

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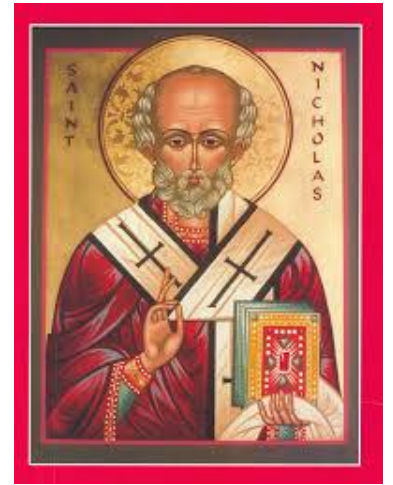
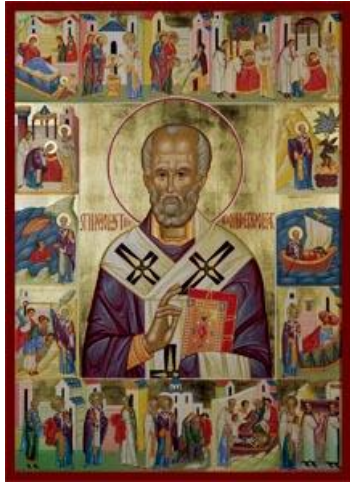
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, September 20, 2020

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross // الأحد بعد عيد رفع الصليب

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Based on the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we are now allowed to be open for indoor services for a very limited number of people. If you'd like to attend Sunday Divine Liturgy, please reach out to Father George at (586) 214 4428.

You can still watch the livestream of the services 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!

SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:

- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Habeeb** family for the passing of our dearly beloved Sister in Christ, **Salma (Sally) Habeeb**.
- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to **Saliba Qaqundah, Nagah Ebeid, Futna Karkar, and the Qaqundah, Ebeid, and Karkar** families for the passing of our dearly beloved Brother in Christ, **Paul (Boulos) Y. Qaqundah**.
May their memory be eternal!

COMMUNION: As you know, it is very important in our faith to regularly take Communion. Many of us have not had the blessing of taking it since the pandemic started. For those who'd like to take it, Communion will be available this Sunday and every Sunday, **AFTER CHURCH BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Please call Father George at 586 214 4428 to set up your appointment. God bless!

THE EPISTLE: Galatians. (2:16-20) Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

الرسالة: غلاطية 2: 16-20

يا إخوة، إذ نعلم أن الإنسان لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس بل إنما بالإيمان بيسوع المسيح، آمنا نحن أيضا بيسوع المسيح لكي نُبرَّر بالإيمان بالمسيح لا بأعمال الناموس إذ لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس أحد من ذوي الجسد. فإن كنا ونحن طالبون التبرير بالمسيح وُجدنا نحن أيضا خطاة، أفَيكون المسيح إذا خادما للخطيئة؟ حاشي. فإني إن عُدْتُ أبني ما قد هدمتُ أجد نفسي متعديا، لأنني بالناموس مُتُّ للناموس لكي أحيَا الله. مع المسيح صُلبتُ فأحيَا، لا أنا، بل المسيح يحيا فيَّ. وما لي من الحياة في الجسد أنا أحيَا في إيمان ابن الله الذي أحببني وبذل نفسه عني.

THE GOSPEL: Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

الإنجيل: مرقس 8: 34-9: 1

قال الرب: مَنْ أراد أن يتبعني فليُكفِّر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني، لأنَّ من أراد أن يُخلِّص نفسه يُهلكها، ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يُخلِّصها. فإنه ماذا ينتفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟ لأن من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطئ يستحي بي ابن البشر متى أتى في مجد أبيه مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم إن قوما من القائمين ههنا لا يزوقون الموت حتى يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة.

To the Faithful of St. Nicholas Church:

These past few months have been unprecedented in the history of our parish. While we have not been physically present in church, we have, thanks to Clemence Batarse and her team, still been able to participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sunday through Live Streaming. As of this time, we do not know when we can return to "normal." We want to thank those who have continued to be current on their pledge. We still have our financial responsibilities and your support enables us to meet our obligations. The most convenient way to send your donation is through Online Giving. Go to our website: stnicholas-sf.com and you will see "Click here to donate online" or mail a check to the church office. May our Lord continue to watch over you and your loved ones, protect us and keep us safe from every adversary.

FOOD CATERING FOR PICKUP sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary: Thank you to all the ladies who helped work on last week's orders, especially Naheel Hanhan & Janet Azar.

For pickup on Sunday September 27th, we will be offering Kaak with Ajwa (Arabic cookies stuffed with dates) for \$2/piece. Please order by Tuesday September 22nd.

Thank you and God bless.



Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ Offered by Yousef, Tariq, and Rami Rantisi for the good health of their parents **Michael & Nadia Rantisi** on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary. Many Years !!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health and well-being of **Sulaiman Seruge**.
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Ted & Diana Ajluni** for the good health of their granddaughter **Aiyla** on the occasion of her 1st Birthday (Sept. 19th), and for the good health of the **Ajluni, Ocegueda and Elmasu families**. God bless and many years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING: Monday September 21st at 6 PM via zoom.**
- ❖ **FALL VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL: Starting Sunday October 11th. The deadline to register is October 4th.** Please encourage all of your children to participate. Make sure each participating Sunday school student is registered. We will be sending each of them boxes filled with exactly what they need for the school year. One form per student. See you all soon! Please register your children here: <https://form.jotform.com/202536382231145>

من أراد أن يتبعني

يبدأ إنجيل اليوم بقول الرب: "من أراد أن يتبعني فليكفر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني". وقد أكد الكتاب أن من أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها، وبالعكس من أهلك نفسه من أجل الرب ومن أجل إنجيله يخلصها. كثيرون يريدون أن يتبعوا الرب. نحن الذين نشأنا مسيحيين أظهرنا بشكل أو بآخر أننا نريد ذلك. عندما نأتي الى الكنيسة نُظهر بالأقل نيّة لاتباع المسيح. ولكن كثيرًا ما نكون كبقية الأمم اي اننا نحتسب ان ديانة يسوع تقوم بطقوس نتبعها او ببعض إحسان نكفر به عن ذنوب. نظن ان المسيحية مراسم، إشارات مع صلوات وإنشاد، اي اننا نتصرف وكأن رسالة يسوع لا تكلفنا الكثير. لا شك ان ذلك كله حسن، ولكنه في آخر المطاف لا يكلف الجهد الكبير. يسوع يريد أكثر من الأعمال الظاهرة، بل يريد أكثر من النية الطيبة والعزم المخلص. انه يطلب تحويلًا كليًا للكيان، يريد أن نسلم النفس اليه تسليمًا كليًا بحيث لا تبقى ساعة لنا وساعة لربنا، بحيث تكون الروح في أعماقها وبكل جوارحها لربها، بحيث ينسى الانسان نفسه نسبيًا كليًا، بحيث يذهب الى الموت اذا لزم ذلك. ولهذا لم يقل سيدنا انه ينبغي ان نكفر بشيء من المال او بشيء من الوقت، ولم يقل انه ينبغي ان نكفر بأحبائنا وأصدقائنا فقط، ولكنه ذهب الى أبعد من هذا وقال: ينبغي ان نكفر بهذا الأساس الذي تتبع منه كل محبة للأرض وكل تعلق بالذات. ينبغي ان نكفر بالحياة كلها.

من أراد ان يتبعني فليكفر بنفسه اي فلينكرها، لبيذل هذا الشيء الصميمي الداخلي الذي يحبه. يسوع يدعونا الى أن نتخلّى عن الأننا. صوّر لنا يسوع الحياة على انها صراع بين "أنا" نحبه وبينه هو. المال الذي نتمسك به، والمجد الذي نسعى اليه، والمحبات التي ندغدغها، كل هذا هو الأننا. هذا الصميم بذاته هو الذي لا نريده ان يذهب. ولذلك جاء يسوع ليضرب العمق، ليقطع أصل الشيء، وقد واجهنا بهذا القول العظيم: "ماذا ينتفع الانسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الانسان فداء عن نفسه". ان القاعدة التي لا تخطئ والتي لا تُردّ هي أن الانسان عبد للخطيئة التي يصنع، وهو بالبر الذي يصنع. الانسان عبد عندما يحب الأشياء التي تزول. انه يستطيع ان يكون ملكًا على عرش ومع ذلك قد يكون عبدًا. ويستطيع ان يكون في السجن ومع ذلك قد يكون حرًا. العبودية ليست نظام العبيد، والحرية ليست نظام الأحرار لأن من نسميهم أحرارًا قد يكونون عبيدًا. ان يسوع يضرب جذور الخطيئة اي شهوة النفس. إن أردنا ان نكون على ديانة الصليب، سعيًا الى الحرية الداخلية التي لا يراها أحد بحيث نتطهر من أصول البغض، من أصول الاشتاء.

ان الكنيسة تقرأ علينا طيلة هذا الموسم قراءات عدة تذكّرنا فيها بهذا الصليب الذي هو وسط إيماننا وصورتته. وهذا لا يعني ان السيد أتى ليعذبنا او ليُعذّبنا الى الآلام. الآلام الحقيقية هي التي نصطنعها نحن اي الآلام الجسد، والآلام المعذّبة ليست شيئًا إن ارتضيناها صابرين وأسلمنا للرب يسوع. ولكن الآلام المفتعلة، آلام الشهوة هي التي تحزّ في النفس حقيقة وتُبعدنا عن الله. الخطيئة وحدها في آخر التحليل هي المؤلمة لأنها هي التي تُكبّل النفس وتستعبد الانسان وتستغله.

