

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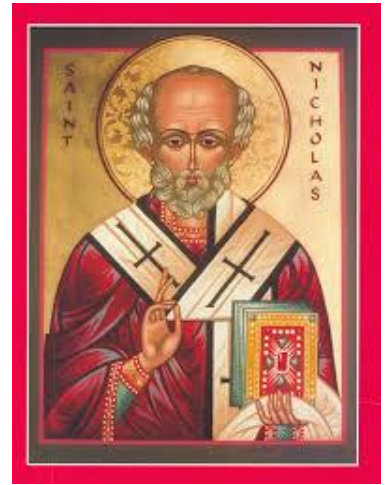
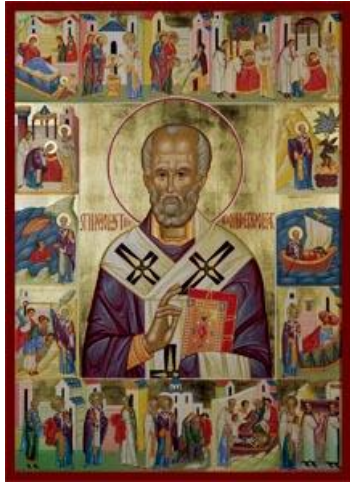
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

**The Sunday of Genealogy** أحد النسبة



**المجد لله في الأعالي وعلى الأرض السلام وفي الناس المسرة**



**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.** All liturgical services will be served with ONLY CLERGY. 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!

**SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:**

- ❖ Deepest sympathy & condolences to the **Shaheen family** for the passing of our beloved Sister in Christ, **Naeemeh Shaheen**. May her memory be eternal!

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

- ❖ One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God, **Ibrahim Khalil Rantisi** offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10; 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

يا إخوة بالإيمان نزل إبراهيم في أرض الميعاد نزوله في أرض غريبة، وسكن في خيام مع إسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه للموعد بعينه، لأنه انتظر المدينة ذات الأسس التي الله صانعها وبارئها. وماذا أقول أيضًا؟ إنه يضيق بي الوقت إن أخبرت عن جدعون وباراق وشمشون وبفتاح وداود وصموئيل والأنبياء الذين بالإيمان هزموا الممالك وعملوا البرّ ونالوا المواعد وسدّوا أفواه الأسود وأطفأوا حدّة النار ونجوا من حدّ السيف وتقوّوا من ضعف وصاروا أشداء في الحرب وكسروا معسكرات الأجانب، وأخذت نساء أمواتهنّ بالقيامة، وعُذّب آخرون بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب ولم يقبلوا بالنجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة فضلى، وآخرون ذاقوا الهزء والجلد والقيود أيضًا والسجن، ورُجموا ونُشروا وامْتَحِنُوا وماتوا بحدّ السيف وساحوا في جلود غنم ومَعَزَ وهم مُعَوِّزُونَ مُضَائِقُونَ مجهودون (ولم يكن العالم مستحقًا لهم)، وكانوا تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلّهم، مشهودًا لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا المواعد، لأنّ الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئًا أفضل أن لا يَكْمُلُوا بدوننا.

