

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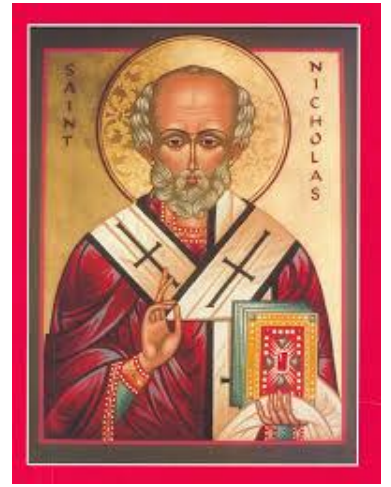
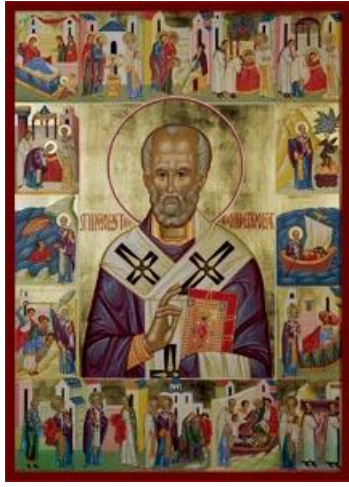
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, January 19, 2020

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 Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

الرسالة: كولوسي ٣: ٤-١١

يا إخوة، متى ظهر المسيح الذي هو حياتنا فأنتم أيضاً تظهرون حينئذ معه في المجد، فأميتوا أعضائكم التي على الأرض، الزنى والنجاسة والهوى والشهوة الرديئة والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن، لأنه لأجل هذه يأتي غضبُ الله على أبناء العصيان، وفي هذه أنتم أيضاً سلكتم حيناً إذ كنتم عانثين فيها. أما الآن فأنتم أيضاً اطرحو الكَلِّ، الغضب والسخط والخُبث والتجديف والكلام القبيح من أفواهكم ولا يكذب بعضكم بعضاً، بل اخلعوا الإنسان العتيق مع أعماله والبسوا الإنسان الجديد الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه، حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي ولا ختان ولا قلف ولا بربري ولا إسكيثي، لا عبد ولا حر، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٧: ١٢-١٩

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع داخلٌ إلى قرية استقبله عشرة رجال بُرص، ووقفوا من بعيد ورفعوا أصواتهم قائلين: يا يسوع المعلم ارحمنا. فلما رآهم قال لهم: امضوا وأروا الكهنة أنفسكم. وفيما هم منطلقون طهروا. وإنَّ واحدًا منهم لما رأى أنه قد برئ، رجع يمجّد الله بصوت عظيم، وخرّ على وجهه عند قدميه شاكرًا له، وكان سامريًّا. فأجاب يسوع وقال: أليس العشرة قد طهروا فأين التسعة؟ ألم يوجد من يرجع ليمجّد الله إلا هذا الأجنبي؟ وقال له: قم وامض، إيمانك قد خلّصك.

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:

- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT DOWNTOWN SF SCAVENGER HUNT: SATURDAY JANUARY 25TH @ 2PM.** Two hours. One epic adventure. Your team will solve puzzles, complete challenges, and explore historic landmarks. Any questions contact Shadi Azar @ tel: (415)2792533 or follow our Instagram account @stnickscavengerhunt ! Looking forward to seeing everyone.
- ❖ ***DATE CHANGED* ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING: Sunday January 26th, 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.
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO FUNDRAISER: Sunday January 26th.**
- ❖ **BIBLE BOWL STUDY: Sunday February 2nd,** Bible bowl for the teen group will begin immediately after communion. We are hosting the PLC this year so let's get first place!
- ❖ **ANNUAL VALENTINE PARTY: Saturday February 15th. 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.
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO SANTA CRUZ RETREAT: Saturday March 7th.**
- ❖ **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2020:** We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the PLC this year. July 1-5th at Hyatt Burlingame. We need your help with advertisements in the Souvenir Journal. More info at: www.laplc.org

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

- ❖ Offered by **The Habeeb family** in blessed memory of our beloved **Victor Habeeb**. Memory Ever Eternal!
- ❖ By **Nadim, Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran**, for the good health of **Basma Howell** on the occasion of her birthday January 18th.

ST. NICHOLAS ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE:

If you're 18+ and would like to compete on the Church Orthodox Youth Athletic Association from March to May, please contact Shadi Azar to be added to the roster. Roster has to be submitted by February 4th so please act fact. Open to both men and women. Shadiazar@yahoo.com – 415 279 2533.

CONGRATULATIONS:

- ❖ And best wishes to the newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council: **Ramzi Srouji** and to the newly elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council: **Salim Qaru**. God bless and many years!
- ❖ We would also like to thank **Maher Zabaneh** for fulfilling his duty and responsibility to his church by serving as our previous Chairman. We wish you and your family the best and pray that you will continue to help in the future.

