

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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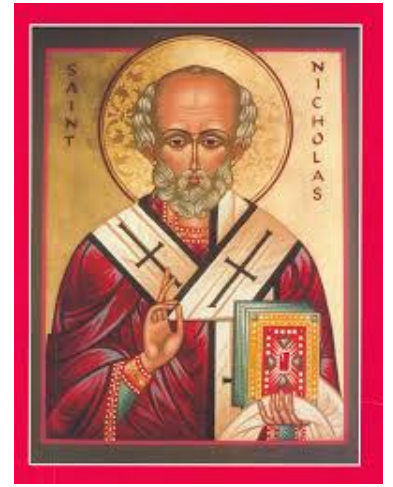
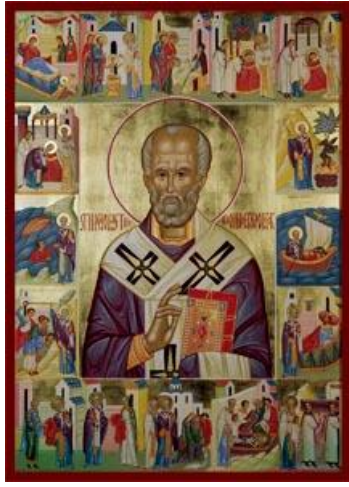
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Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

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**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

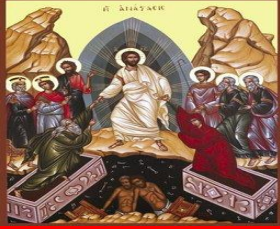
Sunday of the Paralytic

**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/UCrDWWPWreLZpVhzVGZkjDIA>

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](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com) God bless you all.

**الرسالة: أعمال الرسل 9: 32-42**

في تلك الأيام فيما كان بطرس يطوف في جميع الأماكن، نزل أيضا إلى القديسين الساكنين في لدة، فوجد هناك إنسانا اسمه أينياس مضطجعا على سرير منذ ثماني سنين وهو مخلع. فقال له بطرس: يا أينياس يشفيك يسوع المسيح، قم واقترش لنفسك، فقام للوقت وراه جميع الساكنين في لدة وسارون فرجعوا إلى الرب. وكانت في يافا تلميذة اسمها طابيتا الذي تفسيره طيبة، وكانت هذه ممثلة أعمالا صالحة وصدقات كانت تعملها. فحدث في تلك الأيام أنها مرضت وماتت، فغسلوها ووضعوها في العلية. وإذ كانت لدة يقرب يافا، وسمع التلاميذ أن بطرس فيها، أرسلوا إليه رجلين يسألانه أن لا يبطئ عن القدوم إليهم. فقام بطرس وأتى معهما. فلما وصل صعدوا به إلى العلية، ووقف لديه جميع الأرامل بيكين ويُرينه أقمصة وثيابا كانت تصنعها طيبة معهن. فأخرج بطرس الجميع خارجا وجثا على ركبتيه وصلى. ثم التفت إلى الجسد وقال: يا طابيتا قومي. ففتحت عينيها، ولما أبصرت بطرس جلست. فناولها يده وأنهضها. ثم دعا القديسين والأرامل وأقامها لديهم حياة. فشاع هذا الخبر في يافا كلها، فأمن كثيرون بالرب.

### **THE EPISTLE: The Acts of the Sainly and Pure Apostles. (9:32-42)**

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments, which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

### **THE GOSPEL: St. John. (5:1-15)**

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

**الإنجيل: يوحنا 5: 1-15** في ذلك الزمان صعد يسوع إلى اورشليم. وإن في اورشليم عند باب الغنم بركة تسمى بالعبرانية بيت حسدا لها خمسة أروقة، كان مضطجعا فيها جمهور كثير من المرضى من عميان و عرج ويابسي الأعضاء ينتظرون تحريك الماء، لأن ملاكا كان ينزل أحيانا في البركة ويحرك الماء، والذي ينزل أولاً من بعد تحريك الماء كان يبرأ من أي مرض اعتراه. وكان هناك إنسان به مرض منذ ثمان وثلاثين سنة. هذا إذ رآه يسوع ملقى، وعلم أن له زمنا كثيرا، قال له: أتريد أن تبرأ؟ فأجابه المريض: يا سيد ليس لي إنسان متى حرك الماء يلقيني في البركة، بل بينما أكون أتيا ينزل قبلي آخر. فقال له يسوع: قم احمل سريرك وامش. فللوقت برئ الرجل وحمل سيره ومشى. وكان في ذلك اليوم سبت. فقال اليهود للذي شفي: إنه سبت فلا يحل لك أن تحمل السرير. فأجابهم: إن الذي أبرأني هو قال لي: احمل سريرك وامش. فسألوه: من هو الإنسان الذي قال لك احمل سريرك وامش؟ أما الذي شفي فلم يكن يعلم من هو، لأن يسوع اعتزل إذ كان في الموضع جمع. وبعد ذلك وجده يسوع في الهيكل فقال له: ها قد عوفيت فلا تعد تخطئ لئلا يصيبك أشر. فذهب ذلك الإنسان وأخبر اليهود أن يسوع هو الذي أبرأه.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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>

### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered by **Nadia Shatara** for the good health of **Joseph Shatara** and his brothers and all their families on the special occasion of his Saint's Name Day, and in loving memory of the Handmaiden of God **Farideh Nazzal**. May her memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Laila Madback** for the good health of **Sabrina Hala Madback** on the special occasion of her birthday. God bless and many years!

