

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

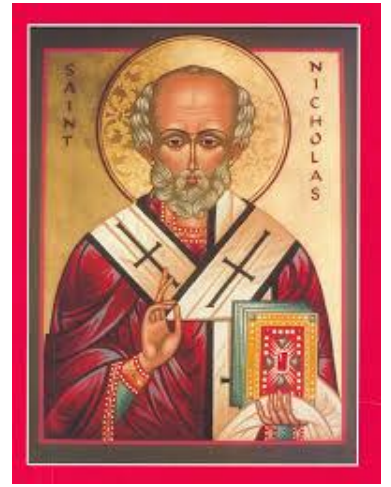
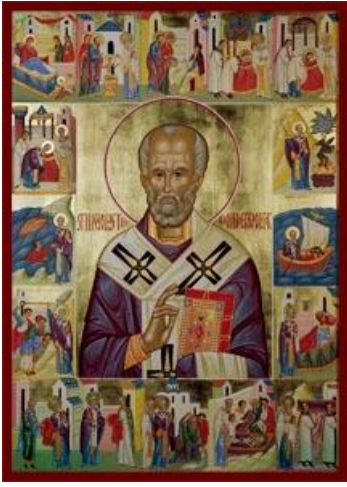
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

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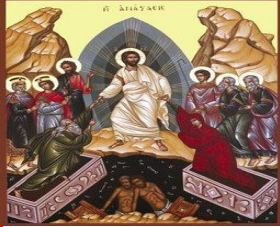
Sunday, April 26, 2020 New Sunday or Anti-Pascha Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin" // أحد توما

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Al Maseeh Qam! Haqan Qam!

Kristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

المسيح قام! حقا قام كل عام وأنتم بخير



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Based on the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), all Church social events and gatherings are postponed until further notice. **Church is not open to the public. Please do not attend.** All liturgical services will be served with only clergy, servers, and chanters. Please watch the livestream of the service on our social media.

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

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

CHURCH ASSISTANCE: We are all going through these trying times together. Please, if you need any assistance or know of anyone in need, please contact Father George Baalbaki on his cell phone at 586 214 4428 or his email: revbaalbaki@yahoo.com God bless you all.

THE EPISTLE: Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ. (20-12:5)

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، جَرَتْ عَلَى أَيْدِي الرُّسُلِ آيَاتٌ وَعَجَائِبٌ كَثِيرَةٌ فِي الشَّعْبِ. (وَكَانُوا كُلُّهُمْ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ فِي رِوَاقِ سَلِيمَانَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْآخَرِينَ يَجْتَرِئُ أَنْ يُخَالِطَهُمْ، لَكِنْ كَانَ الشَّعْبُ يُعْظَمُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمَاعَاتٌ مِنْ رِجَالٍ وَنِسَاءٍ يَنْضَمُونَ بِكَثْرَةٍ مُؤْمِنِينَ بِالرَّبِّ). حَتَّى إِنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا يَخْرُجُونَ بِالْمَرَضَى إِلَى الشُّوَارِعِ، وَيَضَعُونَهُمْ عَلَى فُرُشٍ وَأَسْرَةٍ، لِيَقَعَ وَلَوْ ظِلُّ بَطْرُسَ، عِنْدَ اجْتِيَازِهِ، عَلَى بَعْضِ مِنْهُمْ. وَكَانَ يَجْتَمِعُ أَيْضًا إِلَى أَوْرَشَلِيمَ جُمُهورُ الْمُدُنِ الَّتِي حَوْلَهَا، يَحْمِلُونَ مَرَضَى وَمُعَذِّبِينَ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ نَجِسَةٍ، فَكَانُوا يُشْفَوْنَ جَمِيعُهُمْ. فَقَامَ رَبِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَهُمْ مِنْ شَيْعَةِ الصَّدُوقِيِّينَ، وَامْتَلَأُوا غَيْرَةً. فَالْقُوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَلَى الرُّسُلِ وَجَعَلُوهُمْ فِي الْحَبْسِ الْعَامِّ. فَفَتَحَ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ أَبْوَابَ السِّجْنِ لَيْلًا، وَأَخْرَجَهُمْ، وَقَالَ: امْضُوا وَقِفُوا فِي الْهَيْكَلِ، وَكَلِّمُوا الشَّعْبَ بِجَمِيعِ كَلِمَاتِ هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ.

