

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

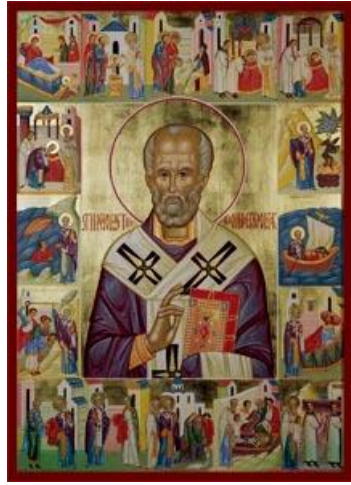
(586) 214-4428 [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com)

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Azar Azar

Parish Council Vice Chairman: Salim Qaru



**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

**Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)**

**أحد الغفران (مرفع الجبن)**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHURCH IS OPEN!**

**If you plan to attend, please make sure you wear a mask and use hand sanitizer when you walk inside. Please don't attend if you're feeling sick.**

You can still watch the livestream of the services on our social media.

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

We pray for the good health, well-being, and safety of everyone. God bless!



**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Forty Day Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God  
**Margarette Assaf Al Shaer** offered by her daughter **Mona & Maher Al Hashwa.**

May her memory be eternal!

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH:** His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH will  
preside the first Akathist Service with us on Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Please do your best to join  
us and get the blessing of our Father in Christ.

**THE EPISTLE: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4**

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

**الرسالة: رومية 13:11-14** يا إخوة إن خلاصنا الآن أقرب مما كان حين آمنا. قد تناهى الليل واقترب النهار فلندع عنا أعمال الظلمة ولنلبس أسلحة النور. لنسلكن سلوكا لائقا كما في النهار لا بالقصوف والسكر ولا بالمضاجع والعهر ولا بالخصام والحسد. بل لبسوا الرب يسوع المسيح ولا تهتموا بأجسادكم لقضاء شهواتها. من كان ضعيفا في الإيمان فاتخذوه بغير مباحثة في الآراء. من الناس من يعتقد أن له أن يأكل كل شيء، أما الضعيف فيأكل بقولا. فلا يزدر الذي يأكل من لا يأكل، ولا يدين الذي لا يأكل من يأكل، فإن الله قد اتخذه. من أنت يا من تدين عبدا أجنبيا؟ إنه لمولاه يثبت أو يسقط، لكنه سيثبت لأمر الله قادر أن يثبتته.

### **THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21**

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

**الإنجيل: متى 21-14:6** قال الرب: إن غفرتكم للناس زلاتهم يغفر لكم أباكم السماوي أيضاً، وإن لم تغفروا للناس زلاتهم فأبوكم أيضاً لا يغفر لكم زلاتكم. ومتى صمتم فلا تكونوا معبسين كالمرائنين فإنهم ينكثون وجوههم ليظهروا للناس صائمين. الحق أقول لكم إنهم قد استوفوا أجرهم. أما أنت فإذا صممت فادهن رأسك واغسل وجهك لئلا تظهر للناس صائماً بل لأبيك الذي في الخفية، وأبوك الذي يرى في الخفية يجازيك علانية. لا تكنزوا لكم كنوزاً على الأرض حيث يفسد السوس والآكلة وينقب السارقون ويسرقون، لكن اكنزوا لكم كنوزاً في السماء حيث لا يفسد سوس ولا آكلة ولا ينقب السارقون ولا يسرقون، لأنه حيث تكون كنوزكم هناك تكون قلوبكم.

### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered for the good health of **Laila Louh**. God bless and many years! Also in loving memory of **Elias and Yacoub Louh**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Suheil, Randa, Peter, Shannon, and Nadeen Shatara** for the good health and to congratulate **Saba & Adrienne** on the birth of their baby girl **Raya Nour**. Also for the good health of the **Najjar & Shatara families**. God bless and many years!

### **CHOIR/CHANTERS NEEDED:**

Arabic Byzantine choir practice for the Great Lent and Holy Week is being resumed. If you are interested or would like to help out, please contact Father George.

