

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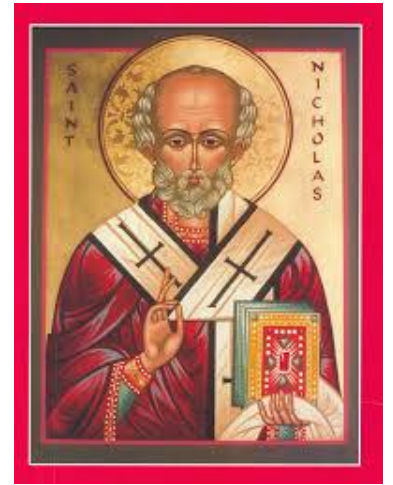
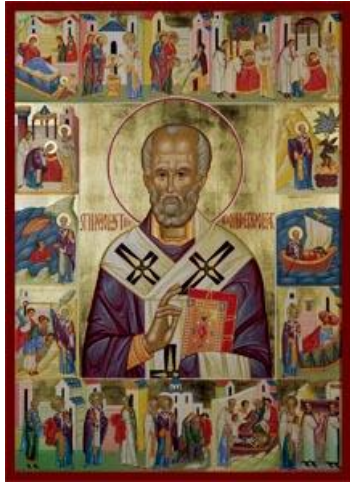
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

**Sunday of the After-feast of the Ascension**

آباء المجمع المسكوني الأول

### **GAZA RELIEF:**

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with the people of GAZA. The people of GAZA need our help! We will be hosting a Humanitarian & Disaster Relief Fundraiser for GAZA. Please help us help those who are in need. All proceeds will be donated to Churches in GAZA and other Humanitarian organizations. To make donations, please mail a check here to St. Nicholas earmarked "For Gaza". You may also donate on our website by choosing "GAZA RELIEF" under "Funds" on our giving website: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stn5200254>

### **CONDOLENCES & MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

- ❖ Deepest sympathy and condolences to the Salfiti family, especially Simon Salfiti, for the passing of his sister **Suhaila Salfiti Rezkalah** and her daughter in law **Njoud Matta**.
- ❖ Two Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God, **Amal Aboudaoud** offered by her family.  
May their memory be eternal!

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

الرسالة: أعمال الرسل ٢٠: ١٦-١٨ و ٢٨-٣٦

في تلك الأيام ارتأى بولس أن يتجاوز أفسس في البحر لنلا يعرض له أن يبطئ في أسية، لأنه كان يعجل حتى يكون في أورشليم يوم العنصرة إن أمكنه. فمن ميليش بعث إلى أفسس فاستدعى قسوس الكنيسة، فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: احذروا لأنفسكم ولجميع الرعية التي أقامكم الروح القدس فيها أساقفة لترعوا كنيسة الله التي اقتناها بدمه. فإنني أعلم هذا أنه سيدخل بينكم بعد ذهابي ذئاب خاطفة لا تشفق على الرعية، ومنكم أنفسكم سيقوم رجال يتكلمون بأمر ملتوية ليجتذبوا التلاميذ وراءهم. لذلك اسهروا متذكّرين أنني مدة ثلاث سنين لم أكف ليلاً ونهاراً عن أن أنصح كل واحد بدموع. والآن أستودعكم يا إخوتي الله وكلمة نعمته القادرة على أن تبنيكم وتمنحكم ميراثاً مع جميع القديسين. إنني لم أشتبه فضة أحد أو ذهبه أو لباسه. وأنتم تعلمون أن حاجاتي وحاجات الذين معي خدمتها هاتان اليدان. في كل شيء بيئت لكم أنه هكذا ينبغي أن نتعب لنساعد الضعفاء وأن نتذكر كلام الرب يسوع. فإنه قال «إن العطاء هو مغبوط أكثر من الأخذ». ولما قال هذا جثا على ركبتيه مع جميعهم وصلى.

