

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: [info@stnicholas-sf.com](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)--website: [stnicholas-sf.com](http://stnicholas-sf.com)

His Eminence **Metropolitan JOSEPH**, Archbishop  
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. **Fr. George Baalbaki**

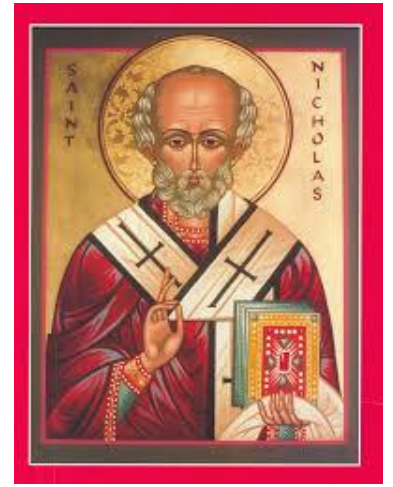
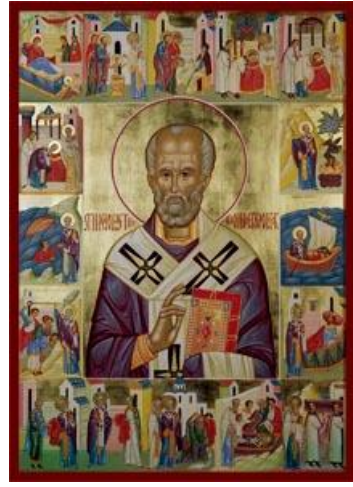
(586) 214-4428 [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com)

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

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



**Sunday, January 24, 2021**

### House Blessings:

Because of the pandemic we will not have the traditional home blessings as usual. If you want the priest to pay a visit to your house, please call Fr. George at 586 214 4428 and schedule with him. Please follow all safety precautions. God bless!

### 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 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!

### MEMORIAL SERVICE:

Three Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **John Salih** offered by his family.  
May his memory be eternal!

### THE EPISTLE: 1 Timothy. (1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

الرسالة: 1 تيموثاوس: ١٥-١٧

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، صديقة هي الكلمة وجديرة بكل قبول. إن المسيح يسوع إنما جاء الى العالم ليخلص الخطاة الذين أنا أولهم. لكني لأجل هذا رُجِمتُ ليظهر يسوع المسيح فيَّ أنا أولاً كل أناة مثلاً للذين سيؤمنون به للحياة الأبدية. فلملك الدهور الذي لا يعرفه فساد ولا يُرى، الله الحكيم وحده، الكرامة والمجد الى دهر الدهور آمين

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨: ٣٥-٤٣

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع بالقرب من أريحا كان أعمى جالساً على الطريق يستعطي. فلما سمع الجمع مجتازاً سأل: ما هذا؟ فأخبر بأن يسوع الناصري عابر، فصرخ قائلاً: يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني. فزجره المتقدمون ليسكت فازداد صراخاً: يا ابن داود ارحمني. فوقف يسوع وأمر بأن يُقدَّم إليه. فلما قُرب سأل: ماذا تريد أن أصنع لك؟ فقال: يا رب، أن أبصر. فقال له يسوع: أبصر، إيمانك قد خلصك. وفي الحال أبصر وتبعه وهو يُمجِّد الله. وجميع الشعب إذ رأوا سبَّحوا الله.

### **THE GOSPEL:** St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING:**

**Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2 PM on ZOOM.**

**<https://zoom.us/j/98705887962?pwd=TzdKc21Hckd6b2hTcFBtaTZxaFdlQT09>**

**The main item on the agenda is to discuss and approve a budget for 2021.** We encourage all church members to attend the meeting but in order to vote, you have to be spiritually qualified, a member in good standing, and dues for 2020 should be paid. Thank you!

### **CONGRATULATIONS:**

- ❖ And best wishes to the newly elected officers of the Parish Council: **Azar Azar (Chairman) Salim Qaru (Vice Chairman), Amjad Qaqish (Treasurer) and Claudine Batarse (Secretary).** God bless and many years!
- ❖ **We would also like to thank Ramzi Srouji for fulfilling his duty and responsibility to his church by serving as our previous Chairman. We wish you and your family the best and pray that you will continue to help in the future.**

### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered in loving memory of **John Salih, 3 year memorial**, by Trix Salih and children George, Greg & Claire, Atina & Mike, and grandchildren Kaitlyn, Nicholas, Zackary, and Chloe. May his memory be eternal.

