

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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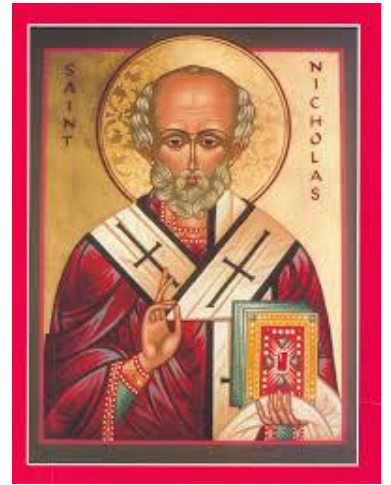
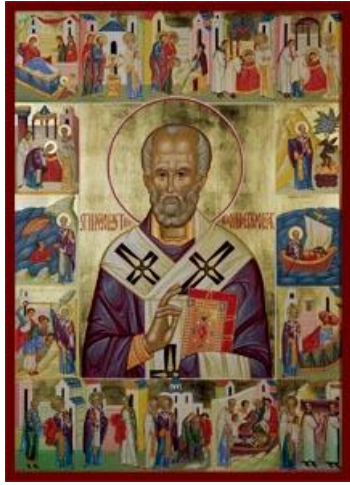
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Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, October 11, 2020

Sunday of Holy Fathers of Seventh Ecumenical Council

آباء المجمع المسكوني السابع

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!

SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:

Deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Munayer** family for the passing of our dearly beloved brother in Christ, **Michael Hazem Munayer**. May his memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تُقرّر، حتّى يهتّم الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة. فهذه هي الأعمال الحسنة والنافعة. أما المباحثات الهذيانّة والأنساب والخصومات والمماحكات الناموسيّة فاجتنبها، فإنّها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة، بعد الإنذار مرّة وأخرى، أعرض عنه، عالمًا أنّ من هو كذلك قد اعتسف وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه. ومتى أرسلتُ إليك أرتيماس أو تيخيكوس فبادرْ إلى أن تأتيَنِي إلى نيكوبوليس لأنّي قد عزمْتُ على أن أشتي هناك. أمّا زيناس مُعلّم الناموس وأبلّوس فاجتهد في تشييعهما متأهّبين لئلاّ يعوزهما شيء. وليتعلّم ذوونا أن يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضروريّة حتّى لا يكونوا غير مثمرين. يُسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلّم على الذين يُحبّوننا في الإيمان. النعمة معكم أجمعين.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

الإنجيل: لوقا ٨: ٥-١٥

قال الربّ هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليزرع زرعه، وفيما هو يزرع سقط بعض على الطريق فوطئ وأكلته طيور السماء. والبعض سقط على الصخر فلمّا نبت يبس لأنّه لم تكن له رطوبة. وبعض سقط بين الشوك فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. وبعض سقط في الأرض الصالحة فلمّا نبت أثمر مئة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه: ما عسى أن يكون هذا المثل؟ فقال: لكم قد أعطي أن تعرفوا أسرار ملكوت الله. وأمّا الباقون فبأمثال كيلا ينظروا وهم ناظرون ولا يفهموا وهم سامعون. وهذا هو المثل: الزرع هو كلمة الله، والذين على الطريق هم الذين يسمعون ثم يأتي إبليس وينزع الكلمة من قلوبهم لئلاّ يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. والذين على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها بفرح ولكن ليس لهم أصل، وإنّما يؤمنون إلى حين وفي وقت التجربة يرتدّون. والذين سقطوا في الشوك هم الذين يسمعون ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذّاتها، فلا يأتون بثمر. وأمّا الذي سقط في الأرض الجيدة فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيّد صالح ويثمرون بالصبر. ولمّا قال هذا، نادى من له أذان للسمع فليسمع.

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

- ❖ Offered by **Daoud & Farida Srouji** for the good health of their family.
God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, & Matthew Howell, Jane & Oscar Moran** for the continued good health of **Jennifer & Brandon Howell** on the special occasion of their birthdays on October 6th and October 12th. God bless and many more years!

