

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

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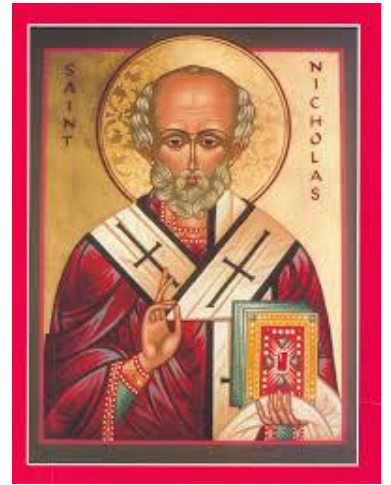
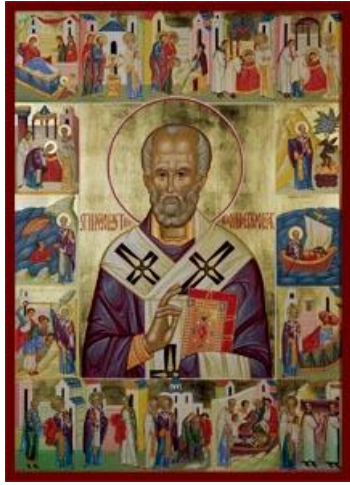
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Ramzi Srouji

Parish Council Vice Chairman: Salim Qaru



**Sunday, October 04, 2020**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

San Francisco is now allowing churches to resume indoor services up to 25% of the capacity. (75 people for our church). **If you plan to attend, please make sure you wear a mask the entire time, and use hand sanitizer when you walk inside. Please don't attend if you're feeling sick or have any symptoms of sickness.**

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!

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

Six Month Memorial Service for the Servant of God, **Chris (Atwan) Ghanim** offered by his family. May His Memory Be Eternal!

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)**

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسَ.**

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنْتُمْ هَيْكَلُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَسِيرُ فِيهِمْ بَيْنَهُمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا فَلِذَلِكَ أَخْرَجُوا مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ وَاعْتَزَلُوا "يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ "وَلَا تَمَسُّوا نَجِسًا فَأَقْبَلُكُمْ وَأَكُونُ أَبًا وَتَكُونُونَ أُنْتُمْ لِي بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ الْقَدِيرُ "وَأَنَا هَذِهِ الْمَوَاعِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحِبَّاءُ، فَلْنُظْهِرْ أَنْفُسَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أَدْنَسِ الْجَسَدِ وَالرُّوحِ، وَنُكَمِّلِ الْقِدَاسَةَ بِمَخَافَةِ اللَّهِ.

**فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.**

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: "كَمَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ النَّاسُ بِكُمْ، كَذَلِكَ أَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ بِهِمْ فَإِنَّكُمْ إِنْ أَحْبَبْتُمْ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَكُمْ، فَإَيُّهُ مِنْكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يُحِبُّونَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ وَإِذَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ، فَإَيُّهُ مِنْكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا هَكَذَا يَصْنَعُونَ وَإِنْ أَفْرَضْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تَرْجُونَ أَنْ تَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ، فَإَيُّهُ مِنْكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يَقْرَضُونَ الْخَطَاةَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ الْمِثْلَ وَلَكِنْ، أَحْبَبُوا أَعْدَاءَكُمْ، وَأَحْسِنُوا وَأَقْرَضُوا غَيْرَ مُؤَمِّلِينَ شَيْئًا، فَيَكُونُ أَجْرُكُمْ كَثِيرًا، وَتَكُونُوا بَنِي الْعَلِيِّ. فَإِنَّهُ مُنْعِمٌ عَلَى غَيْرِ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَالْأَشْرَارِ فَكُونُوا رُحَمَاءَ كَمَا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ.

### **THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (6:31-36)**

The Lord said: “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

### **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](http://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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **FALL VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Starting Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register is October 4<sup>th</sup>. 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>

### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered for the good health of **Basem and Esther Khoury**, their children **Olga and Issa Abuaita and family**, **Tamara and Steven Gavrilovic and family**, **Marlyna and Saba Sahouria and family**, **David and Josalien Khoury**, **Abeer Khoury and Joseph Khoury**, and **all the Wahab family and Khoury family**. God bless and many years! Also in loving memory of **Dahoud Wahab, Bishara Wahab, and Milad Wahab**.  
May their memory be eternal!

**FOOD CATERING FOR PICKUP sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary:** Thank you to all the ladies who helped work on last week's orders, Rogette Bazouzi, Janet Baqleh, Leila Paolino, Odette Najjar, Naheel Hanhan, and Khourieh Eman Baalbaki.

**For pickup on Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> 12PM-4PM or Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>**, we will be offering Kanafeh (Arabic Dessert) for \$30/ half a sheet. Please order by Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you and God bless.



