became a man in the flesh although the fullness of the Godhead abided, dwelt in this human frame. He entered into a world of sin in order to overcome sin, and in a world of suffering to endure it all together with us.

But on the day of His Incarnation God delivered unto us in the frailty of the child of Bethlehem the fullness of His love, and love is always defenseless and frail, abandoned and surrendered. It was an act of God by which He gave Himself to us and in which the humanity of the Incarnate Son of God was helplessly delivered into the history of mankind.

When we are baptised, we are plugged into waters that cleanse us from sin. When Christ came unto Jordan, He came sinless, but this time in the maturity of manhood, at a point at which His human will, identified with the will of God, made Him a self-offering; He brought Himself there to begin, to start the way to the Cross. Thousands were baptised in the Jordan, and each of them proclaimed his sins, and these waters of Jordan were heavy with the murderous sins of men. Christ had no sin to proclaim and to confess, and when He entered into these waters of Jordan, He entered, to use an image of a contemporary divine, as one plunges, walks into a dye — He was dyed with the darkness of our sins. He came out of it carrying all the sins of the world. He came out of the waters of Jordan loaded with the condemnations that lay upon the world. And there is the time when He begins His ascent to the Cross.

We are now keeping the feast of the Baptism of Christ, a dread event, an event that should keep us spellbound, in awe: Him Who is pure shares the impurity of sin universal so that He may save us. We will bless the waters, the natural waters that surround us and pray the Lord to send upon these waters grace and blessing for them to become pure and holy, endowed with the power to cleanse and to renew, to make us and all the objects and all the places where they will be sprinkled, partakers of this purity of the waters of Jordan who had touched the holy body of the Incarnation, which had taken upon Himself all the evil of world. So let us pray that the grace of the Spirit of God may come upon these waters and that they may be truly blessing and salvation by the power of Christ, by the power and dwelling of the Holy Spirit.

# 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](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)



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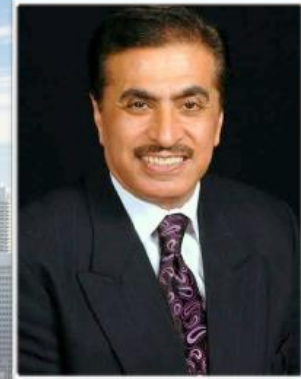
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