**CHURCH HALL REMODEL:** We would like to let you know that we've started the remodel of the bar and the bathrooms in our church hall. We are very excited about this project and can't wait to share the updates with you when it's completed.

### **MARCH IS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH:**

- ❖ Our Ladies Auxiliary will be working on updating our Altar Robes and the Holy Altar Table Cover. If you'd like to donate, please mail a check to the church earmarked "Altar Robes".
- ❖ Our Ladies will have a **Luncheon this Sunday March 14**. Menu: Spinach Fatayer, Zaatar Manakish, Cheese Manakish, and Warbat with Ashta. 2\$ each item. Please order by Friday. To order, please call the Church office or Janet Azar at (415) 710 0388. Pick up is this Sunday from 12-1:30 at St. Nicholas.

**TREE OF LIFE:** We have updated our Tree of Life in the back of our Church. If you would like to purchase a Leaf with your name or a loved one's name engraved to hang on the Tree, please contact the Church office.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> – 12PM, Young Adults of St Nicholas** will be having a social event at Stow Lake in Golden gate park! Trying to get back to our normal lives, come out and join us with a Pedal Boat with lunch! Boats are \$10 a person and we encourage everyone to bring their own lunch.

## 2021 Great Lent

Lent Period: March 15th – May 1st

Strict Fast: NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish

Day	Date	Celebration			
Sunday	March 21	Sunday of Orthodoxy			
Wednesday	March 25	Annunciation of the Theotokos (Fish Allowed)			
Sunday	April 4	Sunday of the Holy Cross			
Sunday	April 25	Palm Sunday (Fish Allowed)			
Friday	April 30	Great and Holy Friday			
Sunday	May 2	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA			
The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2021			برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام ٢٠٢٠		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm	مساءً	خدمة النوم الكبرى " يا رب القوات"	الإربعاء
Fridays (Followed by Potluck)	Akathist Service	7 pm	٧ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	11 am	١١ صباحاً	القداس الإلهي للقدّيس باسيليوس الكبير	الأحد

### Metropolitan Anthony: SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

After these weeks of preparation during which we have examined our soul, our lives, all our relationship before the eyes and the judgement of God, we enter today into the joy of Lent; the joy of Lent. The word 'lent' means the spring; it is a beginning, and a beginning of life, a beginning of newness, a new time. It is a time when we will no longer be reminded of our own sins, no longer be confronted with images in parables of fall and repentance, but faced with the names of Saints who have started their lives as we start them: the frail, weak, vacillating, but who by the grace of God, by the power of God have become what they are: men, women, children whom we can venerate, in whom we can rejoice, who can be set as examples to us, to whom we can turn for their prayers unto salvation.

Tonight we will start on this journey; on the journey that leads us from our sinful condition, recognised, repentant unto a new time, unto the Resurrection of Christ which is the beginning for us of our own eternal life. We will start on this journey to-night as the people of Israel started from the land of Egypt for the Promised Land: still frail, still burdened, still incompletely free. But it is not by looking back at ourselves, but by looking towards the Living God Who is Life and salvation, and to the example of those who have been victorious by the power of God that we will find courage,

inspiration to come to the final victory, to the newness of life which is our calling and God's promise. We will have to journey together, and we must not be in any delusion: we will be difficult for one another as companions on the journey; but we will depend on one another if we want to achieve to come to an end, — in the same way in which the Israelites were in the desert: not always obedient to God, not always loyal to one another, and yet, needing each other in order to reach the promised goal.

So, let us start now; let us think of the feast which we keep next Sunday: Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is not the triumph of the Orthodox over anyone else; it is the triumph of God over people. The triumph of His truth, the triumph of God in the lives of people.