THE GOSPEL: St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (19:20-31)

لَمَّا كَانَتْ عَشِيَّةُ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ، وَهُوَ أَوَّلُ الْأَسْبُوعِ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ حَيْثُ كَانَ التَّلَامِيذُ مُجْتَمِعِينَ خَوْفًا مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، جَاءَ يَسُوعُ وَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ". فَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا أَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَجَنْبَهُ، فَفَرِحَ التَّلَامِيذُ حِينَ أَبْصَرُوا الرَّبَّ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ ثَانِيَةً: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ، كَمَا أَرْسَلَنِي الْآبُ كَذَلِكَ أَنَا أُرْسَلُكُمْ". وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَفَخَ فِيهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "خُذُوا الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ. مَنْ غَفَرْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ تُغْفَرْ لَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ أَمْسَكَتُمْ". أَمَّا تَوْمًا أَحَدُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ التَّوَامُ فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَهُمْ حِينَ جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ التَّلَامِيذُ الْآخَرُونَ "إِنَّا قَدْ رَأَيْنَا الرَّبَّ"، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنْ لَمْ أَعَيْنِ أَنْتَ الْمَسَامِيرَ فِي يَدَيْهِ، وَأَضَعَ إصْبَعِي فِي أَنْتِ الْمَسَامِيرِ، وَأَضَعَ يَدِي فِي جَنْبِهِ لَا أُوْمِنُ". وَبَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ أَيَّامٍ كَانَ تَلَامِيذُهُ أَيْضًا دَاخِلًا وَتَوْمًا مَعَهُمْ، فَآتَى يَسُوعُ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةٌ وَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ"، ثُمَّ قَالَ لِتَوْمًا: "هَاتِ إصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هَهُنَا وَعَيْنِ يَدِي، وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ وَضَعَهَا فِي جَنْبِي، وَلَا تُكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ مُؤْمِنًا". أَجَابَ تَوْمًا وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي". قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي يَا تَوْمًا أَمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَأَمَنُوا". وَآيَاتٌ أُخْرَى كَثِيرَةٌ صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ لَمْ تُكْتَبْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَأَمَّا هَذِهِ، فَقَدْ كُتِبَتْ لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكِي تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا أَمَنْتُمْ، حَيَاةً بِاسْمِهِ.

PLEDGE UPDATE:

As 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.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:

Please note that the government has recently passed several programs to assist business owners. Some of these programs may apply to you and could be used to cover payroll, rent/lease, and utilities. We encourage you to take advantage of them. Some of these programs can be found at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

CHARITY:

The Parish Council has allocated \$15,000 to help those in our community who need assistance, especially during these challenging times. If you would like to make a donation to this noble cause, please mail your check to the church and write "Charity Donation" in the memo.

Thank you and God bless!

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

- ❖ Offered by **Daoud & Farida Srouji** for the good health of their family.
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Marina Khalaf** for the good health of **Shawqi Khalaf** and their family.
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health of all who are named; George, Georgette, Jeries, Jorge after **Saint George the Great Martyr & Triumphant** on the occasion of their Name's Day: Georgette Dabit, George Dudum, George Hatoum, George Hawawini, George Spiro Hanhan, George Lutfi Hanhan, Georgette Hinn, George Jada, George Kishek, George Khanouf, George Kreitem, George Mounayer, George Najjar, Georgette Rantisi, George Rishmawi, Jiries Hanhan, Jiries Wahba, Jeries Azar, George Hanna Azar, George Nicholas Tannous, Jeries Kopti, Jeries Tannous, Jeries Sousou, Jeries Abughazaleh, George Barghouth, George Nasri Samara, Father George Jweinat, Father Jeries Hanna, and Father George Washburn. God bless and Many years! Also in loving memory of George Cunningham and George Saba. May their memory be eternal! Also for the good health of our beloved Archpriest/Pastor of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, **V. Rev. Father George Baalbaki** on the occasion of His Name's Day. May God grant you all many years filled with health, wealth, and joy & happiness!

SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Hani Tannous and his family for the passing of Katherine Tannous. Altar Candles will be offered this Sunday by Hani Tannous and family, her children Candice, and Clarence, grandkids, mother, and brother.

May her memory be eternal!

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: ST THOMAS

Twice in the Gospels we read the solemn declaration of a man who has recognised in Christ his Lord and his God. The first time was at the beginning of the Lord's ministry: after His Baptism, when He was entering upon the way of the cross, He met Nathaniel and testified to the others that here was a man pure and without guile. Nathaniel asked how He knew this, and the Saviour answered with the mysterious words, "Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." And Nathaniel reverencing Him said, "My Lord and my God." In a life of the holy Apostle Nathaniel we read that at the time of his call he was standing before God in prayer, and that Christ's words about seeing him under the fig tree suddenly lifted a veil from his eyes and he realised that he was standing before the very God to whom he had been praying.

Later this testimony is somehow obscured; the apostles were blinded, as we all are, by the visible, and only very slowly did they begin to perceive the invisible. During a period of just over three years Christ gradually revealed His true nature to them: the fact that He is indeed a true, genuine man, but that at the same time He is God who has taken flesh and come to save the world. This gradually dawning understanding found its expression only on the way to Jerusalem, just before Christ's death, when the apostle Peter testified, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of God."