### **THE EPISTLE: The Acts of the Holy Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)**

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

### **THE GOSPEL: Saint John. (17:1-13)**

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

**الإنجيل: يوحنا ١٧: ١-١٣**

في ذلك الزمان رفع يسوع عينيه إلى السماء وقال: يا أبت قد أتت الساعة، مجد ابنك ليُمددك ابنك أيضًا، كما أعطيتَه سلطانًا على كل بشر ليعطي كل من أعطيتَه له حياة أبدية. وهذه هي الحياة الأبدية أن يعرفوك أنت الإله الحقيقي وحدك والذي أرسلته يسوع المسيح. أنا قد مجدتك على الأرض، قد أتممت العمل الذي أعطيتني لأعمله. والآن مجدني أنت يا أبت عندك بالمجد الذي كان لي عندك من قبل كون العالم. قد أعلنت اسمك للناس الذين أعطيتهم لي من العالم. هم كانوا لك وأنت أعطيتهم لي وقد حفظوا كلامك. والآن قد علموا أن كل ما أعطيتَه لي هو منك، لأن الكلام الذي أعطيتَه لي أعطيتَه لهم، وهم قبلوا وعلموا حقًا أنني خرجت وأمنوا بأنك أرسلتني. أنا من أجلهم أسأل، لا أسأل من أجل العالم بل من أجل الذين أعطيتهم لي لأتهم لك. كل شيء لي هو لك وكل شيء لك هو لي وأنا قد مُدِّدت فيهم. ولست أنا بعد في العالم، وهؤلاء هم في العالم، وأنا آتي إليك. أيها الأب القدوس احفظهم باسمك الذين أعطيتهم لي ليكونوا واحدًا كما نحن. حين كنت معهم في العالم كنتُ احفظهم باسمك. إن الذين أعطيتهم لي قد حفظتهم ولم يهلك منهم أحد إلا ابن الهلاك ليتَم الكتاب. أما الآن فإني آتي إليك. وأنا أتكلّم بهذا في العالم ليكون فرحي كاملاً فيهم.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:**

- ❖ **BOWLING NIGHT: Friday June 18th.** We are hosting a bowling night at Hometown Bowl in South San Francisco. Ages 18-39. Event will start 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM! It will be \$20 for two hours of bowling and shoe rentals. Must RSVP so we are able to rent out the appropriate number of lanes. Please call or send Shadi Azar a text at (415) 279-2533.
- ❖ **CAMP THY 2021: June 20th-25th.** Divine Liturgy, Luncheon, and introductory day on June 20th @ St. Nicholas Church. Monday (6/21), Tuesday (6/22), and Thursday (6/24) to be hosted at Saint Nicholas. Wednesday (6/23) & Friday (6/25), our Sister Churches in Sacramento & Los Altos will be hosting us for activities. Camp Registration also includes a ticket to **Great America** on Thursday, June 17th, 2021. Register Now: <https://form.jotform.com/92868742644168>

### **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.



### **ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:**

- ❖ Offered by **Sami & Maritsa Wahhab** to congratulate **Nikolaos and Nawal Nikitaras** for the birth of their newborn girl **Sophia Nawal Nikitaras**. God bless and many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Sami & Maritsa Wahhab** for the good health and well-being of their family and in loving memory of **Father Farah Wahab, Jamil Khoury, Bishara and Milad Wahab**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran** for the continued good health of **Janan Howell** on the special occasion of her birthday on June 10<sup>th</sup>. God bless and many years!

