

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--website: 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

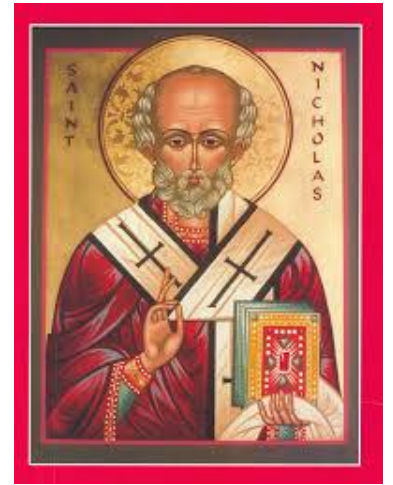
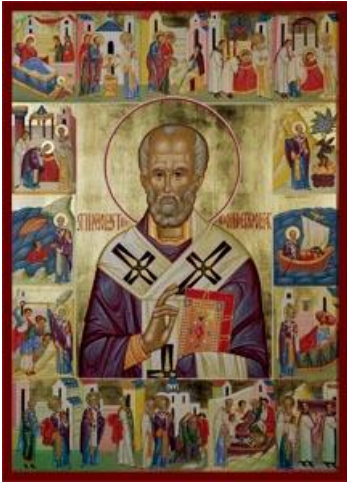
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. **Fr. Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, July 25, 2021

Dormition of Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos

Deepest Sympathy:

- ❖ We would like to offer our condolences and sympathy to the Karkar families for the passing of their beloved, **Hanna Karkar**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ We would like to offer our condolences and sympathy to the Alahwal and Habib families for the passing of their beloved, **Mufeed Alahwal**. May his memory be eternal!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHURCH IS OPEN! If you plan to attend, please make sure you 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!

THE EPISTLE: Galatians: 4:22-27

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by the handmaid, and one by the freewoman. But the one from the handmaid is born according to the flesh; whereas the one from the freewoman is through the promise. These things are an allegory, for these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for bondage, which is Hagar. For Sinai, which corresponds to Hagar, is a mountain in Arabia, and resembles the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is the mother of us all. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail: For many are the children of the desolate, much more than of her who has a husband."

غلاطية:

يا إخوة، كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ ابْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ وَالْآخَرُ مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ. لَكِنَّ الَّذِي مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ وُلِدَ حَسَبَ الْجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ فَبِالْمَوْعِدِ. وَكُلُّ ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ، لِأَنَّ هَاتَيْنِ هُمَا الْعَهْدَانِ، أَحَدُهُمَا مِنْ جَبَلِ سَيْنَاءَ، الْوَالِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، الَّذِي هُوَ هَاجَرُ. لِأَنَّ هَاجَرَ جَبَلُ سَيْنَاءَ فِي الْعَرَبِيَّةِ. وَلَكِنَّهُ يُقَابَلُ أُورُشَلِيمَ الْحَاضِرَةَ، فَإِنَّهَا مُسْتَعْبَدَةٌ مَعَ بَنِيهَا. وَأَمَّا أُورُشَلِيمُ الْعُلْيَا، الَّتِي هِيَ أُمُّنَا جَمِيعًا، فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ. لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «افْرَحِي أَيَّتُهَا الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ. اِهْتَفِي وَاصْرُخِي أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ، فَإِنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمُوَحِّسَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنَ الَّتِي لَهَا زَوْجٌ».

THE GOSPEL: Matthew (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou

castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

الإنجيل: متى:

في ذلك الزمان، لما أتى يسوع إلى كورة الجرجسيين استقبله مجنونان خارجان من القبور، شرسان جداً، حتى إنه لم يكن أحد يفكر أن يجتاز من تلك الطريق. فصاحا قائلين: "ما لنا ولك يا يسوع ابن الله؟ أجيئت إلى ههنا قبل الزمان لتعذبنا؟" وكان بعيداً منهم قطع خنازير كثيرة ترعى. فأخذ الشياطين يطلبون إليه قائلين: "إن كنت تخرجنا، فأذن لنا أن نذهب إلى قطع الخنازير." فقال لهم: "اذهبوا". فخرجوا وذهبوا إلى قطع الخنازير. فإذا بالقطع كله قد وثب عن الجرف إلى البحر ومات في المياه. أما الرعاة فهربوا ومضوا إلى المدينة، وأخبروا بكل شيء وبأمر المجنونين. فخرجت المدينة كلها للقاء يسوع. ولما رأوه، طلبوا إليه أن يتحول عن تخومهم. فدخل السفينة واجتاز وأتى إلى مدينته.