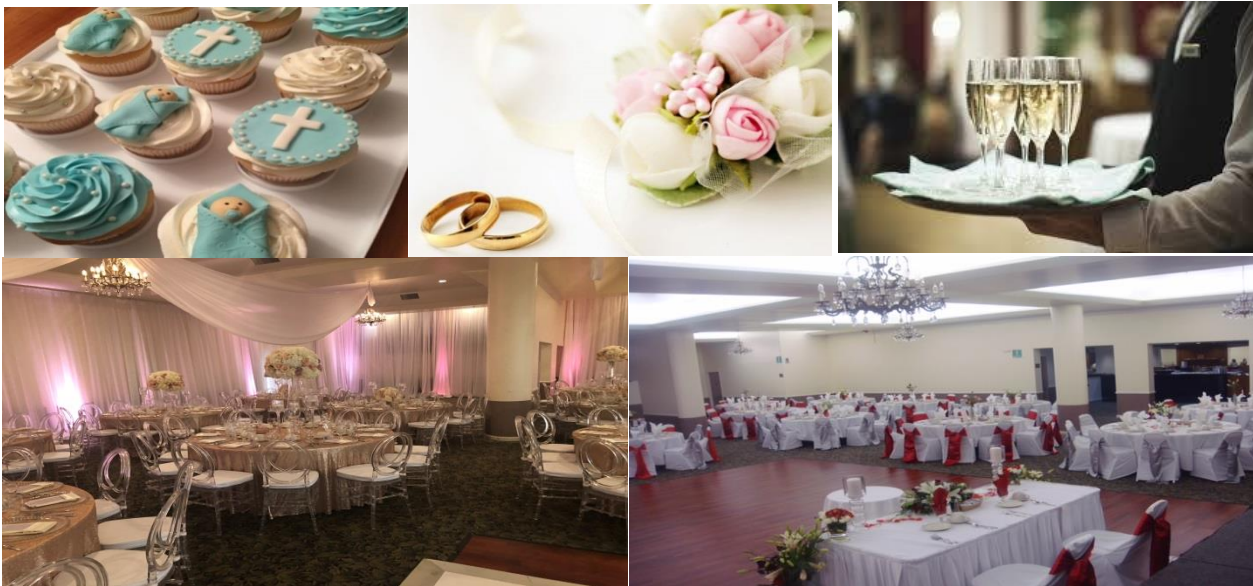
Before His crucifixion Christ gradually revealed Himself to disciples as God; after it He repeatedly and persistently, in a series of appearances, revealed Himself to them as man risen in the flesh. Everything we hear of Christ's Resurrection brings us face to face with this fact; this is not a ghost, this is not a vision; the disciples not only hear His voice, they touch His body, they see Him eating food with them. Later, St. John speaking of their witness rightly says that they spoke of what their eyes had seen, their ears had heard, their hands had felt: Christ had truly risen in the body, the body sanctified, the body transfigured, the body which had become entirely spirit without ceasing to be flesh. Together with the Apostle Thomas we too worship the risen Christ and believing in Him, knowing Him as our God but also as Jesus of Nazareth risen from the dead, we hail Him, "My Lord and my God!"

On this fact the whole life of the Church depends, the whole Christian outlook, the greatness of man, the boundless humility of God. In Christ the one and the other is revealed to us, and we rejoice not only because God is the God of love and our Saviour, but because in Him we are shown how great Man is. He is so great that God can be contained in him. He is so great that He can pass through the gates of death into eternal life carrying us with Him as a torrent; that having united Himself with us in our humanity in every way except sin, He unites us completely with His Divinity if only we lay ourselves open to His influence. How wonderful that is!

So, during the next forty days Christ constantly appeared to His disciples and revealed to them the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; He showed them the name of God as Love, He unfolded to them the comprehension of the Church as a society of people who are bound by love; He explained to them that this temporal life will inevitably pass away, but that they have been granted eternal life, which is that life of God already planted in them, already working in them and conquering all. And in the ensuing weeks each Gospel reading will tell us of this triumph of life, of the victory of life, of the victory of love over everything else. Let us be glad and rejoice that the risen Christ has not only conquered death for Himself and in Himself, but that in us and for us He has conquered death, sin, fear — everything, and that we have now become close and intimate with the living God.

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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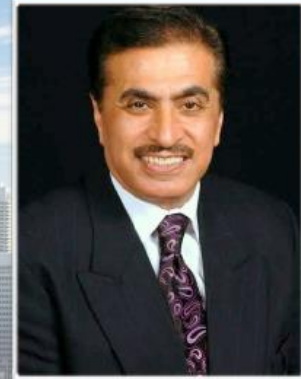


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