

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website: stnicholas-sf.com

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

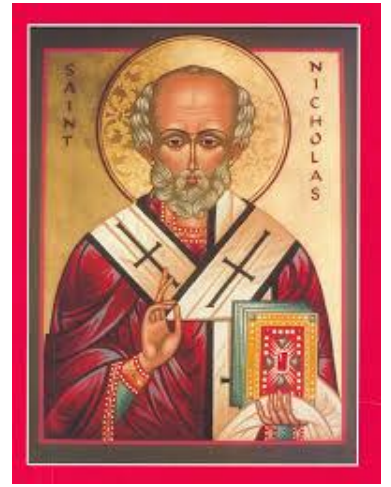
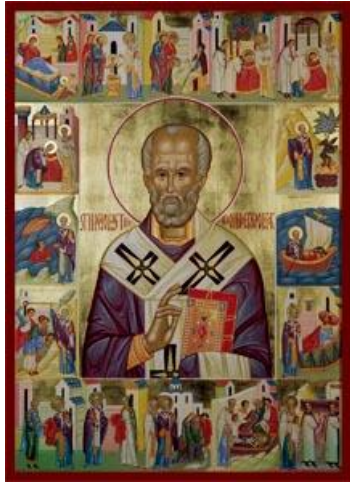
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, April 05, 2020

Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt

Memorial Service: One Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God
Ester Clemence Antone Lama, wife of (Late) **Abdallah Hanna Shami**.

May her memory be eternal!

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Based on the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), all Church social events and gatherings are postponed until further notice. For now, only Friday and Sunday services are open. All liturgical services will be served with only clergy, servers, and chanters. No liturgical service can total more than ten persons. You can watch the livestream of the service on our social media.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stnicksf/>

You do not need to have Facebook to watch the services; when asked to log in by Facebook click "not now" and you will be able to watch the live broadcast.

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrDWWPWreLZpVhzVGZkjDIA>

We pray for the good health, well-being, and safety of everyone in these hard times. God bless!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

الرسالة : عبرانيين ٩: ١١-١٤

يا إخوة، ان المسيح اذ قد جاء رئيس كهنة للخيرات المستقبلة، فبمسكن أعظم وأكمل غير مصنوع بأيدي اي ليس من هذه الخليقة. وليس بدم تبيوس وعجول بل بدم نفسه دخل الأقداس مرة واحدة فوجد فداء أبدياً، لأنه ان كان دم ثيران وتبيوس ورماد عجلة يُرَش على المنجسين فيقدسهم لتطهير الجسد، فكم بالأحرى دم المسيح الذي بالروح الأزلي قرَّب نفسه لله بلا عيب يطهر ضمائرکم من الأعمال الميتة لتعبدوا الله الحي

THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

الإنجيل: مرقس ١٠: ٣٢-٤٥

في ذلك الزمان اخذ يسوع تلاميذه الاثني عشر وابتدأ يقول لهم ما سيعرض له: هوذا نحن صاعدون إلى اورشليم وابن البشر سيُسلم إلى رؤساء الكهنة والكتبة، فيحكمون عليه بالموت ويسلمونه إلى الأمم فيهزأون به ويصقون عليه ويجلدونه ويقتلونه، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم. فدنا اليه يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي قائلين: يا معلم، نريد ان تصنع لنا مهما طلبنا. فقال لهما: ماذا تريدان ان أصنع لكما؟ قالا له: أعطنا ان يجلس احدنا عن يمينك والآخر عن يسارك في مجدك. فقال لهما يسوع: انكما لا تعلمان ما تطلبان. أتستطيعان ان تشربا الكأس التي أشربها انا، وان تصطبغا بالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها انا؟ فقالا له: نستطيع. فقال لهما يسوع: اما الكأس التي اشربها فتشربانها وبالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها فتصطبغان، اما جلوسكما عن يميني وعن يساري فليس لي ان أعطيهم الا للذين أعد لهم. فلما سمع العشرة ابتدأوا يغضبون على يعقوب ويوحنا. فدعاهم يسوع وقال لهم: قد علمتم ان الذين يُحسبون رؤساء الامم يسودونهم، وعظماؤهم يتسلطون عليهم. واما انتم فلا يكون فيكم هكذا. ولكن من أراد ان يكون فيكم كبيرا فليكن لكم خادما، ومن أراد ان يكون فيكم اول فليكن للجميع عبدا. فان ابن البشر لم يأت ليخدم بل ليخدم نفسه فداء عن كثيرين.