And than, let us look at one saint after the other, and listen to what he has got to say to us: Gregory Palamas, John of the Ladder, Mary of Egypt and all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ. And we will then reach the point at which we must forget everyone and everything, and remember nothing, no one but the Lord Jesus Christ: what He is, what He has done for us, what He is doing for us. Let us learn to forget ourselves in the course of those weeks, joyfully, gratefully, that we can now turn away from ourselves and look only Godwards. And when the time of Passion week comes, again, in a new way, with a new determination, with a new renunciation to ourselves, turn and look at God Who has become man that we may be saved, and be grateful, forget ourselves, remember only Him and He will remember us unto salvation.

### أين كنوزكم؟

قال لنا بولس الرسول في رسالة اليوم: "قد تنأى الليل واقترب النهار". ها نحن نضع أعمال الظلمة ونقبل على النور، على هذا النور الذي سيجيئنا في الفصح المقدس. ولكن قبل ذلك سيأتينا هذا الضوء الإلهي بهذه الاجتهادات التي سنقوم بها برحمة من ربنا وفضل منه.

لقد حدثنا الإنجيلي الطاهر عن صوم نقوم به من أجل الله، نقوم به في الخفاء بحيث لا نتظاهر ولا ندعي ولكننا نعرفه رحمة من ربنا ونحن نكافح حتى نحصل لنا نعمة الرضى وحتى نتدرب على أدب الرب ومخافته.

القضية ليس قضية إمساك عن طعام أو شراب، وليست فقط امتناعاً عن اللحم. هذه رياضات، هذه تمارين نتمرّن بها على شيء أسمى. طبعاً لا بد لنا من أن نخضع هذا الجسد بالصوم لكي نروضه على أن هناك شيئاً أفضل من الجسد ولكي نجعله يتحسّس بوجود الفقراء. قام الصوم بالدرجة الأولى في أوائل المسيحية على هذه الفكرة: أن الإنسان يمسك عن طعام ليوزّع ثمنه على المساكين. كان المسيحيون يصومون كلما عرفوا أن واحداً منهم في حاجة، وكانوا يصومون متى شأؤوا حتى يوفروا طعاماً ويعطوه للفقراء. لهذا كانت الرحمة بُعداً من أبعاد الصوم. غاية الصوم أن نتدرب به في مدرسة الرحمة.

لذا قال الرب في إنجيل اليوم: "لا تكنزوا لكم كنوزاً على الأرض حيث يفسد السوس ويسرق السارقون" أي لا تجعلوا متّكلكم على المال ولكن اعرّفوا أن هناك فقراء يحتاجون إلى هذا المال وأن لهم عليه حقاً. المال الذي بين أيديكم ليس لكم نهائياً ولكنه للمحتاجين إليه. العطاء ليس اختيارياً. عليكم أن تُعطوا. هذا ليس بتصدّق، هذا واجب لأن الأرض للناس كلهم وأموال الأرض للناس أجمعين.

"لا تكنزوا لكم كنوزاً على الأرض لأنه حيث تكون كنوزكم فهناك تكون قلوبكم أيضاً"، أي إذا اعتبرتم أن المال كنزكم كانت قلوبكم مفعمة بحبه، وإذا اعتبرتم أن ملكوت الله كنزكم أصبحت قلوبكم مليئة بالله. الحياة يجب ألا تكون حيرى بين الله والدنيا بحيث نرانا نبقى مترددين بين المسيح وما هو ليس بالمسيح. لذا فإننا ندخل في جهاد هذا الصوم مقرّين بأن المسيح هو كل الحياة، وبالتالي سوف ندخل في رصانة المسيح حتى نبني له كنيسة مجيدة لا تقوم بالحجر فقط ولكنها تقوم بقلوب متألّفة منسجمة.

هذا جهاد لنا يقوم به كل على قدر استطاعته وكما تسمح له عاقبته، هذا في ما يختص بالطعام والشراب. ولكننا نقوم به جميعاً في ما يختص بالناحية الروحية، أي أننا جميعاً مدعوون إلى المحبة وإلى الغفران وإلى أن نضمّ الناس جميعاً إلى قلوبنا حتى يضمّننا الله إلى قلبه. فإذا أحببنا الناس كنّا أحبباء الله، وإن أبغضنا الناس كنا مبغدين عن الله. الكنيسة المسيحية ليس فيها سوى أن نحبّ بعضنا بعضاً وأن نجاهد حتى نبقي على هذه المحبة طيلة العمر.