### الإنجيل: متى ١: ١-٢٥

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن إبراهيم. فإبراهيم ولد إسحق وإسحق ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته، ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تamar، وفارص ولد حصرون وحصرون ولد آرام وأرام ولد عميناداب وعميناداب ولد نحشون ونحشون ولد سلمون وسلمون ولد بوغز من راحاب وبوغز ولد عوبيد من راعوث وعوبيد ولد يسي ويسي ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأريّا وسليمان ولد رحبعام ورحبعام ولد أبيّا وأبيّا ولد آسا وآسا ولد يوشافاط ويوشافاط ولد يورام ويورام ولد عزّيا وعزّيا ولد يوتام ويوتام ولد آحاز وآحاز ولد حزقيّا وحزقيّا ولد منسى ومنسى ولد آمون وآمون ولد يوشيا ويوشيا ولد يَكُنْيَا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل يَكُنْيَا ولد شالْتَيْل وشالْتَيْل ولد زَرْبَابِل وزَرْبَابِل ولد أبيهود وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم وألياقيم ولد عازور وعازور ولد صادق وصادوق ولد أخيم وأخيم ولد أليهود وأليهود ولد ألعازر وألعازر ولد مَثَان ومَثَان ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي وُلد منها يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح. فكلّ الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلًا، ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلًا، ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلًا. أمّا مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا: لمّا خطبت مريم أمّه ليوسف، وُجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا حُبلى من الروح القدس. وإن كان يوسف رجلها صديقًا ولم يُرد أن يُشهرها، همّ بتخليتها سرًّا. وفيما هو مفكر في ذلك إذا بملك الربّ ظهر له في الحلم قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم، فإنّ المولود فيها إنّما هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابنًا فتسمّيه يسوع، فإنّه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم (وكان هذا كلّ ليتّم ما قيل من الربّ بالنبّي القائل: ها إنّ العذراء تحبل وتلد ابنًا ويدعى عمانوئيل الذي تفسيره الله معنا). فلمّا نهض يوسف من النوم، صنع كما أمره ملك الربّ، فأخذ امرأته ولم يعرفها حتّى ولدت ابنها البكر وسمّاه يسوع.

### **THE GOSPEL: Matthew. (1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When

His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

#### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered by **Naifeh Batarse & family** in loving memory of **Ester Clemence Shami** on the special occasion of her birthday on December 16th. May her memory forever be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon, & Matthew Howell, Jane & Oscar Moran** for the continued good health of **Jim Howell** on the special occasion of his birthday on December 17th. God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Michael & Nadia Rantisi** in loving memory of **Yousef & Naeimah Rantisi, Salim Rantisi, Jaber & Najah Hanhan, Spiro & Najla Hanhan, Emiel Hanhan, Fayek & Dalal Fages**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health of all those name Ibrahim, Abraham, etc. on the special occasion of the Names Day for Saint Ibrahim, especially, **Abraham Wahbeh, Ibrahim Alhaj, Ibrahim Habash, Ibrahim Hanna, Ibrahim Katout, Ibrahim Lahdo, Ibrahim Malik, Ibrahim Martha, Ibrahim Matar, Ibrahim Qaqundah, Khalil Al Ahwal, Khalil Rantisi, Khalil Jada, Khalil Sayegh, and Khalil Habash**. God bless and many years!

#### **HOLIDAYS:**

As we gather with our families this Advent season to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us, we also need to be mindful of the needs of others. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Father George Baalbaki at [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com) or 586 214 4428.

#### **STEWARDSHIP 2021:**

As we reflect on the past year, we pause to give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed on us and our church community. If you have not paid your pledge in full for this year, we pray that you will do so today before the end of the year. We are pleased to tell you that you can 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. Going forward into next year, you can decide how you want to make your payment(s). Check it out. Now you can pay using your envelope, by mail and online. Thank you for your support.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- ❖ And best wishes to the newly elected/appointed members of the Parish Council: **Maher Shami, Salim Zughbaba, George Jada, Mike Husary, and Chris Rantisi**.
- ❖ We would also like to thank those who fulfilled their duties and responsibilities to their church by serving on our council. We wish you and your families the best and pray that you will continue to help in the future.

**FOOD CATERING FOR PICKUP sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary:**

**For delivery on Sunday December 20th, we will be offering Fruit Cakes for \$35/ cake. Please order by Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you and God bless.**



**NATIVITY SERVICE (Christmas Eve):**

**Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy will take place on Thursday December 24th at 5:00 PM.  
Please join us by watching the livestream of this beautiful service.**

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**Youtube: [youtube.com/channel/UCrDWWPWreLZpVhzVGZkjDIA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCrDWWPWreLZpVhzVGZkjDIA)**



## Who is Christ? by Elias Bagas

This is the festive season in which we celebrate the birth of Christ. Some, in our society, ask 'why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?' St. John the Theologian answers this question as a glad tiding, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3, 14).