### **DEEPEST SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:**

- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Azar family** especially in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and USA for the passing of **Mousa Dawoud Azar** who passed away in Ramallah.
- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to **Salim Batshon and family** for the passing of his brother **Tawfiq Ibrahim Batshon**.  
**May their memory be eternal!**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **CAMP THREE HOLY YOUTHS AT HOME: June 14-19<sup>th</sup>**. This will be an interactive online alternative to our annual camp. More info at [www.campthy.com](http://www.campthy.com)

### **Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh: Sunday of Paralytic**

We have heard today in the Gospel of a man who for thirty eight years had laid paralysed. The only thing that separated him from healing was the possibility to reach the waters, which the angel brought into motion once a year. Thirty eight years had he attempted to move towards healing but someone else has been quicker than he and stolen healing from him. How many are there now in the world, how many have been and will be in this world of ours who need healing, who are paralysed by fear, paralysed by all that prevents us from moving with boldness and purpose towards fullness of life? How many? And who are those who will take them and help them to receive healing instead of seeking it for themselves? Let us look at ourselves, not at each other but ourselves. What have we learnt from the Gospel?

Christ says that no-one has true love who is not prepared to give his life for his neighbour, and the neighbour, as it is quite clear also from the Gospel, is not the one whom we like, whom we love, who is close to us, it is whoever needs us. Ask yourself this question. There are number of people around you who would believe, who would gladly start a new life, who would bless you and God for giving them courage to move not physical but spiritual limbs that are tied. And let us ask ourselves, what do we do, what have we done, what are we capable of doing to help them? The waters of Siloam are an image of God, of His healing power. When God comes close, when we become aware that He is there, near, do we look around to see who needs Him more than we do? No. We rush forward, we want to be those who will sit at His feet, we are those who wish to touch

the hem of His garment and be healed, we are those - and this is even worse, - we are those who wish to be seen as His disciples and companions so that people may look at us and wonder, admire us, at times almost worship us, the companions of Jesus, the friends of God become man. Who of us is prepared to step aside, to become inconspicuous, or rather to help another to step forward instead of us when we know that we will be the losers in a way, - in a way only because if we do this, we will have lost what is thought we coveted but we will have become disciples of Christ who gave His life that others may live.

Let us reflect on the story. It is not simply an old story about things that happened about two thousand years ago, it is something that is happening every day and we are those who rush forward and prevent others from merging themselves into the healing waters of Siloam. Let us listen to St. John the Divine, the teacher of true love, let us be ready to sacrifice all we long for, all we desire for someone else to have it, to be given it by God, let us be prepared to pay the price of other people's finding freedom, life on all levels, even on the simplest level of food and shelter and the warmth of an attentive gaze or a loving, sober word. Let us become free of selves, and then how many will be saved, saved from hunger, from homelessness, saved from the dominion of others, saved from all that is fetters and imprisonment of life. Let us become what Christ was - the One that sets free in the name of truth and of life.

### مخلع بركة بيت حسدا

بين الفصح والعنصرة يُقرأ الإنجيل من بشارة يوحنا وهو الذي تحدّث أكثر من غيره عن القيامة. ولكن قبل ان نحول أنظارنا إلى الإنجيل، لا بدّ الا ان نلتفت إلى رسالة اليوم فقد جاءت فيها معجزتان. معجزة أولى تُذكر بحادثة الإنجيل وهي شفاء بطرس لرجل في اللد يُدعى أينيّاس كان مخلعاً مثل مخلع الإنجيل. والأعجوبة الثانية هي إقامة بطرس لطابيثا.

وكان أعمال الرسل أرادت ان القوّة التي كانت في المسيح انتقلت إلى بطرس وإلى التلاميذ الذين صاروا قادرين على إتيان العجائب. وإتماماً لهذا المعنى نستطيع ان نقول ان القوّة التي كانت في المسيح قد انتقلت أيضاً إلى الكنيسة في إتمامها الأسرار، والأسرار "عجائب" لأنها شفاء؛ وانتقلت إلى القديسين أيضاً وقد ذكرت سيرهم معجزات أتموها في المؤمنين جيلاً بعد جيل. المسيحية تنتقل وتفعل يوماً بعد يوم. هذه هي قوّة المسيح، ان فعله لم يُقل، لم ينحصر في عصر، ولكن الروح القدس الذي أرسله من لدن الأب هو معنا يوماً بعد يوم، فكان المسيح حاضر في ذاته، حاضر بفعله بالروح القدس.