PLEDGE UPDATE:

As most of you know, we are all going through times of hardship. We have had to close our church services, cancel many events and gatherings, cancel our PLC, and close our daycare for now. We humbly ask you to please keep this in mind when making your next donation or pledge payment. God bless you and your families.

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.

AKATHIST SERVICE:

This Friday April 3rd is the last Akathist service of this Great and Holy season. Please make sure you tune in to our social media to watch the livestream of this beautiful service. God bless!

Good Friday Flowers \$50 (Minimum Donation) per Bouquet

الزهور لتزيين نعش المسيح يوم الجمعة العظيمة

Name: _____ الأسم

Phone Number _____ رقم التلفون

Donation(\$): _____ المبلغ

Message: _____

Good Friday flowers: Dear Parishioners: To avoid misspelling the names, please do not call the church office. Mail or email the names along with the donation or put it in the tray on Sunday in an envelope with your name & write a memo that this donation is for the "Bier of Christ". Thank you for your cooperation.

2020 Great Lent

Lent Period: March 2nd – April 19th

Strict Fast: NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish

Day	Date	Celebration
Sunday	April 12	Palm Sunday (Fish Allowed)
Friday	April 17	Great and Holy Friday
Sunday	April 19	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2020

برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام ٢٠٢٠

Days	Service	Time	Time	Service	Day
Fridays	Akathist Service	7 pm	٧ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	11 am	١١ صباحاً	القديس باسيليوس الكبير للقداس الإلهي	الأحد

Metropolitan Anthony: SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Week after week we feel that we are coming closer and closer to the glorious Resurrection of Christ. And it seems to us that we are moving fast, from Sunday to Sunday as it were, to the day when all horrors, all terrors, will have disappeared.

And yet so easily do we forget that before we reach the day of the Resurrection we must, together with Christ, together with His apostles, tread the road of the Crucifixion. 'So we are ascending to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they shall crucify Him, and the third day He will rise'. All we notice is that He will rise. But do we ever think of the way in which the disciples went to Jerusalem, knowing that the Crucifixion was at hand? They were moving in fear. They were not yet mature enough to be those who would give their lives for the message to be spread. They were moving in fear. When Christ told them that they would go now to Jerusalem, return to the city which had then renounced Christ, put Him into danger of His life, they said to Him, 'Let us not go.' And only one disciple, Thomas, said, 'No. Let us go with Him, and die with Him.' This disciple is the one whom, foolishly I believe, we call the Doubter: the one who was not prepared to give his trust to God, his faith, his life, his blood, without certainty. But his heart was unreservedly given to Christ. How wonderful to be such a man! But the other disciples would not desert Christ. They walked towards Jerusalem.

And we have today another example of one who went through a tragedy before they met Christ. It is Mary of Egypt. She was a sinner. She was a harlot. She was unfaithful to God in her soul and in

her body. She had no reverence for this body which God had created and this soul. And yet she was tragically confronted with the fact that there was no way for her into the temple of God unless she rejected evil and chose purity, repentance, newness of life.

Let us reflect on the disciples who almost begged Christ not to return to Jerusalem, because Jerusalem was a city where all prophets had died; and they did not want Christ to die, and they were afraid. Let us ask ourselves how much we resemble them. And let us ask ourselves freely today how do we resemble, or not, Mary of Egypt - Mary who had lived her life according to her own ways and desires, followed all temptations of her body and soul; and one day realised that as she was, she could not enter the temple of God.