This account is highly regarded by the Orthodox Church. It is placed at the head of all the Gospel readings, by being the first Gospel reading of the Church's yearly cycle. It is also read in the Divine Liturgy during the Holy Pascha. The reading announces a revelation that the unutterable, unknowable, invisible and unattainable God Who, in the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, dwelt among us on earth.

This revelation is also reiterated by St. Paul who said, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim 3: 16; also refer to Luke 1:35; Matt 3:17, 11:27, 16:16, 17:5; John 1:14, 1:18, 3:16; 1 John 5:20; Rom 8:32, 9:5; and Col 2:9). This 'good news' constitutes Christ's words, and the essence of the four Gospels and Apostolic writings. This is the foundation of Christianity, and the teaching of the Orthodox Church. Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the reason why the Orthodox Church exists.

The Evangelist John concludes the 'good news' in the main text of his Gospel, the last of the four Gospels, "... 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" (John 20:31).

The first Ecumenical Council of Nicea composed the Symbol of Faith (the Creed) to confirm the truth that "... in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9), thus proclaiming that Christ is God.

Being perfect God, Christ the Saviour is at the same time also perfect Man, otherwise there is no hope or joy in Christ's Resurrection, because, as St. Cyril of Alexandria said, "If the nature which He received had not had a human mind, then the one who entered into battle with the devil was God Himself; and it was therefore God who gained the victory. But if God was victorious, then I, who did not participate in this victory at all, do not receive and benefit from it. Therefore I cannot rejoice over it, for I would then be boasting of someone else's trophies".

St. Cyril of Jerusalem also said, "If the becoming man was a phantom, then salvation is a dream". Other holy Fathers expressed themselves similarly.

The Church also proclaims that God is one in Essence and triple in Persons. In other words, God is Triunity, is Tri-hypostatical unity, is a Trinity One in Essence. The Hypostases have personal or hypostatic attributes. God is unbegotten; the Son is begotten from the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. We worship the Holy Trinity with a single and inseparable worship. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas time, Who is God Incarnate, because of the salvation His Resurrection offers us.

## الآتي إلينا والآتي منا

في خضمّ تهيئتنا لعيد الميلاد، ننحني أمام ما أنبأ به الكشف الإلهي على هذا النحو: «الرّب قد ملك والجمال لبس» (مزمور ٩٢: ١). في هذه الآية، يقول مفسّرون إنّها تنطبق على ابن الله في تجسّده. فالجمال الذي لبسه هو طبيعتنا البشريّة، وجعل ملكه مدموغاً بتوحيد الطبيعتين البشريّة والإلهيّة في شخصه. كم أنّ تواضع يسوع ومحبّته عظيمان ولا يُسبر غورهما! فالإله الذي يملك إلى الدهور لا يريد أن يملك من دوننا. والإله الذي هو فائق الحسن والجمال أتّشح بطبيعتنا ويفتخر بنا! كيف ألهم الرّوح مرثم المزامير حتّى يحدّثنا عن هذا الإكرام الإلهي العظيم والأبدّي لكلّ مخلوق على صورته؟

هاكم طريقة أخرى للتعبير عن هذا الكشف ذاته نعرث عليها في كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ولائحة الأسماء الطويلة (متّى ١: ١-١٧). هذه تشكّل لائحة نسب يسوع بحسب الجسد. إنّها الطريقة التي بها ينسب الإنجيل يسوع إلينا من أجل أن ينسبنا يسوع إليه. المفارقة أنّ هذا النسب يعكس تاريخاً بشريّاً حافلاً بما لا يليق بالإنسان المخلوق على صورة الله. يتبنّى الرّب، عبر هذا النسب، واقعنا الساقط من دون أن يستحي بخطيئتنا وخطايانا، إذ تحدوه الرغبة إلى أن يوشّحنا بالجمال الذي له. وإن كانت نسبة يسوع في هذا الإنجيل تخضع لقواعد التعريف الإنسانيّة والكتابيّة أيضاً، لكننا ندرك تمام الإدراك أنّ مفاعيل التجسّد لا تنحصر في هذه الأسماء. فكلّ أسماء البشر عريضة على قلب الله، ونسبته إلى بعضها لا تعدو سوى تمهيد لنسبته إلينا كلّنا.