T-SHIRTS & POLOS FOR SALE: The money raised from this fundraiser will go toward the Young Adult Ministry. In the past, we were able to do some very amazing things with the funds we've been allocated. For example; volunteer and donate over 500 sandwiches to the homeless in the tenderloin, rent spaces to have social gatherings like last year's Christmas party and the two previous visits to Spark Social, or just donate to a cause in need. Sign up here before we sell out of your size! <https://forms.gle/P9G7r3uy1c7iJW4c6>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **DIOCESE VIRTUAL FALL GATHERING: Saturday October 10th at 9 AM with HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH.** @ 9am Metropolitan Joseph will be addressing the Diocese. @ 10am we will be split up into different organizational meetings, us being put into the Young Adult Ministry! This year, there will be elections going on, if anyone has any interest to run for a position this is your chance! Register at: <https://saint-matthew.net/fallgathering>
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY W/ SOCIAL HOUR: Monday October 12th @ 7pm.** Come join us for some virtual bible study with Father George Baalbaki followed by a Virtual Social gathering for fun!
- ❖ **YOUNG ADULT PAINT IN THE PARK: Sunday October 18th @ 3-5pm.** Come join the young adults for some canvas painting fun and social gathering. We will be set up at San Bruno Park with tables, chairs and all you will need to paint. We will be doing our best to practice social distancing, so please bring a mask. Sign up is required, please see the link attached below !
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYOcnTaTvgmT8pyJTD02gW8v1Q8c_rpqnl_ymrfqAZBYt55uQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO & YOUNG ADULTS VIRTUAL RETREAT with HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH: Sunday October 25th at 4PM.** Please save the date and try to join us! More info and zoom link to come.

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

SANTA CRUZ PARISHIONER IN NEED: We are teaming up with the Northern California Deanery in support for a fellow Antiochian parishioner from Saints Peter and Paul, who lost everything during the Santa Cruz fires. "Our beloved brother in Christ Deacon Dave & his wife Sh. Karla Newberry have lost their home of 20+ years to the devastating August CZU Wildfire. Dn. Dave & his extended family of 8 have served our sister Parish Sts. Peter & Paul for more than 45 years. Unfortunately, his home was underinsured and insurance costs have barely covered the cost of the mortgage." Their goal is to raise enough money to buy him a trailer to live in. Any amount donated is greatly appreciated. It has been such a tragedy in the last few months with all the fires and the people it has affected, may God grant them strength and allow them to recover from their tribulations. Donate here: <https://gf.me/u/y3vids>

Metropolitan Anthony: "Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom"

The more deeply we live in the Holy Liturgy or according to circumstances that make us more perceptive of its words, the more widely it unfolds before us, acquiring a greater depth revealing to us things both human and divine. How often have we heard at the beginning of the Beatitudes the words "Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom!" - in the glory of Thy Kingship. And these words sound so natural and simple. And yet, if we imagine for one moment that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes in glory, having conquered for us and for God, overcome all evil, and made this world into His Kingdom of love, of holiness, of perfect beauty - that one of us could be forgotten: what would happen to us? Forgotten of God... It is only because we are remembered that we exist, that we live! It is only because He remembers us even when we forget ourselves and one another that we continue to be sustained by the power of life which is His, by

His blessing, by His sacrificial love. How wonderful it is to think that we are secure in God's all-remembrance, even when people forget us! And it happens, it happens. I remember a dark day when I was with a family, and the door opened, and a man who had been five years in the war and was thought to be dead, walked in; his wife looked at him and said "You are alive? We thought you were dead!" And these words meant, "we counted on your death, because once you were dead, life had begun anew, in a new manner; I had met other people, I had married another man; you have come - and you should not have come, you should have remained dead". Can you imagine what this man felt? And can you imagine what would happen to anyone of us, however sinful, if, standing before God we saw that He did not remember our name, our face, our existence. And how wonderfully inspiring it is to think that even if the whole world should forget us - there is One Who will never, never forget: it is the Lord Jesus Christ, it is God One in the Trinity, God Who is Love. Think of what happened in today's Gospel (Matthew 14:22-34): Peter, together with the other disciples, saw Christ as a phantom, as a ghost walking on the waters, he was filled with terror: a ghost! And they all cried out in fear. And Christ said "Fear not! It is I!" They were tossed by the sea, as we are tossed by the circumstances of our life, by the storms that arise within us. But when they heard the voice of Christ? Peter said, "Let me come unto Thee, walking on the waters." He knew it was impossible, humanly speaking, but it was possible because all things are possible to God and in God. And Christ said "Come!" And Peter left the frail security of the skiff in which he was with the other disciples, and began to walk; and suddenly he looked at the sea instead of looking at Christ, he looked at the storm instead of looking at Him Who is the Lord of the storm, as He is the Prince of Peace. And because he remembered himself and the storm, he began to drown; and that very moment when he had lost sight of God, he cried "Help!", and Christ took him by the hand and brought him to shore. Here again we see that even at moments when we are carried away by our fears, by our doubts, carried away by the storm that rages within or around us, there is One Who remembers in love, in compassion, in an understanding that goes beyond our own understanding. Because He has plumbed all the depths of human frailty and has carried all the weight of human sin, He can say "Fear not!" - and take us by the hand and save us. Let us think for a moment of what that means: to be remembered, and what it means to all of us, each of us that there should be people who remember us, for whom we exist, for whom we matter. A French writer has said: To say to a person "I love you" is tantamount to saying "you shall never die". Because it is a supreme affirmation of this person, a person who is thus affirmed, cannot fall out of eternity, of God's eternity, because all love is of God. How wonderful that salvation is offered and given, how wonderful that we may be partakers of this gift, granting it to others by our love and by our eternal remembrance.