DORMITION FAST (The Fast of St. Mary)

On August 1st the fast of the Dormition feast of St. Mary starts, and it will end on August 15th, the feast of the Dormition of St. Mary. During this fast we abstain from eating: Fish, Meat, Milk and dairy. On Transfiguration we may eat fish, olive oil and wine.

The Paraklesis Service to the Virgin Mary will take place every Wed. and Fri. @ 6:00 P.M.

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

- ❖ Offered by **Afaf Dudum**, in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum**, on the occasion of his 8th year memorial. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **George Khanouf**, for the good health and well-being of his family: **Especially his father Henry, mother Rima, and children Henry, Christian, Giovanni, and Charbel Khanouf.**
- ❖ Offered by the entire **Nasser family**, for the good health and well-being of **Jalila Nasser** on her 95th birthday. God bless and many more years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Sunday, August 1st @ 12.00 P.M. Blackberry Farm** 21979 San Fernando Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014. **Donation: \$20 Adults. \$10 Children 12 & Under.** Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Church at 10:00 A.M. instead of 11:00 A.M.
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS:** \$50 Per ticket. Please contact Elias Batshoun (650)580-7185
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL:** October 2nd and 3rd. More info to come.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Alex Bazouzi Butte and Marissa Meisterling Butte** on the occasion of their matrimony.

We wish them happiness 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.



St. Nicholas Church celebrates the Agreement of Concelebration

Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church celebrates with the Palestinian and Jordanian Vicariate of the Greek Orthodox Church the Agreement of Concelebration.

We are proud to announce that his Eminence, the Most Reverend Joseph, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and his Eminence, the Most Reverend, Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, signed an agreement of mutual understanding and respect pertaining to normalizing the relationship with Palestinian and Jordanian Vicariate of the Greek Orthodox Church in California. This move marks a landmark in the unity of the two churches that took place nearly 30 years ago. As a celebration of the signing of this agreement, Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church of San Francisco represented by V. Rev Father George Baalbaki and its Parish Council, hosted a celebratory dinner that included Archiepiscopal Vicar of the Palestinian and Jordanian Vicariate V. Rev Father George Jweinat and representatives of the Parish Council members and executive committees of both Saint Nicholas Church and Saint George Church. Also in Attendance were Priests and chairmen representing the Antiochian and Vicariate churches from the bay area. This is a great win for our community.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=stnicksf&set=a.10159777250259994>

Metropolitan Anthony

The healing of the men of Gergesene

How familiar is this story to us. Yet every time we read it we rediscover something in it which touches our heart, or gives a new light to our mind. And to-day I would like to attract your attention to three features of this passage.

The first is the attitude of the devils, of the powers of evil, to their victims. The powers of evil have no other intention or desire than to take possession of a living creature and to make it both a sufferer and one that will fulfil their will. The Fathers of the Church teach us that the devils can have no direct action in this world; all they can do is enslave human beings and through them work the evil within them. So this is what these powers of evil had intended: to enslave these men and to make them instruments of destruction, but at the same time to make them suffer for it.

When Christ commanded them to leave their victims they cried, shall I say, for a place of refuge, a place where they could dwell and work destruction. And Christ allowed them to in-dwell the pigs. Pigs, in the eyes of Jews, were a symbol of impurity; the request to be lodged in their bodies was a sign for all who could understand - and every Jew could - that they were as impure as the impurest of the animals. But what happened next was a demonstration to people of what happens when we allow ourselves to be possessed of evil, when we allow passions to have power over us - hatred, lust, jealousy, and all the passions of body and soul. Being possessed by them we are doomed to destruction, as this herd ended in death.