يشير الإنجيل إلى منعطف كبير في التاريخ البشريّ جعل الجمال الإلهي يتّحد بالجمال البشريّ إلى غير رجعة، وجعل ملك الله الأبديّ حاضراً في واقعنا البشريّ. إنّها العذراء مريم. هاكم المدخل إلى هذا السرّ: «أمّا ولادة يسوع المسيح فكانت هكذا: لمّا كانت مريم أمّه مخطوبة ليوسف قبل أن يجتمعا وُجدت حبلى من الرّوح القدس» (متّى ١: ١٨). سرّ الحبّل هذا أوضحه الملاك ليوسف، فالذي «حبّل به فيها هو من الرّوح القدس»، وأخبره بهويّته: «وتدعو اسمه يسوع لأنّه يخلّص شعبه من خطاياهم»، مسنداً قوله إلى النبوءة: «هوذا العذراء تحبل وتلد ابناً ويدعون اسمه عمّانوئيل (الذي تفسيره: الله معنا)» (متّى ١: ٢٠-٢٣).

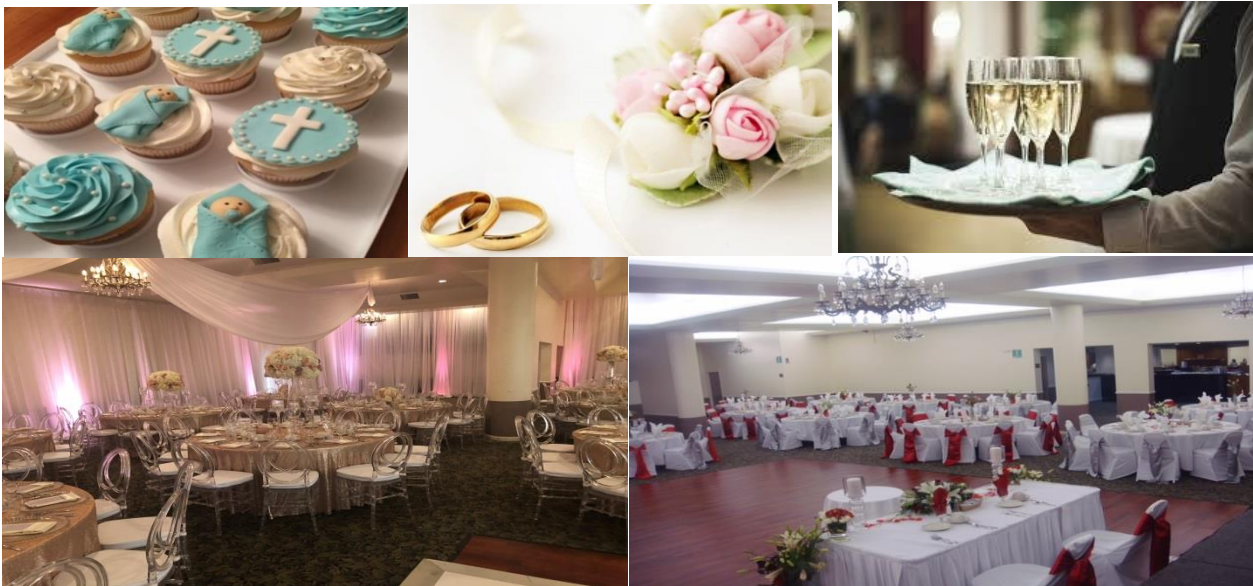
وإن اصطفى الله مريم على هذا النحو، كان من الضروريّ أن يستتبعه قبول امرئ، باسمنا، بهذا الحدث الجلل. قبولنا بهذا السرّ تحقّق بيوسف: «فلما استيقظ يوسف من النوم فعل كما أمره ملاك الرّب وأخذ امرأته» (متّى ١: ٢٤). وأقرن قبوله بتصرّف منه يليق بالسرّ. فهو تجاوز مخاوفه وأعرض عن ترتيباته بتخلية العذراء سرّاً، فقبل كلمة الله على فم الملاك وأخذ العذراء. أمّا جمال نفسه فتجلّى في عفته وطهارته، من جهة، وطاعته ونكرانه ذاته، من جهة أخرى: «ولم يعرفها حتّى ولدت ابنها البكر. ودعا اسمه يسوع» (متّى ١: ٢٥). فإن أتينا إلى الله بشخص مريم، فإننا ندنو من هذا السرّ ونخدمه بواسطة يوسف واستعداده.