### **CAMP THY UPDATES:**

1. **Great America-** Your one week Camp THY ticket (\$100/camper), now INCLUDES a trip to California's Great America Theme Park. We will be meeting on Thursday, June 17th, 2021 @ Great America in the parking lot (exact location TBA). Each ticket guarantees admission to the park, as well as a single meal. These tickets are LIMITED, so if you haven't signed up for camp already do so ASAP! Schedule, Flyer and Packing List attached below.
2. **Schedule-** The day-to-day schedule is provided below, but can also be found [here](#) on our website.
3. **Packing List-** The packing list is provided below, but can also be found [here](#) on our website.
4. **Camp THY Merchandise-** The youth from our Teen SOYO have partnered with our staff to help create and design Camp THY T-Shirts and Masks. These items can be purchased as a pre-order OR in person upon check-in. If you need any assistance in placing a pre-order, please reach out to Shadi Azar @ [shadiazar@campthy.com](mailto:shadiazar@campthy.com)
  - T-Shirts: \$15/each (Available Sizes: S, M, L & XL)
  - Masks: \$10/each (One Size Fits All)
  - ***Bundle: Purchase a T-shirt and a Mask for only \$20***
5. **Volunteer/Counselors-** It's not too late to sign up as a volunteer or a counselor! You can apply [here](#) on our website. If you'd like to find out more information, please reach out to Esther Clemence Batarse @ [estherclemence@campthy.com](mailto:estherclemence@campthy.com)
6. **Final Payment-** If you have not fulfilled a full payment for your child(s), please do so by Friday, June 11th, 2021 by check or credit card. If you need any assistance in processing your payment, please reach out to Ilyan Baalbaki @ [ilyanbaalbaki@campthy.com](mailto:ilyanbaalbaki@campthy.com)
7. **Questions?** If you should have any questions about the schedule, packing list, drop off locations, etc. please feel free to reach out to Claudine Batarse @ [claudinebatarse@campthy.com](mailto:claudinebatarse@campthy.com)



### **Metropolitan Anthony: Sermon on Sunday between Ascension and Pentecost**

During the Last Supper our Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples that separation was near, that He was to ascend to His God and to His Father as He would repeat again to the women who came to the grave. And when their hearts were filled with sorrow at the thought that they will not see Him again, He said, "Your hearts are full with sorrow and yet, you should rejoice for Me that I am returning to My Father. But I will not," he added, "leave you orphan, I will send you the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, whom I will send to you and who will teach you all things." And so do we here now while we are still in the light of the Ascension. St. Paul grieved about the necessity of living in the world and in the flesh. He said, "To me life is Christ and death would be a gain, a blessing, because as long as we are in the flesh, we are separated from Christ." And yet, this separation is not total, we are not separated irremediably, we are not separated desperately from Christ if we only long for Him, if we only love Him, if as St. Paul longed to die to be inseparably forever with Him because according to the promise the Holy Spirit has come on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit whom we call the Comforter by word, which in ancient languages has a much wider meaning. It means the one who consoles, the one who gives strength, the one who brings joy. His presence indeed can console us from our separation from Christ because the Holy Spirit if we only live according to the Gospel, if we become not only in word or in imagination but in all truth, in action and in thought, in our heart and in our being disciples of Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We become His temples and He speaks to us either in unutterable groaning or with that wonderful clarity that allows us to call 'Father' the God of Heaven because in Christ and by the power of the Spirit we have become the children of the Living God. So the separation from Christ is a separation in space, it is the loss of that moving, wonderful contact of humanity as we know it on earth but it is the beginning of a new discovery of Christ, the Christ not only risen but ascended, the Christ who according to today's Gospel is resplendent with the glory, the shining that belonged to Him before all ages, the shining, the resplendence, the splendour of Divinity. And it is this Christ whom we meet in prayer, whom we discover through and in the Holy Sacraments, to whom we can get united only by a faithfulness in life, it is this Christ of whom Paul speaks when he says, "We no longer know Christ according to the flesh", we do not touch Him as Thomas did, we do not hear and see Him as Apostles and the women, and all crowds of people did, but we know the Christ of the Spirit, the risen and ascended Christ, who is everywhere where two or three are gathered together, who is everywhere when a lonely soul cries for Him, when a life is being dedicated to Him. And so we are confronted with this mystery of a separation, which is a victory, a separation, which leads us to a new knowledge, to a new discovery of Christ. His Divinity is no longer veiled for us by His human presence, He is revealed to us as God resplendent not only in His Godhead but also in His humanity. And so it happens also all the time when people meet on a human level and then discover one another in the Holy Spirit, a discovery that makes humanity resplendent with eternity. Let us rejoice in the Ascension but also let us remember that in a week's time we will stand here remembering the day of Pentecost, not only remember it as an event of the past but bringing it back by presenting ourselves to the descent of the Holy Spirit as the Apostles offered themselves to Him in the Upper Room nearly 2,000 years ago. But to do this we must be disciples of Christ, we must be His own, we must be faithful to the word of His preaching, we must follow the example which He gave us, we must truly be in the world in which we live an incarnate presence of Christ and the temple of Spirit, a vanguard of the Kingdom. Let us devote the coming week to preparing ourselves by searching our lives, by rejecting at least in intention and determination all that is unworthy of our calling. Let us prepare ourselves to come open, empty to be filled with the Spirit, so that we truly may be also in an ever-increasing way become the temples of His presence.

