

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)

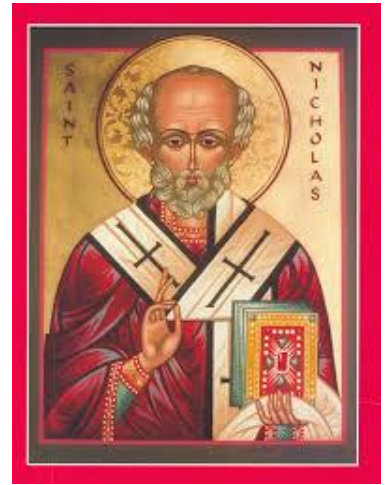
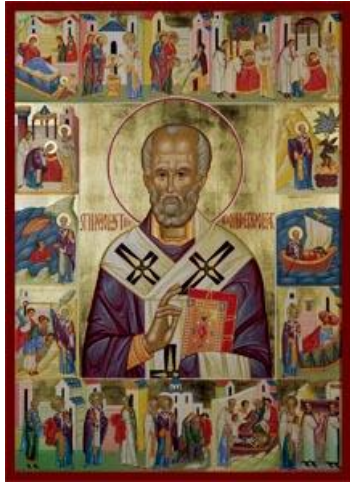
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. **Fr. Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**

**Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder"**

الأحد الرابع من الصوم  
أحد القديس يوحنا السلميّ

**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:**

- ❖ Deepest Sympathy & Condolences to the **Arouk** family for the passing of our Brother in Christ **Khairallah Elias Arouk**. Memorial Service will take place this Sunday.
- ❖ One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God, **George Cunningham**, offered by his family.
- ❖ Two Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God, **Ester Clemence Antone Lama**, wife of (Late) **Abdallah Hanna Shami**.  
May their memory be eternal!

**THE EPISTLE: Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."



**الرسالة: عبرانيين** يا إخوة، إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا وَعَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِذْ لَمْ يُمْكِنْ أَنْ يُقَسِّمَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُ، أَقَسَمَ بِنَفْسِهِ. قَائِلًا: لِأَبَارِكْتَكَ بَرَكَةً وَأَكْثَرْتُكَ تَكْثِيرًا. وَذَلِكَ إِذْ تَأْتَى، نَالَ الْمَوْعِدَ. وَإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ يُقَسِّمُونَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُمْ، وَتَنْقُضِي كُلُّ مُشَاجَرَةٍ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقَسَمِ لِلتَّثْبِيتِ. فَلِذَلِكَ، لَمَّا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ وَرَثَتَهُ الْمَوْعِدَ بَيَانًا لِعَدَمِ تَحَوُّلِ عَزَمِهِ، تَوَسَّطَ بِالْقَسَمِ. حَتَّى نَحْصَلَ بِأَمْرَيْنِ لَا يَتَحَوَّلَانِ وَلَا يُمْكِنُ أَنْ يُخْلَفَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمَا عَلَى تَعَزُّبَةٍ قَوِيَّةٍ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ التَّجَانَا إِلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِالرَّجَاءِ الْمَوْضُوعِ أَمَامَنَا. الَّذِي هُوَ لَنَا كِمِرْسَاةٍ لِلنَّفْسِ أَمِينَةٍ رَاسِخَةٍ تَدْخُلُ إِلَى دَاخِلِ الْحِجَابِ، حَيْثُ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَسَابِقٍ لَنَا وَقَدْ صَارَ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَقَ، رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةٍ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