We should remember this because we do not always realise how much we are in the grip, in the power of those things which rule our life: likes and dislikes, hatreds, resentments and so on. We are not only possessed, but we are also working evil through our subjection to the power of evil. And the warning is clear: if we only allow evil to take possession of us completely, it will mean death; not physical death, but a total, tragic alienation from all that is life: from God, from love, from beauty, from meaning. We cannot fall out of existence but we can be possessed of an existence which is a ghostly one, an existence without life, without content - a shell that is empty, and yet a torment.

And in contrast to this we see the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God become Man. He is the Creator, He is the Lord, He is the Saviour of the whole world; and He forgets everything, as it were, the whole of creation to pay attention to nothing but these two men who are in need of salvation, indeed He is prepared to leave ninety-nine righteous, whole people who do not need Him at that moment alone in order to give all His attention, all His life, indeed all His power to save these two men. In the face of all the need of the world He can see every individual need and respond to it with all His love, all His compassion, all His understanding and all His divine power to save and to heal.

There is a third group of people whom we see in action in this Gospel story; it is the inhabitants of the country. They had known of the desperate condition of these two men; they were told of what Christ did for them; they were told who their master was, who was their tormentor; should they not have come to give glory to God and thank Him for delivering the two men from the power of evil? NO! All they saw in the act of Christ was that they were deprived of their herd of swine. What mattered to them the wholeness and the life and the salvation of these two men? They were deprived of what was important to them, what mattered to them more than a human life, and they asked Christ to leave their borders, to go because they did not want to risk another miracle that would be costly to them. What a tragic - not monstrous, but just tragic contrast between the attitude of God and the attitude of these people.

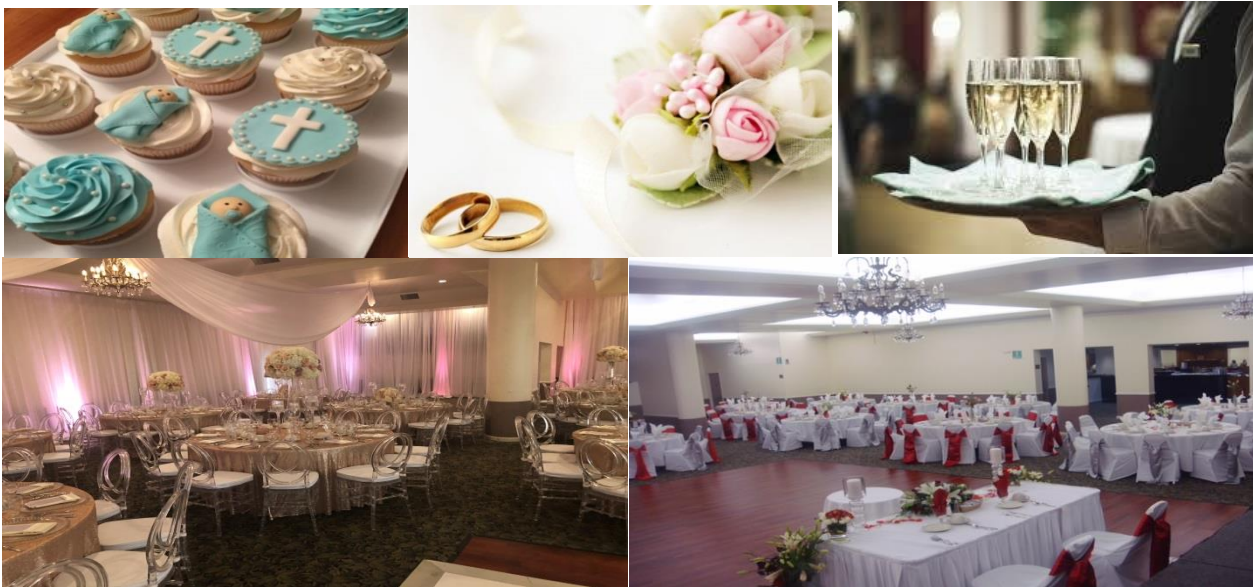
Let us give thought and ask ourselves, where do we stand? Of course, the first movement we shall have is to say, 'On God's side' - it is not true. When there is a tragic need, and the cost of helping would be perhaps not a disaster but a pain or loss to us, what would we choose? Let us reflect on this: are we really on the side of Christ Who can forget the whole world because His Heart is pierced, transfixed with compassion, or - do we allow our heart to be moved one moment, and then recalculate the cost and turn away from the need?