## هذا هو أبي وأبوكم

بصعود الابن إلى السماء وبانتظار حلول الروح القدس، لا توجد فرصة سانحة أفضل من أن نتحدث عن الأب سوى الأحد الفاصل بين خميس الصعود وأحد العنصرة. يدهشك نص الإنجيل لأحد الآباء، ففيه يتحدث الابن عن أبيه. وهل هناك من يمكنه أن يفعل هذا أفضل منه؟ هل يوجد غيره ليحدثنا عن الله، وأن يقدمه إلهاً وأباً لنا، وأن يعطينا مثلاً حياً عن الوحدة القائمة بينهما وعن المحبة التي تفيض من هذه العلاقة علينا؟

بالفعل، انطلق يسوع من تعريف هو وحده قادر على أن يتفوه به بسلطان، ويسلمنا إياه بيقينية الخلاص الكامن في الحقيقة التي يعلنها لنا، وعبرنا للعالم أجمع: «هذه هي الحياة الأبدية أن يعرفوك (أي الأب) أنت الإله الحقيقي والذي أرسلته يسوع المسيح» (يوحنا ١٧: ٣). ينقلك ببساطة إلى حضن من يتحدث إليه، ويضعك في مصاف واحد مع تلاميذه الأوائل، كما حينما سمعنا الرب يقول لمريم المجدلية في صبيحة ذلك اليوم الفصحى: «إني أصعد إلى أبي وأبيكم، وإلهي وإلهكم» (يوحنا ٢٠: ١٧). ويضعنا في مسار واحد مع أولئك الذين عبروا عن خبرتهم تلك باستعمالهم عبارة «إله آبائنا».

يُدخلك الرب إلى مخدعه السري حيث هو قائم، ويريد أن يُقيمنا معه، هناك، مثله، من دون وجل ولا نقصان. تكتشف ساعتها أن إيماننا ليس مبنياً على «عنديّات» بشرية، «ديانة» كغيرها، بل تجد نفسك أمام ابن الله يتحدث إلى أبيه، الأب، ويعرفك به، ويصلي بك به، ويقدمه لك. زد على ذلك، أنك تصير شاهداً على العلاقة القائمة بينهما. بهذا يصير هذا الكشف مضمون إيمانك، ملكاً لك (خاصتك)، يقيناً تحمله، إيماناً تعيش بحسبه، خبرة تعبر عنها كما جاء في كتابنا: خبرة «ملكوت السموات» أو خبرة «الحياة الأبدية». يصير الله إلهك، والأب أباك، بحيث يمكننا أن نتوجه بالصلاة إلى من حدثنا عنه المسيح كما علمنا: «أبانا الذي في السموات» (متى ٦: ٩).

عيش هذه الحقيقة ممكن فقط إن آمنت بها، وإن قدمت نفسك له، بحرية، بتواضع. لا يهم إن كنت منكسراً، أو تعتقد أنك مظلوم أو سيئ الحظ، أو كثير العقد، أو مثقلاً بأحمال الحياة أو مجبوراً بالخطايا. أنت لك إله وأب واحد. تعرفه بابنه الذي حدثنا عنه، وأعطانا إياه، ووضعنا أمامه. بل يمكننا قول أكثر من ذلك: لقد أَرانا إياه إذ جعلنا شهوداً للعلاقة بينهما، ولم يحرمانا من أن نصير «وحدة الحال» القائمة بينهما نصيباً، بالنعمة، لا يُنزع منا، كما هي نصيبه هو. تكون هي إياها نصيباً لك، إن آمنت، إن أصغيت، إن تبت، إن أتيت إليه.