### **THE GOSPEL: Mark. (9:17-31)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

**الإنجيل: مرقس 9** في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع إنسانٌ وسجد له قائلاً: "يا معلّم، قد أتيتك بابني، به روحٌ أبكمٌ. وحيثما أخذه يصرعه، فيزيد ويصرّف بأسنانه ويبيس، وقد سألت تلاميذك أن يخرجوه فلم يقدروا." فأجابه قائلاً: "أيها الجيل الغير المؤمن، إلى متى أكون عندكم؟ حتى متى أحتملكُم؟ هلّم به إليّ." فأتوه به. فلما رآه للوقت صرعه الروح، فسقط على الأرض يتمرّع ويزيد. فسأل أباه: "منذ كم من الزمان أصابه هذا؟" فقال: "منذ صباه. وكثيراً ما ألقاه في النار وفي المياه ليهلكه. لكن إن استطعت شيئاً، فنحن علينا وأغننا." فقال له يسوع: "إن استطعت أن تؤمن، فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن." فصاح أبو الصبي من ساعته بدموع وقال: "إني أومن يا سيّد، فأغث عذم إيماني." فلما رأى يسوع أن الجمع يتبادرون إليه، انتهر الروح النجس قائلاً له: "أيها الروح الأبكم الأصم، أنا أمرك أن أخرج منه ولا تعدّ تدخل فيه." فصرخ وخبطه كثيراً وخرج منه، فصار كالمتيت، حتى قال كثيرون إنه قد مات. فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضه، فقام. ولما دخل بيتاً، سأله تلاميذه على انفراد: "لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نخرجه؟" فقال لهم: "إن هذا الجنس لا يمكن أن يخرج بشيء إلا بالصلاة والصوم." ولما خرجوا من هناك، اجتازوا في الجليل، ولم يرد أن يدري أحد. فإنه كان يعلم تلاميذه ويقول لهم "إن ابن البشر يسلم إلى أيدي الناس، فيقتلونه، وبعد أن يقتل، يقوم في اليوم الثالث."

### **Good Friday Flowers \$50 (Minimum Donation) per Bouquet**

الزهور لتزيين نعش المسيح يوم الجمعة العظيمة

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ الاسم

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ رقم التلفون

Donation(\$): \_\_\_\_\_ المبلغ

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

**Good Friday flowers: Dear Parishioners: To avoid misspelling the names, please do not call the church office. Mail or email the names along with the donation or put it in the tray on Sunday in an envelope with your name & write a memo that this donation is for the "Bier of Christ". Thank you for your cooperation.**

## 2021 Great Lent Celebration

Lent Period: March 15th – May 1st

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

Day	Date	Celebration			
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 ٢٠٢١		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm	٧ مساءً	خدمة النوم الكبرى "يا رب القوات"	الإربعاء
Fridays (Followed by Potluck)	Akathist Service	7 pm	٧ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الإله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	11 am	١١ صباحاً	القداس الإلهي للقديس باسيليوس الكبير	الأحد

### ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

- ❖ Offered by **Sylvia Cunningham** in loving memory of **George Cunningham, Charles Cunningham, and Evelyn Wilson**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health and well-being of **Basima Atwan**. God bless and Many years!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health and well-being of **Nabil Khoury**. God bless and Many years!
- ❖ Deepest Sympathy & Condolences to **Afif Baba and family** for the passing of his brother **Isam Baba**. May his memory forever be eternal!
- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to the **Edam family** especially **Ashruf & Lorie Edam** for the passing of **Jeries Najeeb Abu-Al Etham & Elia Ibrahim Abu-Al Etham** who passed away back home in Ramallah. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health and well-being of **Nahil Tannous**. God bless and many years!



### TREE OF LIFE:

We have updated our Tree of Life in the back of our Church. If you would like to donate an engraved Leaf to place on the Tree in memory of your loved one, please contact the Church office. We are looking for a place to replicate leaves similar to these for our Tree of Life. If you know any place that can make these, please let us know.

### 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Teen Soyo & Young Adult bi-weekly bible study will continue on April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM via zoom. Links to be shared via social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Email) Please join us!

## **Metropolitan Anthony: SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER**

Lent is a time of repentance, a time when our heart of stone must be made by the power of God into a heart of flesh, from insensitive to become perceptive, from cold and hard to become warm and open to others, and indeed, to God Himself. Lent is a time of renewal when like spring, everything become new again; when our life that had gone into a twilight becomes alive with all the intensity which God can communicate to us, humans, by making us partakers of His Holy Spirit, by making us partakers, through the Holy Sacraments and the direct gift of God, of the Divine nature. It is a time of reconciliation, and reconciliation is a joy: it is God's joy, and it is our joy; it's a new beginning. Today is the day of Saint John of the Ladder, and I want to read to you a few phrases of his which are relevant to the particular time of the year in which we live:

“Repentance, that is our return to God is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. And one who repents, is one who deserves condemnation - and yet, goes away from the tribunal without shame, because repentance is our peace with God. And this is achieved through a worthy life, alien to the sins we committed in the past. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain.”

And if we ask ourselves how we can achieve it, how we can come to this, how we can respond to God Who receives us as the father received the prodigal son, a God Who has waited for us, longingly, Who, rejected, never turned away from us - how can we respond to Him? Here is a short word about prayer :

“Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fill it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence. And if a word, in thy prayer, reaches you deeply, if you perceive it profoundly - dwell in it, dwell in it, because at such moments our Angel guardian prays with us because we are true to ourselves and to God”.

