

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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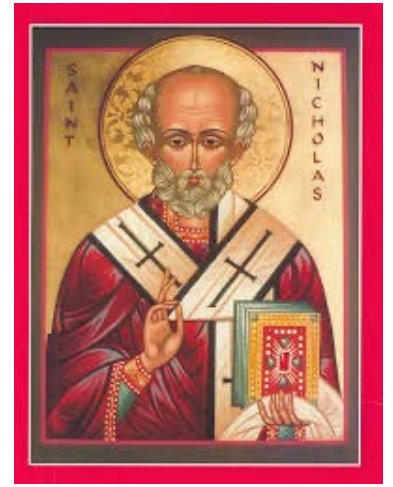
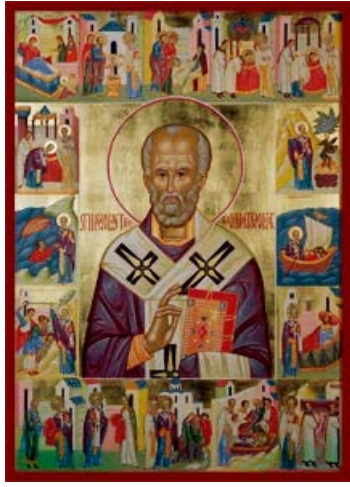
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Sub-Dn. Tariq Rantisi

Parish Council Chairman: Azar Azar

Parish Council Vice Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, August 01, 2021

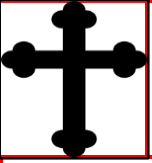
Procession of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

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!

Memorial Service Next Sunday August 8th:

Memorial Service for the Servant of God, **Hanna Karkar**, offered by his family.

May his memory be eternal!



Romans: (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us, let each use them accordingly: whether prophecy, let him prophesy according to the proportion of the faith; or ministry, let him give himself to the ministry; or the teacher, to the teaching; or he who exhorts, in the exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with simplicity; he who presides, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

رومية

يا إخوة، إذ لنا مواهبٌ مُختلفةٌ باختلاف النعمة المُعطاة لنا، فمن وُهب النبوءة فَلْيَتَنَبَّأْ وفقاً للإيمان، ومن وُهب الخدمة فَلْيَلْزَمْ الخدمة، والمُعَلِّمُ التَّعْلِيمَ، والوَاعِظُ الوَعْظَ، والمُتَصَدِّقُ البَسَاطَةَ، والمُدَبِّرُ الاجْتِهَادَ، والرَّاجِمُ البَشَاشَةَ. وَلْتَكُنِ المَحَبَّةُ بلا رياءٍ. كونوا مُحِبِّينَ بَعْضُكُمْ حُبًّا أَخَوِيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرَ مُتَكَاسِلِينَ فِي الاجْتِهَادِ، مَاقِتِينَ لِلشَّرِّ وَمُلْتَصِقِينَ بِالْخَيْرِ حَارِّينَ بِالرُّوحِ، عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ فِي الرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الضِّيقِ، مُوَظِّبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، مُؤَاسِينَ الْقَدِيسِينَ فِي اخْتِياجاتِهِمْ، عَاقِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَاةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. بارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهِدُونَكُمْ، بارِكُوا، وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

Matthew: (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—

He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

مَتَى
فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَاَزَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَإِذَا بِمُخْلَعٍ مُلقًى عَلَى سَرِيرٍ قَدَّمُوهُ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيْمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "ثِقْ يَا بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْكَتَبَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ "هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ." فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ فَامْشِ؟ وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. (حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ) "قُمْ، احْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ الْجُمُوعُ، تَعَجَّبُوا وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

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 **Almaz Tannous and her Children, Mike, Hani, Gihan, and Christine**, in loving memory of **Khalil Charles Tannous**. May his memory be eternal!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:** This Sunday after service, come join us at the **Blackberry Farm @12PM** for our annual church picnic. 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 TEEN SOYO PRESENTS "A NIGHT AMONG THE STARS"**
GALA: Saturday, August 7th from 6pm-11pm. \$50 per ticket, for ages 14-19.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfI-906ruQeDMhdMM6ku3DFW5tKRC4uWUAuEHcfyAFoHmsKlg/viewform>
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS:** \$50 Per ticket.
Please contact Elias Batshon (650)580-7185
- ❖ **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL:** October 2nd and 3rd. More info to come.