### **Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: Healing of Bartimeus**

We are coming now to the weeks of preparation for Lent. Habitually on this particular week we read the Gospel of the Blind man. This story is that where Mark and Luke tell us about the blind man, a man who have tried everything to be healed, his own and other people's wisdom and ability, in vain, and who in the end found that Christ was passing by. Christ had not come to him, He was just passing along the road where the blind man was seated, begging, because there was nothing left to him. He did not expect any more healing or anything "only to survive. And then hope flared up in him: someone was passing, and this crowd had a peculiar sound, it was not a caravan, it was not people who were just walking along the road; it had a center, a focus, there was something peculiar about this crowd. And he asked who it was, and when he heard Who it was, he began to cry for help. And Christ gave him help: He restored his sight, He cured his blindness.

Looking at this story don't we learn something very important? Our soul is sick, our life is waning "I am speaking of eternal life, perhaps not the life of our body; something is dying in us, and we should learn from David the King to cry out of the deep, the deep of our despair, the deep of our disillusionment, the deep of our misery, the deep of our sin, the deep of all the things that destroy us, cry a cry, and say, I trust you, Lord! I trust your silence, as I would trust your word... And then, if we only abandon ourselves to that confidence, we will hear the Lord saying, See again! Go home, worry no more "home meaning the very depth of your being, the place where you are alive,

because your soul is alive, life has come back! Let us enter into these weeks of preparation with this glorious encouragement from God Himself, with this hope He gives us, this certainty, indeed He gives us. Let us start on this journey, and be ready when Lent comes to have gone from blindness to sight. And next week, when we remember Zaccheus, let us remember him again with eyes that can see, and then go on, from strength to strength, from brokenheartedness to brokenheartedness, and from sickness to healing, until we come to the Resurrection.

### يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني (من نشرة رعيتي 2019)

كان الرب يسوع في طريقه إلى اورشليم عندما مرّ بقرية أريحا، والأرجح أنّ هذه القرية كانت استراحة للمسافرين من الجليل إلى اورشليم، عبر الطريق المحاذية لنهر الأردن.

«كان أعمى جالساً على الطريق يستعطي». اعتقد اليهود أنّ العاهات سببها الخطيئة، وأنّ نتائج الخطيئة تنتقل من الأهل إلى الأولاد لذلك قيل عن الله أنّه يفتقد ذنوب الآباء بالبنين (خروج ٢٠: ٥). هذا رفضه الرب يسوع عندما قدّم إليه المولود أعمى إذ قال لتلاميذه: «لا هذا أخطأ ولا أبواه» (يوحنا ٩: ٣). وهذا الرفض تجلّى بالصليب والموت إذ اتخذ على نفسه خطايا البشر من أجل خلاص الجميع.

«يا يسوع ابن داود ارحمني». أخبر الأعمى بأنّ يسوع الناصري عابر، لكنّ الأعمى لم يناده قائلاً «يا يسوع الناصري» بل: «يا يسوع ابن داود». لقب «ابن داود» هو لقب المسيّا المنتظر الذي سيأتي ليخلص شعبه. اللافت أنّ الإنجيلي لوقا لا يورد هذا اللقب إلاّ مرّة واحدة في إنجيله بلسان ذلك الأعمى. والأرجح أنّ الإنجيلي يوجّه التوبيخ الصارم إلى رؤساء اليهود وكهنتهم، الذين لم يعرفوا يسوع وحكموا عليه كمجرم في حين أنّ العميان عرفوه.

«ارحمني». لم يطلب الأعمى الشفاء مباشرة بل هتف قائلاً «ارحمني». الإنسان يطلب الرحمة عندما يعي أنّ كلّ ما يلقاه هو عدل. الرحمة تتجاوز العدل وطلب الرحمة يفترض توبة من أهمّ عناصرها الإقرار بالخطيئة. لم يتوقّف الأعمى عن طلب الرحمة وقد زجره المتقدّمون، إمّا ليسكتوه وليبعدوا الإزعاج عن الرب يسوع، أو لأنّه استعمل لقب «ابن داود» الذي يشير إلى أنّ الرب يسوع هو المخلص المنتظر، فدعوة يسوع بهذا اللقب تخلق مشكلة مع رؤساء اليهود وكهنتهم.

«فوقف يسوع وأمر بأنّ يُقدّم إليه الأعمى... وسأله: ماذا تريد ان أصنع لك؟». طلب الأعمى الرحمة. استوقف يسوع هذا الطلب. هنا يشير الرب يسوع إلى أنّ طلب الرحمة بالحاح يستدعي انتباه الله الذي يعطي الإنسان مراده لفائق رحمته. هكذا في الصلوات الكنسيّة نطلب الرحمة الإلهيّة أولاً (يا ربّ ارحم)، ثمّ نسكب حاجتنا أمام الله. وهذا نعبر عنه في ما يُسمّى الطلبة الإلحاحيّة التي نستهلّها قائلين: «ارحمنا يا الله كعظيم رحمتك نطلب إليك فاستجب وارحم».