Let us remember what Saint John of the Ladder says, even if you forget the short comments (which I introduced) to make his text more readily understandable. Let us remember his words because he was a man who knew what it means to turn to God, to stay with God, to be God's joy and to rejoice in Him. He is offered us in this time, when we are ascending towards the days of the Passion, he is offered us as an example of what grace Divine can do to transform an ordinary, simple human being into a light to the world.

Let us learn from him, let us follow his example, let us rejoice in what God can do by His power in a human being, and let us confidently, with faith, with an exulting and yet serene joy follow the advice, listen to God begging us to find a way of life and telling us that with Him, in Him we will be alive, because He is the Truth but also the Way and also Life eternal.



## عنف وحنان فصلاة وصوم

«ابني به روح أخرس وحيثما أدركه يمزقه»، عبارة استتبعها والد الصبي بأخرى: «إن كنت تستطيع شيئاً فتحنّ علينا وأعنا». بهاتين العبارتين توجه هذا الوالد المتألم نحو يسوع، فأشار إلى العنف معاش وحنان مطلوب وطريق على تلاميذ المسيح أن يسيروا فيه، كما يطالعنا إنجيل الأحد الرابع من صوم.

لا غرو أنّ العنف الذي يمارسه الشيطان كبير ومؤذٍ. لكن يبدو من الحادثة الإنجيلية أنّ يسوع صوّب سهامه نحونا، نحن تلاميذه، وليس نحو الشيطان، فغمز من قناتنا عندما دوى صوته القائل: «أيها الجيل غير المؤمن، إلى متى أكون معكم؟ إلى متى أحتملكم؟». موقف المسيح هذا يهزك في العمق، ويستدعي منك أن تسأل عن مكان عزك وضعفك وعدم فاعلية خدمتك، فيأتيك الجواب، البسيط والبالغ بأن: صومك وصلاتك لا تهملهما أبداً، وهذا على أساس أنّ «كلّ شيء مستطاع للمؤمن»! يبدو أنّ العنف الكبير في هذا الإنجيل هو غياب الإيمان بالله والحنان، بخاصة ذاك الحنان الذي رأيناه مرتسماً على وجه يسوع والذي طرق بابَه والد الصبي من أجل شفاء ابنه. وفهمنا من إشارة الربّ في نهاية الإنجيل أنّه، حنان ضروري لمواجهة أيّ عنف، بحيث إذا اقترن بالإيمان الحيّ، جعل من الصلاة والصوم بلسماً عظيماً في خدمتنا وشهادتنا لحقيقة إيماننا. ربّ سائل: ألعلّ الصلاة والصوم يلتئنان القلوب والأذهان بحيث نصير أكثر شفافية لعمل الروح؟ أيجعلهما أكثر مطاوعة في تحقيق مشيئة الله؟ أوليس في الحنان الذي حمله المسيح إلينا العلة التي أدت إلى تحريرنا من عنف الأهواء المتسلطة علينا والتي نسلطها بدورنا أحياناً على الآخرين «عفا» نمارسه بأشكال متنوّعة، خفية أو ظاهرة، واعية أو غير واعية، مقصودة أو غير مقصودة؟ يرى البعض في الحسد أو الغيرة عنفاً نسلطه على ربطنا الأسرية أو صداقاتنا مثلاً. آخرون يعتقدون أنّ الإدانة أو التكلّم بالسوء على آخرين أو استغياهم للحديث عليهم، أشكال من أشكال العنف الذي به نهدم الربط الأخوية والمهنية والمجتمعية.

هل يحتاج المرء إلى تعداد أشكال هذا النوع من العنف في ممارساتنا اليومية ليقطع دابر العنف المستشري بيننا، والذي نكون نحن مسؤولين عنه بالدرجة الأولى؟ له أن يقوم حصاد ما زرعه عبر شهادته وأقواله وتصرفاته. له أن يكتشف إذا ما كانت تبني النفوس أو تؤذيها، أو تأتي بضرر أو فائدة على أبناء الجسد الواحد، فرادى وجماعة. بكلمة واحدة، لنا أن نفحص إذا ما كنّا نبني، في نفوسنا ونفوس الآخرين، المسيح ونرتفع وإياهم إلى ملء قامته.