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.



Metropolitan Anthony

READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In the Gospel (Matthew 16: 3), Christ advises His disciples to learn to read the signs of the times. Can we read the signs of the times? Have we received this message, this calling compelling us to look at what the times say to us?

Our times say something which is very worrying: while centuries back the Christian Church proclaimed its message in a credible, acceptable way, while people who heard the message did

receive it and believed it, it seems that our message reaches only the few. It is not because the truth has changed, or because we must preach another Gospel than the integrity of the Gospel of Christ. Saint John of the Ladder says that the word of God is like a straight and pointed arrow, it can fly straight to its goal, it can hit the target, it can pierce any thickness and any resistance. But Saint John tells us also that the arrow will remain useless and dormant unless there is an arm, a bow, a string, an eye, unless there is an eye to aim the shaft, unless there is a vigorous arm to send it flying.

The arrow straight and pointed is God's message which we are to deliver to the whole world that it may be saved, as straight as the integrity of the Gospel - but have we got all God needs from us for this arrow to fly and hit the target? Is it not that the word of God remains unconvincing because looking at us people see no evidence that it has any power to transform life?

And here, we must read the signs of the times. The times, the people around us, the world is standing in judgment over us. Why is it that words of truth do not sound true? Why is it that words of life do not convey and impart life? Because we have not been hit in such a way as to possess life, as to be able to proclaim truth.

I would like to leave this thought with you, and each of us can ask himself what is the message he received from the Gospel, what is the life he had derived from it? What is the truth that has become the truth of his life? And only then can our message convey to men what God had imparted to us and commanded us to carry.

القاعدة الأخلاقية

يدور في أذهان الناس أنّ الوصايا العشر تحتوي كلّ الأخلاق المسيحية. الحقيقة أنّها نموذج وأنّ ثمة خطايا كثيرة لا تذكرها هذه الوصايا. أضف إلى أنّ الوصية الثانية: «احفظ يوم السبت لتقدّسه» هي أمر طقوسيّ يهوديّ ولم ينبق مرتبطين به فالربّ بقيامته حرّنا من يوم السبت. وإقلاعنا نحن عن العمل يوم الأحد ليس وصية إلهية. هو ترتيب كنسيّ، والأصل فيه إقامة القدّاس الإلهيّ. في العهد القديم عيّنه القاعدة الأشمل هي هذه: «أحبّ الربّ إلهك حبّك لنفسك» (لاويين ١٩: ١٨). هذه اتّخذها يسوع: «أحبّ الربّ إلهك بكلّ قلبك وبكلّ نفسك وبكلّ ذهنك. تلك هي الوصية الأولى والكبرى». وبعد هذا أضاف: «والثانية مثلها: أحبّ قريبك حبّك لنفسك» (متّى ٢٢: ٣٧-٤٠). ثمّ في إيجاز كلّيّ يقول: «بهاتين الوصيتين ترتبط الشريعة كلّها والأنبياء». الأخلاق في تعليم يسوع هي المحبة. ولكن ما الرباط بين هذه الوصية الجديدة والوصايا العشر؟ هنا يوضح بولس: «مَنْ أَحَبَّ غَيْرَهُ أَتَمَّ الشريعة. فإنّ الوصايا التي تقول: «لا تزني، لا تقتل، لا تسرق، لا تشته» وسواها من الوصايا، مجتمعة في هذه الكلمة: «أحبّ قريبك حبّك لنفسك». فالمحبة لا تنزل بالقرب شراً، فالمحبة إذاً كمال الشريعة» (رومية ١٣: ٨-١٠).