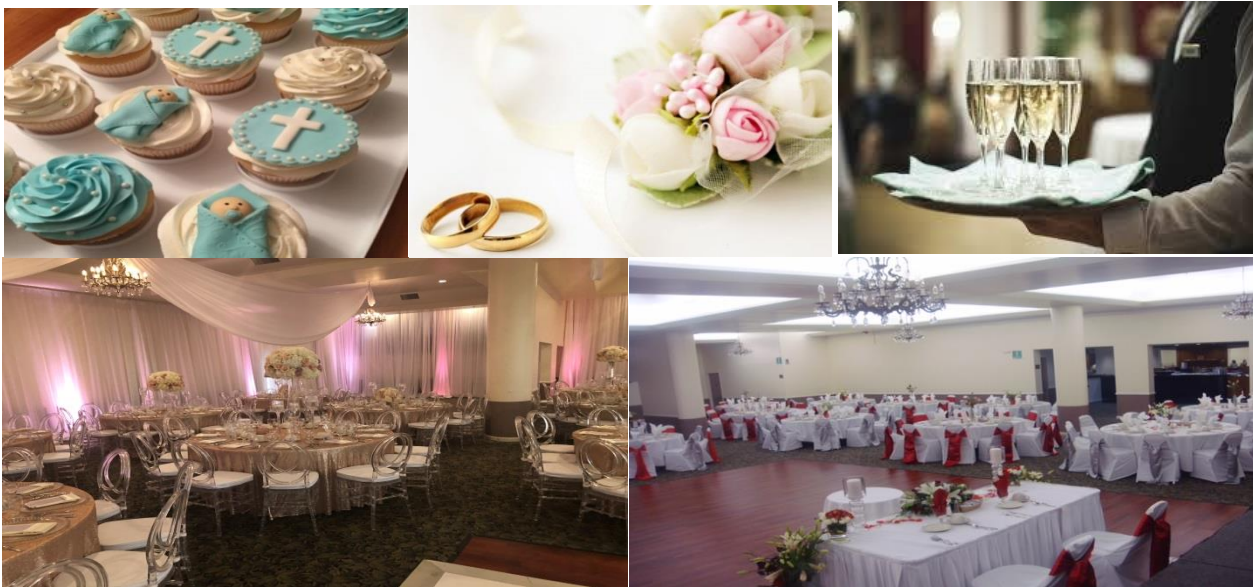
«إيمانك قد خلّصك». لا يُقصد بالإيمان إيمان الأعمى بيسوع شافياً للأمراض وصانع معجزات، بل إيمان الأعمى بأنّ يسوع هو ابن داود مخلص العالم. الإيمان ليس مبنياً على العجائب بل على اليقين بأنّ الرب يسوع هو المخلص.

«تبعه وهو يمجّد الله». لم يقل الإنجيلي لوقا إنّ الأعمى أخذ يمجّد يسوع الذي أجرى عجيبة الشفاء بل قال: أخذ يمجّد الله. هذا يشير إلى أنّ الأعمى آمن بأنّ الرب يسوع والله واحد. وهذا يؤكّده الأعمى الذي شفي في هيكل اورشليم إذ قال للفرّيسيّ: «لو لم يكن هذا (أي يسوع) من الله لم يقدر على أن يفعل شيئاً» (يوحنا ٩: ٣٣). العمى الجسديّ ليس عائقاً بين الإنسان والله بل تحويل النظر بعيداً عن الله هو الذي يخلق العائق ويغرق الإنسان بالعمى الروحي الذي يؤدّي إلى السقوط في الخطيئة والموت.



# SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

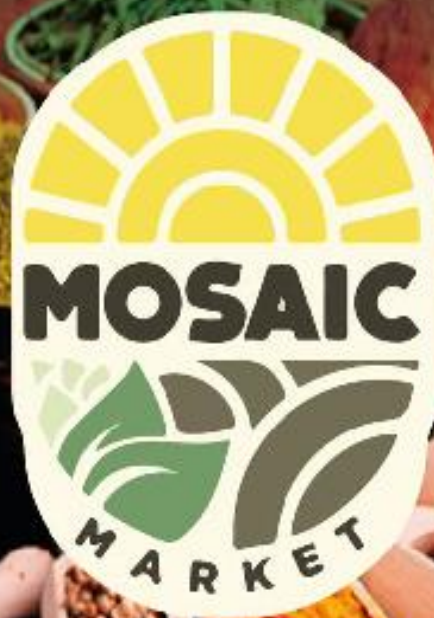
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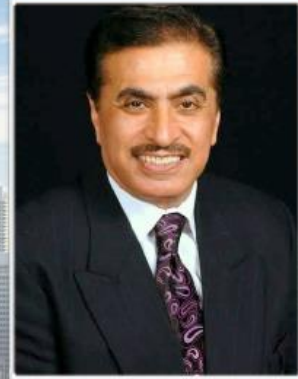
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