Let us reflect - because every one of these stories, every parable, every image, every act of God is challenging us: Where do you stand? Who are you? The person possessed, to whatever extent? A disciple of Christ ready to forget everything for the sake of a desperate need? Or rather one of those who say to Christ: Go, go away - you are disturbing our peace, the harmony of our life and our security?

Let us reflect deeply; but not only reflect, take a decision and act.

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



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
- Wheelchair accessible

REAL ASSETS. REAL RESULTS.

Considering Buying or Selling a Multi-Unit or Mixed-Use Property?

Specializing in Mixed-Use, Multi-Family, SRO's, and Commercial Properties in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

Having brokered over \$10 Million in the last year, no challenge is too big or small. Contact me for commercial real estate inquiries.



Hanna (John) Azar

Broker-Associate

✉ Hannajohn.Azar@compass.com

☎ 415 875 0177

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California operating under multiple entities. License Numbers 01991628, 1527235, 1527365, 1356742, 1443761, 1997075, 1935359, 1961027, 1842987, 1869607, 1866771, 1527205, 1079009, 1272467. All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity.



Recent Transactions



2844 21st Street

\$3,595,000 | 12 Units

- 40%+ upside in rents
- ADU potential



3156-3158 24th Street

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

- Off Market Transaction
- Represented Seller



3801 Mission Street

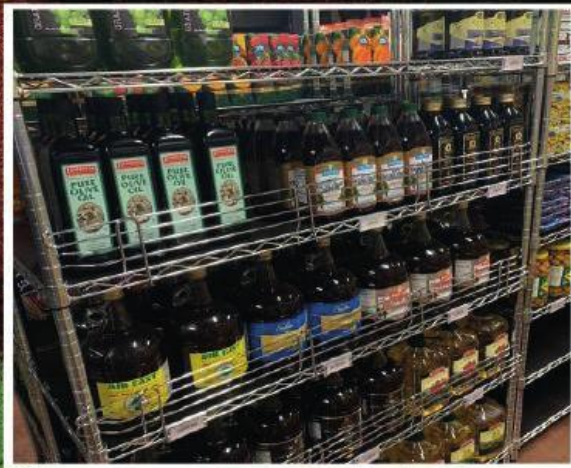
\$1,900,000 | 4 Unit Mixed-Use Property

- 30% + upside in rents
- ADU potential

COMPASS
COMERCIAL



**Your Favorite Mediterranean
Food, Spices, Sweets**



Follow us on [f](#) [@mosaicmarketbayarea](#)



9 37th street & El Camino , San Mateo



+1 650-477-2099



SAADEH LAW

JOHN SAADEH,
ESQ, MBA



BUSINESS LAW



REAL ESTATE LAW



ESTATE PLANNING



P: (650) 918-7465
Saadehlawfirm.com
john@saadehlawfirm.com

333 Gellert Blvd, Ste. 145
Daly City, CA 94015



REPRESENTING VICTIMS
OF SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY
& WRONGFUL DEATH

If you or someone you know has
suffered serious injuries or lost a
loved one due to someone else's
negligence...

make The Michael Law Firm
your first call.

- Wrongful Death
- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Burn Injuries (Fires/Explosions)
- Auto/Motorcycle Crashes
- Uber/Lyft/Taxi Accidents
- Falls (Slip/Trip) & Construction



(415) 447-2833
MichaelLawCA.com

ISSA MICHAEL, ESQ.
Trial Attorney Since 1996