قد يبدأ الإنسان بالمحافظة على الشرائع، ثمّ إذا عرف يسوع يفهم أنّ قدرتنا على إتمامها تأتي من نعمة الله. فحتّى لا تكون الوصايا سيقاً مصلتاً فوق رأس الإنسان ينبغي أن تنبع من القلب الذي استضاء بنور المسيح. هذا هو العهد الجديد الذي تحدّث عنه إرمياء بقوله: «وأسكنهم في الطمأنينة، فيكونون لي شعباً وأكون لهم إلهاً، وأعطيتهم قلباً واحداً... وأقطع معهم عهداً أبدياً أيّ لا أرجع عنهم» (٣٢: ٣٧-٤٠). فلكون الروح القدس ساكناً فينا ونعرف الطمأنينة التي لنا من الله ننقذ كلّ كلمة منه. فإذا صارت كلمة فينا تنبع هي بالعمل الصالح. نحن صرنا في ملكوت المسيح وفي سيادته علينا، في ذوقنا لحبه لنا نعمل ما يرضيه وهذا يعطينا الفرح. عند ظهور الملكوت بالمسيح أعطانا يسوع شرعة الملكوت المكثفة في إنجيل متّى في ما يُسمى عظة الجبل الواردة في الإصحاحات ٥ والـ٦ والـ٧ وما يقابلها في إنجيل لوقا.

هذه تبدأ بالتطويات: «طوبى للمساكين بالروح». يسوع لا يأتي بشريعة لا يعرف العهد القديم أصولها. إنّ جاء ليكمل تلك. يسوع يحقق النبوءة ويصل بها إلى كمالها. يجعلها ممكنة بالحبّ الذي هو أعطاه. يسوع يملأ الشريعة القديمة ويربطها بسرّ الحبّ. كانت وصية فوق الإنسان. الآن تأتي من الإنسان الذي أسلم نفسه للسيد.

يسوع يصل إلى الجذور. «سمعت أنّه قيل للأوّلين: «لا تقتل...» أمّا أنا فأقول لكم: مَنْ غَضِبَ عَلَى أَخِيهِ اسْتَوْجِبَ حُكْمَ الْقَضَاءِ». كذلك: «سمعت أنّه قيل «لا تزني»، أمّا أنا فأقول لكم: مَنْ نَظَرَ إِلَى امْرَأَةٍ بِشَهْوَةٍ، زَنَى بِهَا فِي قَلْبِهِ». المسألة ليست أن نمتنع عن شيء خارجيّ بل أن نظهر القلب كيلا يميل إلى السوء.

من هنا أنّ الاخلاق المسيحية تقوم على أن يروّض الإنسان نفسه على أن تحبّ السيّد وأن يراقبها حتّى تمتنع عن الخطيئة وتحبّ الخير. إذ ذاك، الوصايا تنبع تلقائياً من القلب المتطهر.

المطران جاورجيوس

SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

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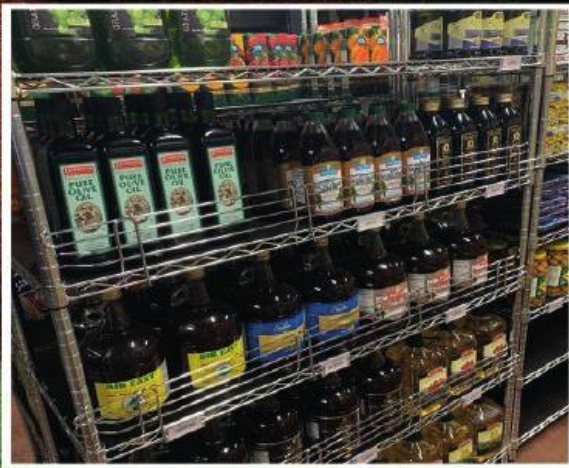
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