So easily do we enter the divine temple, forgetting so easily that the church into which we come is a small part of a world that has chosen to be alien to God, that has rejected God, lost interest in Him; and that the few believers have created for God a place of refuge - yes, the church is the fullness of Heaven, and at the same time a tragic place of refuge, the only place where God has a right to be because He is wanted. And when we come here, we enter into the divine realm. We should come into it with a sense of awe, not just walk into it as into a space but walk into it as a space which is already the divine Kingdom.

If we were in that mood we would, when we come to the doors of the church, be, however little, like Mary of Egypt. We would stop and say, 'How can I come in?' And if we did that with our whole heart, broken-heartedly, with a sense of horror of the fact that we are so distant from God, so alien, so unfaithful to Him, then the doors would open and we would see that we are not simply in a big space surrounded with walls but we are in a space which is God's Heaven come to earth.

Let us therefore learn from this experience what it means to go step by step towards the Resurrection, because in order to reach the Resurrection we must go through Calvary, we must go through the tragedy of Holy Week and make it our own, partaking with Christ and His disciples and the crowds around in the horror, the terror of it; and also experience it as a scorching fire that will burn in us all that is unworthy of God and make us clean. And perhaps one day, when the fire will have burnt everything which is not worthy of God, each of us may become an image of the burning bush, aflame with divine fire and not consumed, because only that which could survive the fire of God would have remained is us

مريم المصرية (+522)

إذا فتحت في اول نيسان السنكسار، وهو الكتاب الذي يحتوي سير القديسين، ترى في العنوان سيرة امنا البارة مريم المصرية، وإذا قرأت القصة تراها قصتين، واحدة عن الراهب زوسيميا وواحدة عن مريم. غير ان التوبة المذهلة لمريم حجت زوسيميا فخصص لها الى يوم عيدها في اول نيسان هذا الأحد الخامس من الصوم. ويقول القديس صفرونيوس واضع السيرة انه استقاها بالتواتر من رهبان دير القديس يوحنا المعمدان في الأردن.

زوسيميا حاول روح الشر ان يقنعه ان ليس من يفوقه في النسك في برية الأردن. فذهب والتقى مريم التي بعد توغلها في فسق كبير بلغت درجة من القداسة اعلى من التي رغب فيها الراهب لنفسه. الحوار بينهما أخذ. زوسيميا وهو كاهن يطلب منها البركة، وهي تذكره، لكونه كاهنا، انه هو الذي يعطي البركة. سألتها من تكون. هنا تأتي السيرة المعروفة. حدثته عن الدعارة التي تعاطتها في الاسكندرية ليس رغبة في الكسب ولكن لاعتبارها تعاطي الجسد مصدرا للحياة.

مرة رأته جمهورا يتراكم باتجاه البحر قاصدا الحج الى اورشليم. لا تقول السيرة انها سافرت لمحبتها الأماكن المقدسة. مارست الخطيئة في السفينة مع الركاب الذين سافروا بقصد الزيارات. حاولت دخول الكنيسة. منعها قوة غير منظورة. شعرت بالتناقض بينها وبين كنيسة القيامة. استفاقت وسجدت. دخلت. تابت. قال لها صوت إلهي: اعبري الأردن. بقيت هناك 47 سنة. لازمتها التجربة 17 عاما. قاومت حتى بلغت الهدوء. قاومت ذكرياتها.

بعد حديث شائق طلبت الى الراهب ان يأتيها بجسد الرب. عاد اليها بالقدسات في الصيام. رغبت اليه ان يعود في السنة القادمة. رآها قد رقدت بالرب وكان هذا في اول نيسان.

تقول السيرة ان أسداً اتى وحفر قبراً فأواها زوسيميا فيه. هناك ايقونة تملأها هي بقامتها والى يسارها زوسيميا منحن، وهو اياه عن يمينها يحمل الكأس المقدسة ولكنه يبقى اقصر منها. النصوص الطقوسية تقول لنا ما مفاده ان التحرك الشهواني الذي كان فيها تحول الى تحرك نحو المسيح. التوبة ليست ان تصير بارداً، بل يداً بل ان تُحوّل احتراقك من اجل الجسد او الدنيا او المال او السلطة احتراقاً من اجل يسوع. لذلك اعتبرت الكنيسة هذه المرأة نموذجاً عن كل نفس تائبة. ووضعت ذكراها في الأحد الخامس وهو الأخير من الصوم لندخل - بهذه التوبة المحققة - مع الرب اورشليم في احد الشعانين مطهرين لاستقبال الأسبوع العظيم.