## **Metropolitan Anthony: On Holy Communion**

Through living the whole life of the church, and pre-eminently by Communion in the Holy Mysteries, we seek participation in the common life with Christ the Saviour. Living in the church, being the body of Christ in the midst of the world, being the presence of the living Christ incarnate through us, being the lodging place of the Holy Spirit, His Temple, being children of the heavenly Father in the most literal and unconditional sense, this is precisely what we seek, to make our life one with Christ. What does this mean? When we come to Holy Communion we ask and we dream that eternal life, with its light, its joy, and its solemn victory should be actualized in us. And we often forget that on earth Christ's victory was concealed. Yes, the whole fullness of the Godhead dwelt among us physically, but how hidden it was! How much grief of body and soul Christ as a man lived through, how many times people went past Him not seeing God in Him, and only hearing words - for them frighteningly incomprehensible and unacceptable, about such love as we wish for ourselves, but which we are so rarely prepared to give to others. And so, when we partake of the Holy Mysteries, when we wish to live the life of the church, we should remember that we are asking for communion to the whole life of Christ and to His mysterious, deep relationship with the Father; to the breath of the Holy Spirit, and to that eternal, unconquerable purity.

But together with this, we should be prepared to share the fate of the Saviour on earth. He came to His own, and His own did not recognize Him; He preached love, and people ran away from this love in terror, because love demanded the rejection of self. Each of His words was both life and temptation, and therefore a judgement on each man and on the world. And in answer to love, and in answer to the truth, and in answer to the fact that in boundless love God had wished to dwell amidst His people and share all with them, Christ was rejected. But in Him love did not falter. He gave up His life; people thought they were taking it away, but He freely gave it up. We too are called to do the same thing by partaking of the Holy Mysteries, by our communion with the church, by reason of our love towards Christ, feeble though, it may be. And when we shall seek not only heaven, joy and protection, but a fully common life and full communion with Him, and when like Him we shall be ready to carry the cross together with Him - not just what we call our cross, the troubles of life, our personal sorrows, our illnesses, - but His cross which means suffering with all who suffer, with each and all who are perishing in sin: only then will the Saviour's prayer be fulfilled that His joy should be fully realized in us. If we so long for communion with Christ that we are prepared to share His cross on earth, then on earth we shall already have shared in His sonhood and in the victory of love. May the Lord give us courage, may He make us understand that Christ called us to live upon earth as He lived. He did not come to suffer torment for our sake in order that we might live according to our own senseless sinful will. And then our Communion with Him must be full. But we must begin with this, to acquire the mind of Christ on earth. When His disciples asked, begged, prayed that He should grant them to sit on His right hand and on His left hand in the Kingdom of Heaven, He said: "Are you ready to drink of the cup which I shall drink, are you prepared to be plunged into that horror into which I shall be plunged?" And they answered; "Yes, we are." And then the Saviour said these words to them which He still repeats to us when we share the cup of life with Him, He told them. "You shall indeed drink of the cup which I shall drink. You shall indeed be baptized with the baptism wherewith I am baptized, but to judge who shall sit on my right hand and on my left is not given to Me but to the Father." If our love is real, if we love Him, if we have learned from Him how to love, if we could only truly share with Him His whole life beginning with the cross, should we not then understand that it is too soon to begin to think about where we shall sit, whether on His right or His left, whether far or near? And should we not then be able to entrust ourselves with complete confidence in the love of the Lord?

## قواعد الأخلاق المسيحية

يقول لنا إنجيل اليوم وهو مأخوذ من بشارة الإنجيلي لوقا: “كما تريدون ان يفعل الناس بكم، كذلك افعلوا أنتم بهم”. نجد هذا القول للسيد في إنجيل متى ايضا (٧: ١٢). هذا قول ثانٍ والقول الأول، ولم يُقرأ اليوم، كان: “ما لا تريدون ان يفعل الناس بكم لا تفعلوه أنتم ايضا بهم”.

عندنا في إنجيل اليوم قاعدتان أساسيتان في السلوك المسيحي: القاعدة الأولى هي أن نمتنع عن أذى الناس، ألا نشي بأحد، ألا نكذب، ألا نسرق، ألا نقتل. أي شيء لا نتمناه لأنفسنا ينبغي ألا نفعله ضد الآخرين لأن الآخرين، كل الآخرين، هم أبناء الله والرب يفرح بهم، يضيئهم جميعاً بوجهه الى اي حيّ انتموا ومن اي فئة جاؤوا. فالناس كلهم لله، شاؤوا أم أبوا، علموا به أم لم يعلموا. وكما ان الأبناء في العائلة قد لا يعرفون أن أباهم وأُمهم يحبّانهم، قد لا يشعرون في ذاتهم بمحبة والديهم، مع ان الوالدين يحبّون اولادهم ويريدون لهم كل خير، هكذا الله معنا: يحب، يحب من يعرف نفسه ابناً له ومن لا يعرف نفسه ابناً له لأن هذه هي أخلاق الله.

والقاعدة الثانية في السلوك المسيحي أوجزها لنا ربنا بقوله: “كونوا رحماء كما ان أباكم هو رحيم”. هكذا اختتم إنجيل اليوم بعد أن أعطى السيد فيه أمثلة عن تعليمه: إن أقرضتم أحداً ولم يدفع لكم فلا تكونوا ضده. لا تنتظروا أن تستوفوا شيئاً، فالناس قد لا يبادلونكم العطاء بالعطاء.