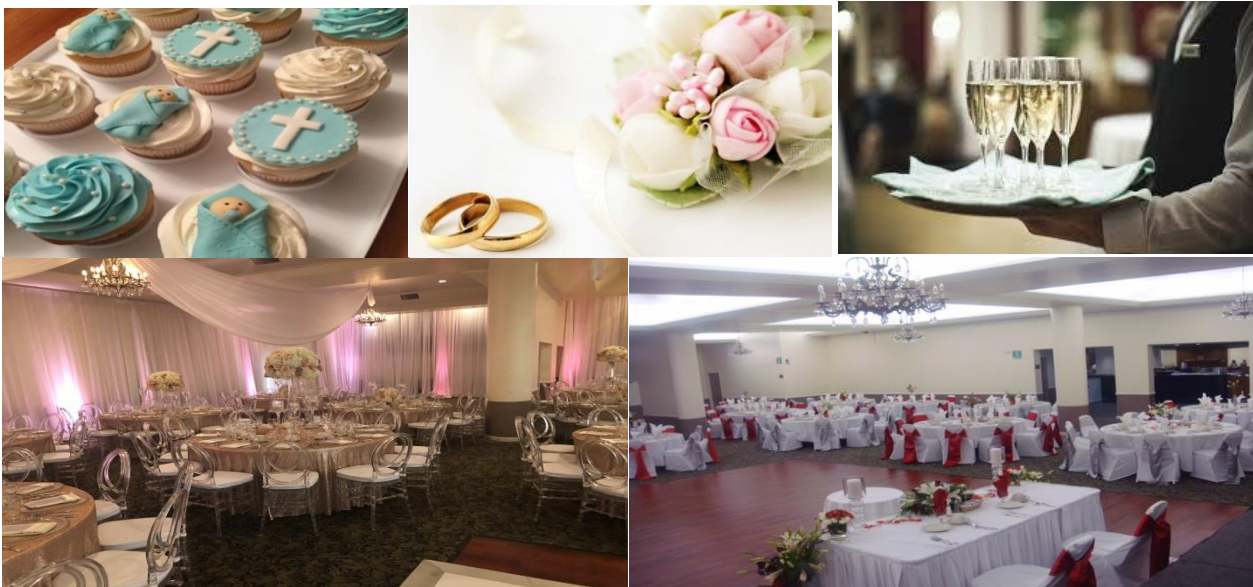
هكذا نعيش مغامرة كبرى، مغامرة تلامس عمق جحيم الغربة (عن الله وعن أبينا السماوي) وتقودك إلى علياء سماء المحبة والتبني الإلهيين. في هذا السعي، تتكون فيك بنوتك له وتعيش أبوتك له، إلهاً صالحاً (بحسب معايير الصلاح الإلهي وليس البشري)، فتأخذ من روحه لتعطيه. ساعتها يمكنك أن تشهد لله حقيقةً: لنا في هذا قاعدة أرساها الرب: «مجّاناً أخذتم، مجّاناً أعطوا» (متى ١٠: ٨).

كم نصيبنا كبير إن عرفنا الأب بالابن، إن حفظنا اسمه، إن عملنا بوصاياه، إن أتينا إليه وعاوناه لكي يأتي غيرنا إليه! كم صعب أن نقوم بهذا، أن نبقي فيه بحسب روحه، ألا نتنازل عنه لصالح أحد أو شيء آخر! لقد علم يسوع مرتنا بأختها مريم حينما قال: «مرتاً، مرتاً، أنت تهتمين وتضطربين لأجل أمور كثيرة ولكن الحاجة إلى واحد. فاختارت مريم النصيب الصالح الذي لن يُنزع منها» (متى ١٠: ٤١-٤٢). عسانا ننبت فيه إن كنّا قائمين، أو نعود إليه إن كنّا منكسرين، فنكون معاً، واحداً، بفعل صلاة الرب من أجلنا: «أيها الأب القدوس، احفظهم باسمك الذين أعطيتهم لي ليكونوا واحداً كما نحن» (يوحنا ١٧: ١١).

سلوان متروبوليت جبل لبنان

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- ADU potential



### **3156-3158 24<sup>th</sup> Street**

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

- Off Market Transaction
- Represented Seller



### **3801 Mission Street**

\$1,900,000 | 4 Unit Mixed-Use Property

- 30% + upside in rents
- ADU potential

**COMPASS**  
COMERCIAL





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REAL ESTATE LAW



ESTATE PLANNING



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