من احد الفريسي والعشار مرورا بالابن الشاطر حتى يوحنا السلمي وذكر الفضائل انتهاء بمريم المصرية نرى قمم توبة الى جانب أحاد هي ادنى الى التأمل اللاهوتي. انما تكمن اهمية مريم المصرية في ان نذكر اننا نحمل عبء الجسد ثقيلاً والقلة تنعتق من هذا العبء. غير ان حضور زوسيميا في السيرة يذكرنا بأن الذين تحرروا من وطأة الجسد قد لا يتحررون مما هو افتك اعني الكبرياء. كل منا له ضعفه الخاص او ضعفات متعددة، وامام كل هذه الضغوط وداعة المسيح وطراوته. وازاء كل التجارب التي تنتابنا تنتصب صورة مريم المصرية مذكرة بأن الله قادر ان ينشلك من كل نجاسة ويريحك من كل خطيئة مهما ثقلت. المهم الا تستسلم الى اليأس والاتحالف الخطيئة، ان تقول ان المعاصي هي ضد المشيئة الإلهية وان محبة الله معي لكي أفيد منها حتى أخلص

جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون (سابقاً)

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

Over 6000 square feet
Seating for up to 350 guests
200 square foot elevated stage
25ft x 25ft dance floor
Lighting & Sound
Bar available
Fully equipped industrial kitchen
On-site catering available with staff
External caterers are welcome
Tables, chairs, linens, flatware, silverware available
Event set up, tear down and cleaning services available
Complimentary parking lot
Wheelchair accessible

THE MICHAEL LAW FIRM

(415) 447-2833
issa@michaellawsf.com
1648 Union St., Suite 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

ISSA J. MICHAEL, Esq.

Trial Attorney since 1996

REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY/WRONGFUL DEATH

- › Auto Accidents
 - › Pedestrians
 - › Bicycles
 - › Motorcycles
 - › Taxi
 - › Buses
 - › Trucking
 - › Airplane & Train Crashes
 - › Construction Site Accidents
 - › Explosions, Fires & Burns
 - › Product Defects
 - › Defective Medical Devices & Drugs
 - › Medical Malpractice
 - › Elderly Abuse
 - › Falls (Slip & Trip)
 - › Dog Attacks
 - › Assault/Battery & Homicides
- Millions of dollars recovered for clients.
 - No fees unless recovery.
 - San Francisco Bay Area, the State & Across the Nation.
 - Members of the State Bar of California, Consumer Attorneys of California, & San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association.



***PASSION, SENSITIVITY &
ZEALOUS ADVOCACY***

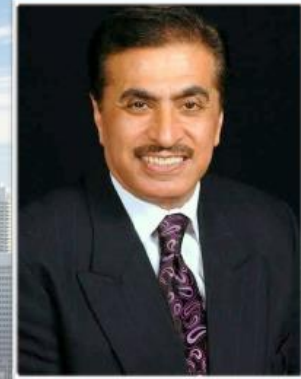
www.MichaelLawSF.com



TRIAL LAWYERS | PERSONAL INJURY | WRONGFUL DEATH



**ONE MARKET STREET, 36TH FLOOR | San Francisco CA
433 Airport Blvd, Suite 126 | Burlingame CA
2901 West Coast Highway | Newport Beach CA**



Looking to...

- **Purchase a home?**
- **Sell your business?**
- **Purchase a new business?**
- **Purchase commercial property?**
- **Lease a location for your business?**

**We are here to help you!
CALL ON US**

JERIES TANNOUS
Commercial and Residential Real Estate
BRE # 00550532
Cell: (650)740-9263

Specializing in:
Business Brokerage
Commercial Real Estate
Sales & Leasing
Residential Real Estate