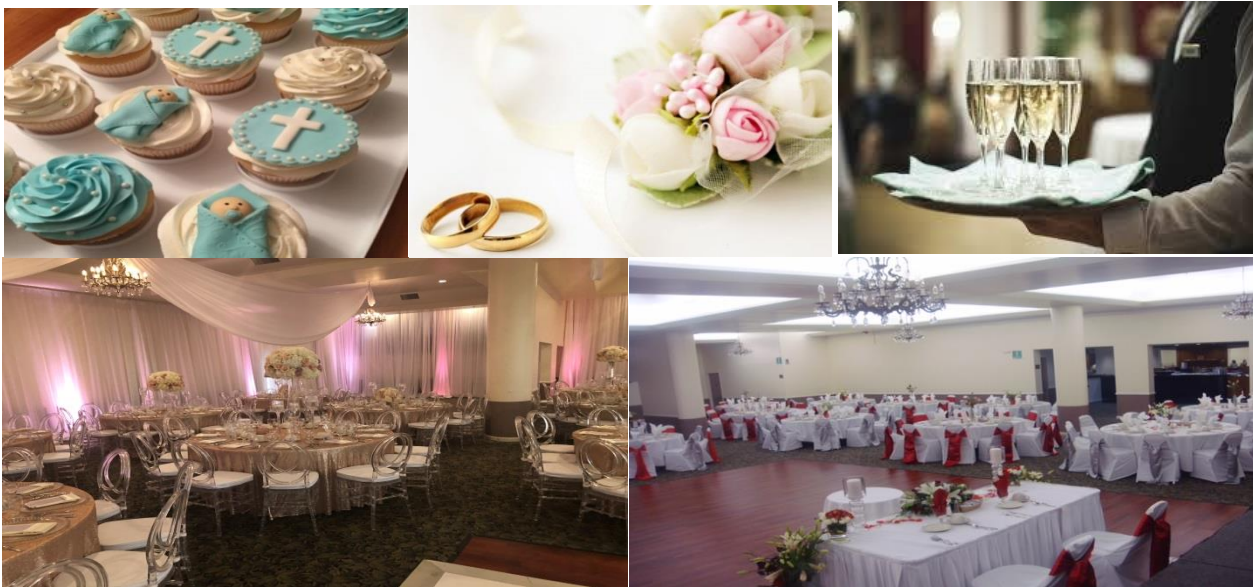
مهما قال الناس فينا، مهما فعلوا، الناس جميعاً أحبباء الله وأبناء الله، ولذلك نحبّهم ونساندهم ونصوم عن النسيمة حتى يكون لنا جميعاً نصيب في محبة الرب.

المطران جاورجيوس



# SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

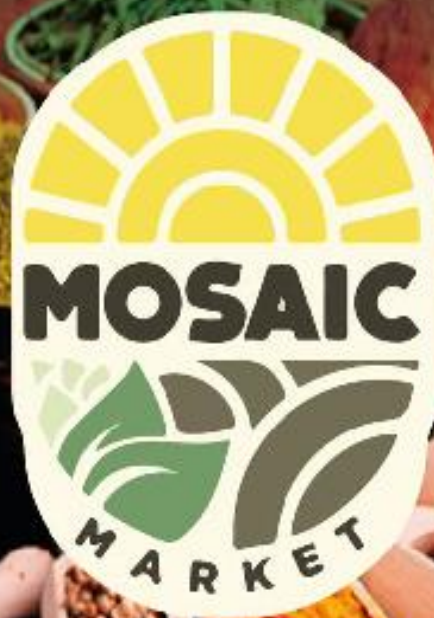
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