2020 BIBLE BOWL:

The upcoming *68th Parish Life Conference* will take place on 1st - 5th July 2020 hosted by our Parish. We are seeking members to join the Bible Bowl Team Divisions; Juniors (ages: 13-15), Seniors (ages: 16-19) and Adults (20 and older). For those who would like to participate in the upcoming Bible Bowl and be part of the St. Nicholas Bible Bowl teams, please see Father George or Tariq Rantisi. 2020 Bible Bowl Topic: The Gospel of St. John. For more information please visit, 68TH ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE, WEBSITE <https://antiochianevents.com/la>

Metropolitan Anthony: ON GRATITUDE

The Gospel - all the Gospel is a gift of God to us, and although we are not continuously reminded of the need to be grateful, how can we not respond with gratitude to what the Gospel brings to us? God has so loved the world that He has given His only begotten Son that the world may be saved; and the Son has given Himself freely, in the sovereign freedom of His Divinity to us; no-one has taken His life from Him - these are His own words; He gave His life willingly, freely, that we may live.

And today we have in the Gospel a short example of the way in which we, most of the time, receive the gifts of God. Ten men came, covered with leprosy, condemned to a cruel death by illness, but also rejected ritually by their own people for the impurity of this infectious disease. They came to Him, stood at a distance, because they knew that according to the Jewish Law they had no right even to come near Him to touch Him. And they asked for mercy. And God send them to the priests to bring forth the sign of their gratitude for the healing which they had not received; and they believed, and they went, and they were healed before they reached their goal... We might have expected that they rushed back to fall to the feet of Christ, to touch Him in gratitude - no... Nine of them went their way; it was enough for them to have been healed: it's all they needed of God. One of them, however, turned round, and came to thank the Lord.

Isn't it an image of the way in which so often we also behave? We pray; we ask the Lord for something that matters to us: it may not be life and death, it may just be that we need so much, one thing or another; or that we don't even need it so much, but that we long so much for it. And then it is given us; and we receive the gift, and we rush into life with this gift in our hearts, this gift in our hands, we rush to life because it is enough for us that our prayer was fulfilled. How seldom it is that we come back, leaving our gift to be used later, but first of all turning to God and saying: What wonder! What is Your love! How great, how compassionate, how humble - that You have responded to my prayer... One out of ten came back to the Lord Jesus Christ: how many of us have ever come immediately, before they took advantage of the gift, to turn to God with a smile, like a child turns and say 'Thank you!', even with a smile, without words, before taking advantage of what is given. And we loose so much at not being grateful; because if we learned to be grateful for the obvious gifts of God, we would gradually discover that we can be grateful for a great deal more, for everything that Providence puts in our way: not only things we rejoice in, not only the wanders of life, but even the challenges of life, the things that claims from us courage, greatness, nobility, the things which we are afraid of. And how often we could overcome vanity by gratitude! Because vanity consists in looking at ourselves, and think: how wonderful we are, forgetting that all that we are, all that we have is a gift of God. If we only, every time we have said the right thing, done the right thing, been worthy of our human quality, human greatness and nobility, and also of the name of the disciples of Christ - if every time we turned to God and said, 'Yes! How wonderful are the words I have spoken, how good is the action I have performed - and everything was of

You: the occasion was given by You, o Lord! I was able to perceive the need because You whispered in my heart: Look!... I could understand because I had my mind enlightened by the Gospel! My heart responded because You touched it, and from the heart of stone which I carry in my bosom most of the time it became a heart of flesh full of compassion and of understanding! And You gave me the means of meeting the need, and the joy of meeting this need!.. If we could respond to everything this way, we would discover that life is made into an act of worship and of gratitude.

Let us reflect on this because we are coming within a few weeks, a few days now to a day when our heart should be aflame with gratitude: God has loved us so much as to become one of us; while we were strangers, alien to Him, often inimical to Him, He came, and He gave His life for us that we may live!.. We must prepare for it: joy, gratitude, faith, openness to God does not happen of a sudden; we must prepare for it. Let us reflect on what is going to happen; the thing that happened nearly 2000 years ago that we shall remember as an actual event now, in a few weeks; and be ready, with a heart tilled, deeply furrowed by faith, by reflection, having thought out all our life, ready to receive the Lord like a shepherd, in the simplicity and purity of our hearts, or like the Wise Men in the deep understanding of wisdom.

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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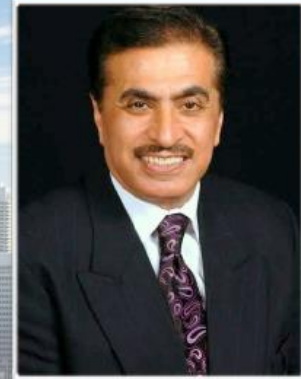
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