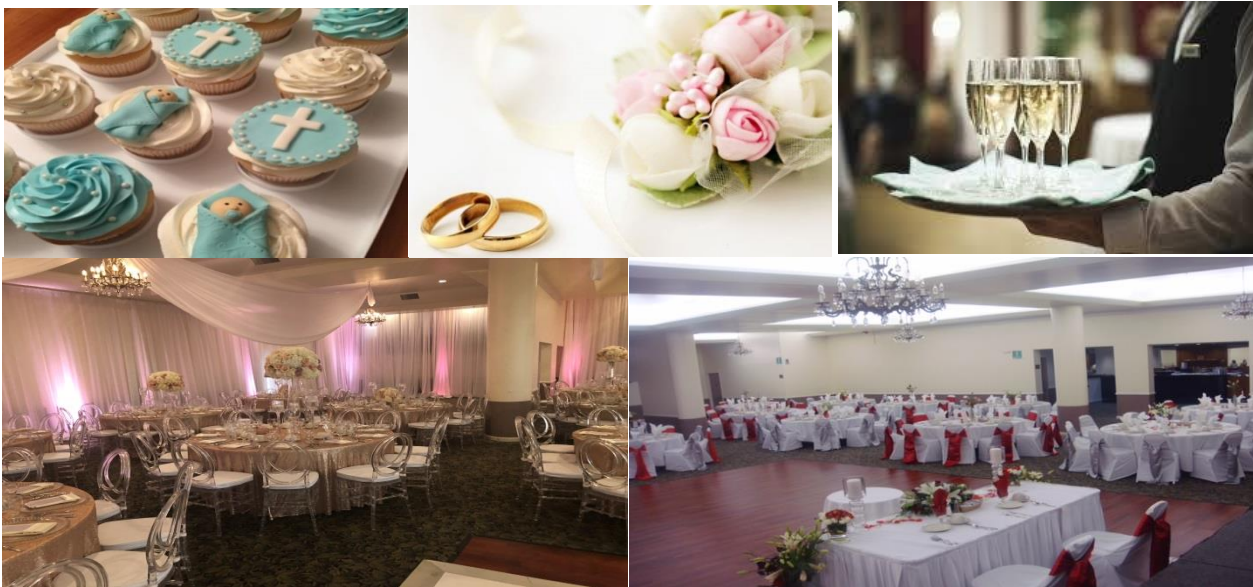
عقلنا وقلبنا البعيدين عن الصلاة يجعلاننا مسرّحاً سهلاً لعنف الأهواء، ما يفقدنا الحنان الذي يسكبه فينا عيش الإيمان. أمّا ضعف ممارسة الصوم (ليس فقط عن الأطعمة، بل عن الأهواء) فيغلب فينا عدم الانضباط وغياب اليقظة، فيسير المرء على سجيته، ولنا أن نتحمّل وزر الانفعالات والأفعال في هذه الحالة.

هذا هو المشهد المؤلم الذي يقدمه كلّ «أب»، في بيته وورعته وكنيسته، إلى أبيه السماوي لكي يتحنّن علينا ويعيدنا إلى صواب، سواء من تألموا من الشياطين، أو الذين يخدمون المسيح ولا يستطيعون أن يعينوا أترابهم وإخوتهم لأسباب شتى. ما أحلى أن نتحلّى بالإيمان الفاعل بالحنان لكي ننهض بعضنا البعض ونكون مع المسيح خداماً حقيقيين وفاعلين لمجده.

سلوان متروبوليت جبل لبنان

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\$2,700,000 | 8 Unit Mixed-Use Property

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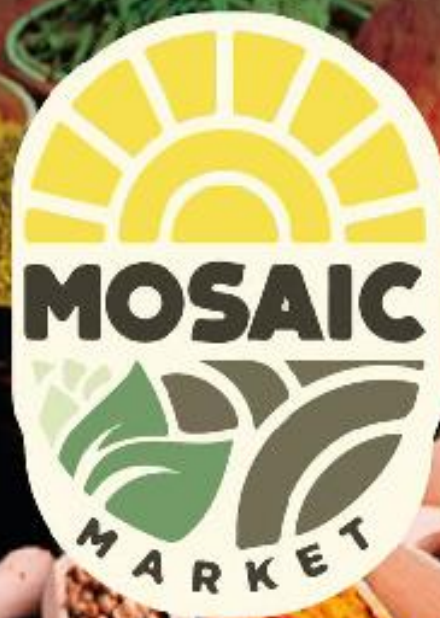
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