إن شئنا ان نقطف ثمار عيد الصليب، إن أردنا ان نكون مرتفعين مع السيد الى أبيه وإلى المجد الحقيقي، كان علينا أن نفهم أن صراعنا هو مع الإنسان العتيق الفاسد الكامن فينا الذي يستيقظ حينًا بعد حين ليقضي على الانسان الإلهي، ليشوّه صورة الرب فينا.

المطران جاورجيوس

Metropolitan Anthony: Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

On the day we remember the Cross, we must pay particular attention to what Divine Love is. God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son unto death, so that no-one, no-one should be forgotten and left aside.

But if that is true, how should we look at one another and treat one another? If each of us is so meaningful to God, if He loves him to such an extent that His life is given, His death is accepted - how should we treat our neighbour?!

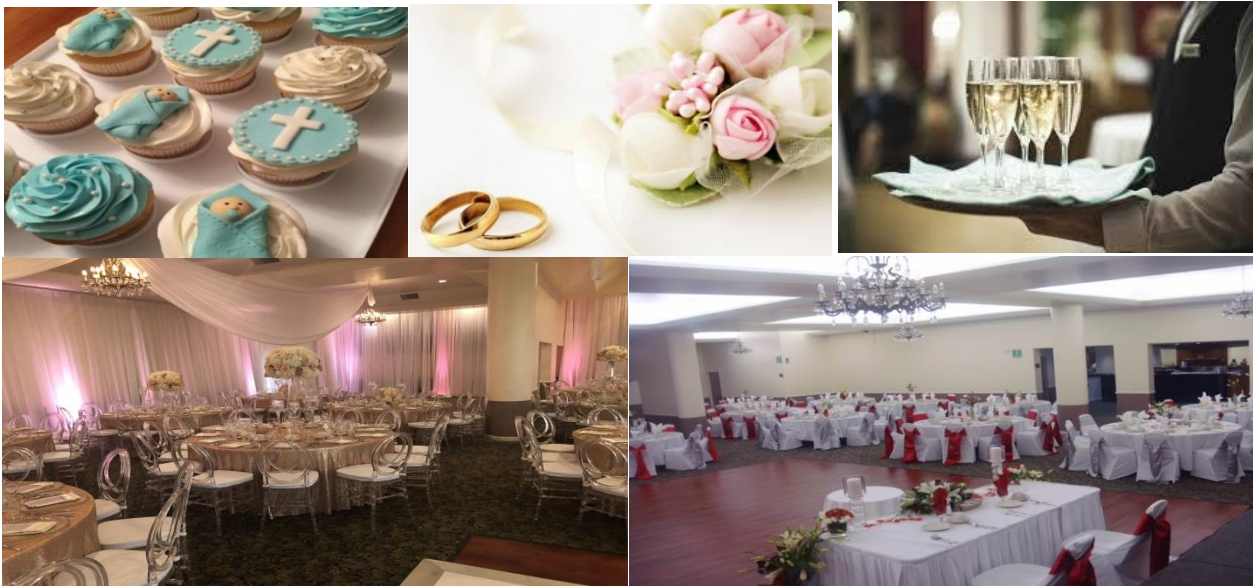
There are people whom we love in a natural way, who are akin to us in mind, in emotion, in so many ways - but is that love? Does that mean that we love this person as the most precious person in the eyes of God and the most precious person in my eyes, because I want to be with God, share His thoughts, His attitude to life.

And how many there are whom we treat with indifference: we wish them no evil - they don't exist for us! Let us look around, here, in this congregation, now and week after week, and ask ourselves, 'What does this person mean to me?' - Nothing; just someone who attends the same church, who believes in the same God, who receives the same communion - and we forget that those who have received this same communion have become part of the body of Christ, that God Himself lives in them, and that we should turn to them, look at them and see in them the temples of the Holy Spirit, an extension of the Incarnation.

Let us ask ourselves severe, pertinent questions about the way in which we treat our neighbour and we see our neighbour. Let us devote a whole week perhaps to thinking of one person after the other and ask ourselves, 'Is there any love in me for this person?' Not a sentimental love, but the kind of love which in the light of God makes this person precious, - precious to the point that I should be prepared, ultimately, yes, to give my life for this person. This is not asked day after day, but what is asked is that we should give some warmth, some compassion, some understanding, some recognition to the existence of this person. And when we come to confession next week, let us bring that, among other things, to God: does my neighbour exist for me? Who is he to me? To God he is everything; if he is nothing to me, where do I stand before God?

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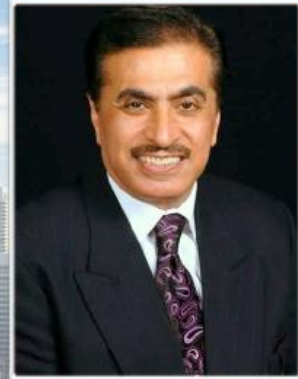
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