اما إذا تحوّلنا الآن إلى الإنجيل، فعندنا مخلع لا يلتفت أحد اليه ليرميه في بيت حسدا، بيت الرحمة كما تعني بالعربية. إنسان ينتظر حتى وجد مصدر الرحمة وصاحب الرحمة في يسوع الناصري. غير ان يسوع لا يستعمل وسيلة كانت في العهد القديم أي البركة، لأن يسوع لا يحتاج إلى وساطة العهد القديم أو إلى أي شيء آخر خارج ذاته، ولذلك شفى هذا المخلع في رحمة.

سؤال السيد لهذا الرجل "أتريد ان تشفى؟" يوحى بأن الشفاء مشاركة بين الله والإنسان. يجب ان يقبل الإنسان أولاً أن الله فاعل؟ كل خلاص يكون اشتراكاً بين الخالق والمخلوق. والإنجيل بالحقيقة أراد ان يتكلّم عن أمر روحي، عن الغفران من وراء هذه المعجزة. الغفران مشاركة بين الله والإنسان، ويحتاج إلى شيتين: إلى توبة في الإنسان، وإلى نعمة من الله. والأمر دخل في تعاليمنا: ان التوبة ممكنة لأن الإنسان قادر بالحرية أن يريد التوبة ولأن الله قادر ان يعطي. الاتحاد بين الله والإنسان يجيء من التوبة، هذا هو التجرد في حياة الله.

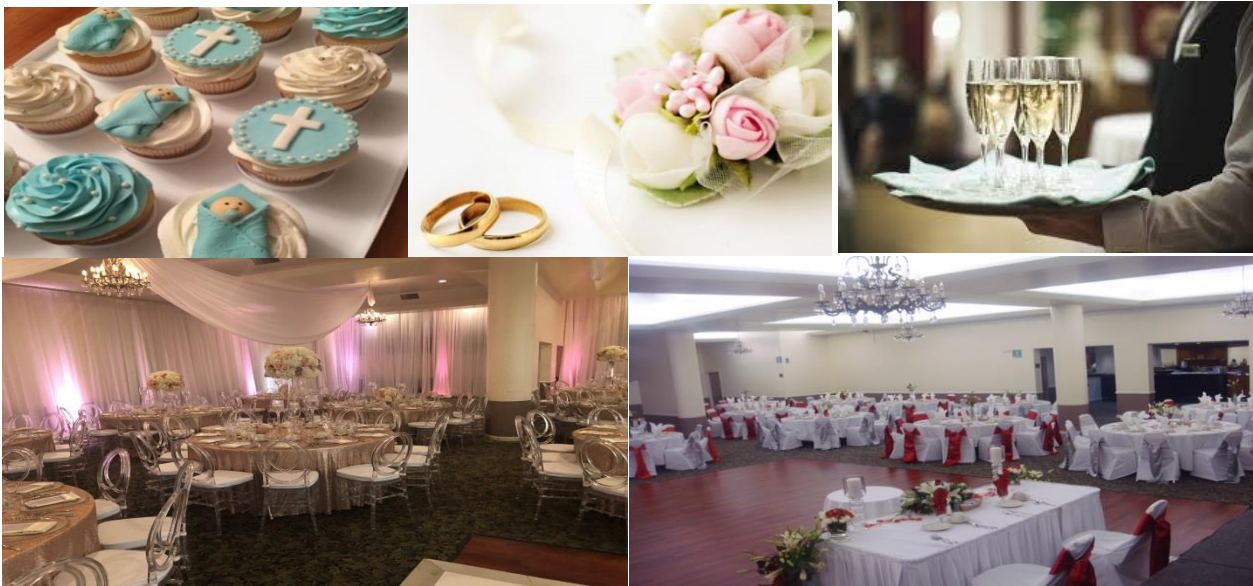
والأمر النافل من وراء هذا الكلام هو ان كل إنسان معذب جسدياً وروحياً وانه بحاجة إلى عطف إلهي. ليس من السهل ان يعترف الإنسان بأنه ساقط ومحتاج إلى الله، إلى خبرة تفوقه لتخلّصه من عذاب النفس والجسد.

جاء السيد في آخر هذا الفصل الإنجيلي يقول له: "اذهب ولا تخطئ لئلا يصيبك أشر". ان المسيح عمق رؤية هذا الشفاء. من المرض القاهر، من المرض الجسدي، إلى المرض الروحي الذي كان فيه وهو أفتك من العلة الجسدية. لهذا عندما تصلّي الكنيسة على مريض، تصلّي دائماً من أجل الغفران ثم من أجل مرض الجسم. في صلاة مسحة الزيت تذكر الكنيسة المؤمنين بأنهم خطاء، ومن بعد ذلك انهم مرضى بالجسد. لذلك إذا مرضنا فالواجب الأول أن نتوب إلى الله لنصبح أصحاء. والله ينحينا برأفته وعفوه عن كل خطيئة ومن كل مرض حتى نشعر بأنه المخلص كل يوم.

المطران جاورجيوس

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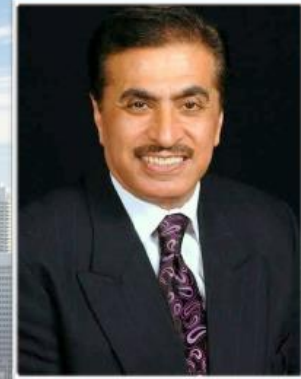
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