منذ ذلك الحين، ينتصب أمامنا مثال العذراء وأمومتها، وبرارة يوسف وعفته وطهارته. مثالهما وجمالهما المختلف الواحد عن الآخر يخيتمان قول المزمور السابق، وبهما نتجاوز حدود طبيعتنا وشكوكنا ومخاوفنا، ونلتصق بإيمان بكلمة الله الصائرة إلينا. أليس في هذا التجاوز الدائم والالتصاق الصادق يكمن مصير إيماننا بميلاد الرّب وفرح احتفالنا بالعيد؟ عسانا نتجاوز في العيد التّصاقنا بمخاوفنا أيّاً كانت، وعجزنا إزاء شجوننا اليوميّة مهما كبرت واستعصت. ليتنا نجد ساعتها عند مذود المخلّص راحة النفس وسلامها وقوتها على الانطلاق، بالنعمة عينها التي ظلّت العذراء وخاطبت يوسف، في ورشة اقتناء جمال النفس المنشود فيملك فينا الرّب كلّ يوم إلى الدهر.

سلوان متروبوليت جبيل والبترون وما يليهما

# 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](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)

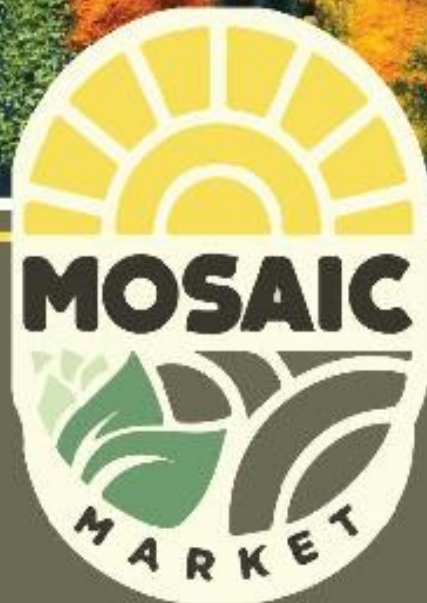


## **Banquet Hall Amenities**

Over 6000 square feet  
Seating for up to 350 guests  
200 square foot elevated stage  
25ft x 25ft dance floor  
Lighting & Sound  
Bar available  
Fully equipped industrial kitchen  
On-site catering available with staff  
External caterers are welcome  
Tables, chairs, linens, flatware, silverware available  
Event set up, tear down and cleaning services available  
Complimentary parking lot  
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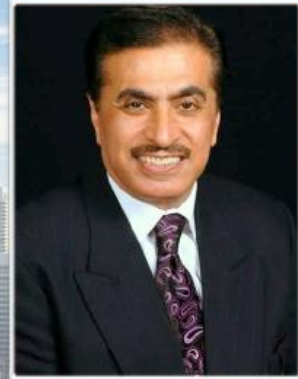
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