المسيح لم يقل لنا: إن أحببتم الناس، يُحبّونكم بالضرورة. طبعاً هذه هي القاعدة أننا إذا أحببنا بشكل صحيح وعميق، بإخلاص، يبادلنا الناس المحبة. ولكن هذه ليست قاعدة منتظرة: قد يبادلوننا البُغض. قد لا يقدر انسان أن يحب. ولكن علينا نحن أن نتشبه بالمسيح الذي أحبّ أعداءه وغفر لهم وهو على الصليب، لأن المحبة غلبة في الأخير، هي دائماً منتصرة. هذا يعني أن لا نُقصي أحداً عن قلوبنا، الا نجعل واحداً في القلب وواحداً خارجه. كلهم في الداخل ونعاملهم على هذا الأساس. القربى ننشئها نحن، نحن نبادر بالاقتراب الى الناس ولا ننتظر منهم شيئاً. البشر في طبيعتهم لا ينفتحون على الآخرين، يتعصّبون لعائلتهم او قريتهم او طائفتهم. يظنون أن عائلتهم خير من بقية العائلات، وأن قريتهم أفضل من غيرها، وان طائفتهم خير من كل الطوائف. والواقع أننا كلنا من هذا الطين، كلنا مجبولون بالخطايا.

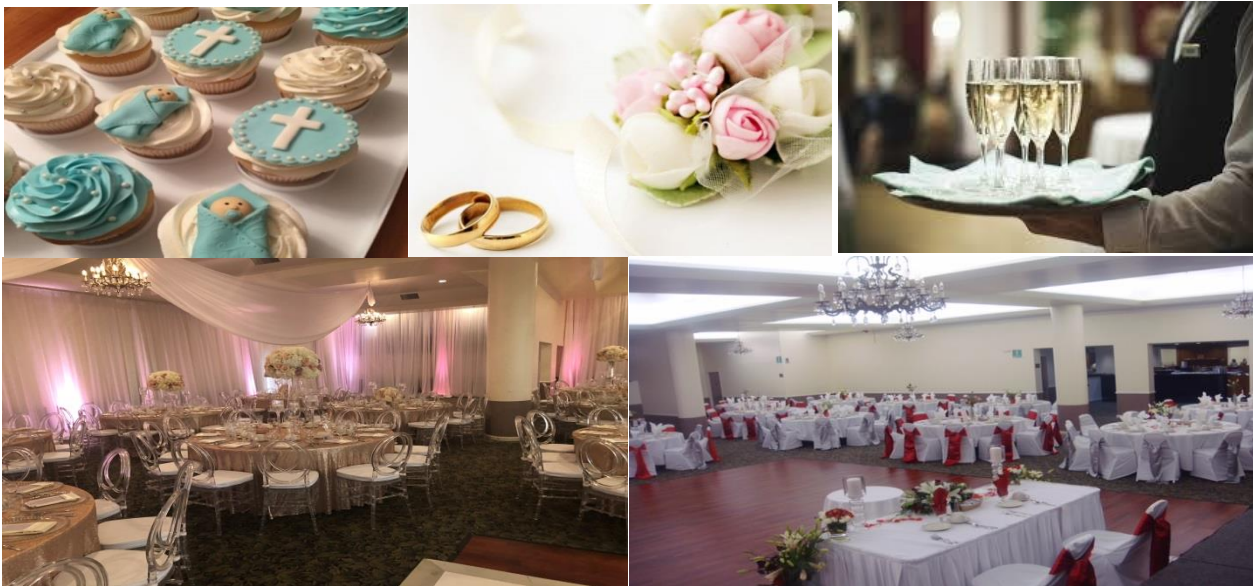
ما يقوله لنا الإنجيل هو أنه ليس من مجموعة بشرية امتازت بالأخلاق، هذا غير صحيح. توجد ظروف وانفعالات، ولكن البشر، الى اي مجموعة انتموا، بينهم خطاة كثيرون، كما بينهم محبّون كثيرون. الخطيئة والبر لا يحتكرهما أحد. الخطيئة موزّعة، والقداسة موزّعة.

عندما نجتمع معا لنُقيم الذبيحة الإلهية، نُعلن اننا جميعا واحد في المسيح، واحد في محبته، موزّعون قلوبنا الى الناس جميعا من أطراف الدنيا الى أطرافها، لنبقى أمنا حتى النهاية، والحب عندنا له الكلمة الفصل.

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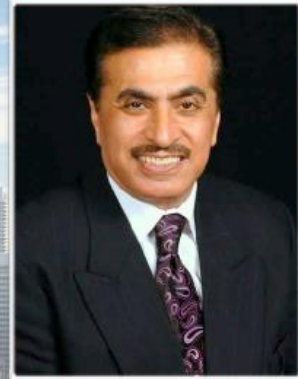
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