نعيد اليوم لآباء المجمع المسكوني السابع (٧٨٧) الذي حدّد إكرام الأيقونات. تُبرز لنا الأيقونات أناسًا صاروا بالمسيح جُددًا. نلاحظ أنّ الأيقونة تُظهر القديس كأنّه ليس من لحم ودم. فإنّه تخطى الوجود الجسديّ الدنيويّ ليكون جالسًا على مراتب النور في السماويّات، ومنها يطلّ علينا إنسانًا جديدًا. كلّ همّ آبائنا أن نصبح خلائق جديدة لا علاقة لها بلحم ودم، أو بيئة أو زمان مضى كأنّنا مخلوقون اليوم.

قال الرسول بولس: «ليس لكم آباء كثيرون فإنّي أنا ولدتكم بالمسيح يسوع بالإنجيل» (١كورنثوس ٤: ١٥). كلّ منّا يأتي من رجل وامرأة. هذا بدء ولكنّا لا نقف عند هذا الحدّ. بعد أن ولدتنا أمّهاتنا عبيدًا انطلقنا إلى حرّية المسيح. كلّ إنسان يسعى إلى أن يكون مسيحيًا. المسيحيّ مشروع. عمّد لكي يسعى طوال حياته إلى أن يصير مسيحيًا. ولكنّه لم يكمل ولو بالحياة الأبدية، لأنّا في السماء نتكامل معًا، نصير معًا كنيسة جديدة للمسيح. المسيح يلقي علينا وشاح نور ونصبح نورانيّين بهذا الوشاح المُلقى علينا. لكن على الأرض ماذا يحدث لنا بعد أن صرنا مشروع بشر بالمعمودية؟ يأتي أناس في الكنيسة ويجددوننا بالمسيح يسوع. هم جُددوا، صاروا أحرارًا، قطعوا كلّ صلة بينهم وبين هذا الجسد، بينهم وبين أنانيّة هذا العالم وسيطرته وعبوديته، وصاروا غير مدينين لشهوة من شهواتهم أو شهوات الناس. صار الروح القدس يحركهم ولا تحركهم عصبيّة القرية أو البلد أو الطائفة أو الحزب. يهبّ الروح فيهم والسماء تحركهم. الإنسان السماويّ هجين مُستغرب مُستقبّح مردول لأنّه تذكير لأهل الأرض بأنّهم دُعوا إلى أن يصبحوا سماويّين وهم على الأرض يتحرّكون.

أهل السماء، المؤمنون الكبار يكرهم أهل الأرض. أهل الأرض الذين لا يزالون مرتبطين بالتراب، بأغراض العالم، بخديعة الشهوة، هؤلاء يكرهون السماء وليس بينهم وبين أبناء النور من شركة.

وبسبب هذا الظلام المسيطر في الدنيا، أقام الله في الكنيسة آباء قادرين على أن يكونوا أولادًا لله الآب. هناك من يقطع صلة البشر باللحم والدم ليقوم صلة جديدة بين هؤلاء والربّ. الله يقيم لنفسه عائلة هي الكنيسة، وليست العائلة البشريّة المكوّنة من رجل وامرأة وأولاد. لا أقصد بذلك كلّ المنتسبين إلى المسيح بالمعمودية، لكنّي أقصد من وعى نفسه من جديد عضوًا لجسد المسيح، جزءًا من المسيح.

آن لنا أن نعرف بأنّنا ولدنا ونولد في كنيسة المسيح، وفيها نصبح أناسًا جددًا بسبب أنّنا نتبع يسوع وجُعنا لأخوة ولآب بنين. المطران جاورجيوس

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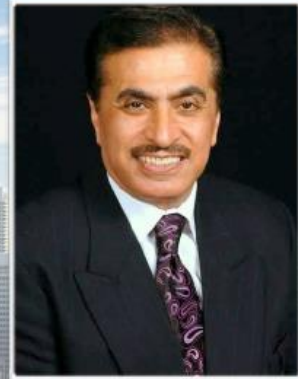
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