

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

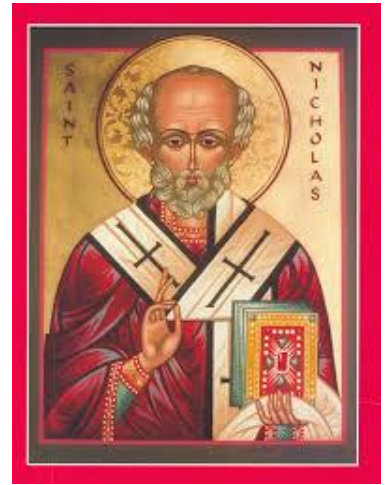
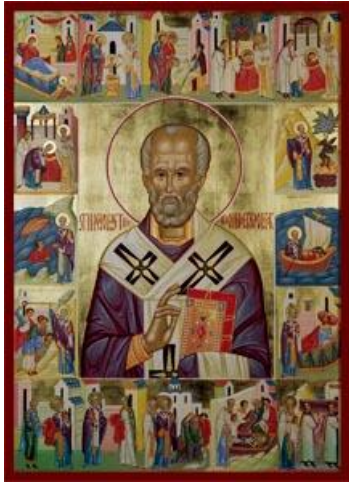
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Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

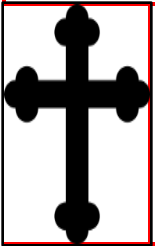
Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, August 8, 2021

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:

- ❖ Memorial Service for the Servant of God, **Hanna Karkar**, offered by his family.
- ❖ One Year Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God, **Henriette Boutros Saoud**, will be held in Sacramento, offered by her children.
May their Memory be Eternal!

THE EPISTLE: Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good for his edification. For Christ also did not please Himself; but, as it is written: "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me." For whatever was written beforehand was written for our learning, that we might have hope, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, even as Christ has also received you, to the glory of God.

رومية

يا إخوة، يحبّ علينا نحن الأقوياء أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء، ولا نرضى أنفسنا. فليرض كل واحد منا قريبه للخير، لأجل البنّيان. فإن المسيح لم يرض نفسه، ولكن كما كتب "تعبيرات مُعِيرِك وَقَعَتْ عَلَيَّ." لأن كل ما كتب من قبل، إنما كتب لتعليمنا، ليكون لنا الرجاء بالصبر وبتعزية الكتب. وليعطكم إله الصبر والتعزية أن تكونوا مُتَّفِقِي الآراء فيما بينكم، بحسب المسيح يسوع. حتى إنكم بنفس واحدة وفم واحد تُمجدون الله أبا ربنا يسوع المسيح. من أجل ذلك، فلينخذ بعضكم بعضاً كما اتخذكم المسيح لمجد الله.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was

brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

مَتَّى

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازٌ، تَبِعَهُ أَعْمِيَانِ يَصِيحَانِ وَيَقُولَانِ: اِرْحَمْنَا يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ. فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ الْأَعْمِيَانِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: هَلْ تُؤْمِنَانِ أَنِّي أَقْدِرُ أَنْ أَفْعَلَ ذَلِكَ؟ فَقَالَا لَهُ: نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ. حِينَئِذٍ لَمَسَ أَعْيُنُهُمَا قَائِلًا: كَايْمَانُكُمَا فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمَا. فَاثْقَتَحَتْ أَعْيُنُهُمَا. فَانْتَهَرَ هُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: انْظُرَا، لَا يَعْلَمُ أَحَدٌ. فَلَمَّا خَرَجَا، شَهِرَاهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا. وَبَعْدَ خُرُوجِهِمَا، قَدَّمُوا إِلَيْهِ أُخْرَسَ بِهِ شَيْطَانٌ. فَلَمَّا أَخْرَجَ الشَّيْطَانُ، تَكَلَّمَ الْأُخْرَسُ. فَتَعَجَّبَتِ الْجُمُوعُ قَائِلِينَ: لَمْ يَظْهَرْ قَطُّ مِثْلُ هَذَا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَمَّا الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَقَالُوا: إِنَّهُ بِرئيسِ الشَّيَاطِينِ يُخْرِجُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ كُلِّهَا وَالْقُرَى، يُعَلِّمُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ، وَيَكْرِزُ بِبِشَارَةِ الْمَلَكُوتِ، وَيَشْفِي كُلَّ مَرَضٍ وَكُلَّ ضَعْفٍ فِي الشَّعْبِ.

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:

- ❖ Blessing of the Grapes offered by **Afaf Dudum**, in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum**, on the occasion of his 8th year memorial. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Blessing of the Grapes offered by **Andy Azar**, for the good health and well-being of his family.
- ❖ Offered by **Pat Arango**, in loving memory of her Mother, **Anastasia Cosmos**. May her memory be eternal!
- ❖ Offered by **Sue Wais** for the good health and well-being of her Husband, **Donald Wais**, on the occasion of his birthday, her Daughter and Son in-law, **Jeanette & Jason Yoshida**, and her Grand Sons **Anthony, Khalil, and Dylan Yoshida**. God Grant them many years!
- ❖ Offered by **Sue Wais**, in loving memory of her Mother **Janette Abu Ghazaleh Tannous** on the occasion of her birthday and her Father **Khalil Fareed Tannous**. May their memory be eternal!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds, **Kamel Asfour and Anna Alhaj**.
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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

- ❖ **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC- ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH:** Sunday, August 15th at 11:30am. Rohnert Park Twin Creeks Park 5530 Kerry Rd., Rohnert Park, CA Donation: \$25 Adults. \$10 Children 10 & Under.
- ❖ **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.

Metropolitan Anthony: CHRIST'S MIRACLES:

We constantly read about Christ's miracles in the Holy Gospels, and we ask ourselves, "why is it that such things were possible in those days, and yet we see so few miracles in our own day?" I think there are three possible answers.

The first is that we do not see the miracles that surround us, we take everything for granted, as completely natural. We receive all the good things from the hand of God as though they were normal, and we no longer see that life is a wonderful, joyful miracle, that God wanted to create us, that He called us from non-being into being, laid open before us the whole miracle of existence. Nor did He confine Himself to this. He called us to be His friends for ever, everlastingly to live the eternal, divine life. He revealed Himself to us; we know that He is, we know Him in Christ as the God whose love did not falter even in the face of His own death which was to save those He loves. And what about those miracles that are even less obvious to us, like health, like peace, like friendship, like love? They are all pure miracles — you cannot buy them, you cannot force anyone to give you his heart; and yet all around us there are so many hearts open to each other, so much friendship, so much love. And our physical existence which we consider so natural — is not that a miracle?

That is the first point that I wanted to make: that the whole of life is a miracle. I know, of course, that there is much, very much pain and horror in it, but at the same time such a quiet yet unwavering light shines in the darkness: if only we could believe in the light, and so become children of light, as Christ says, the bearers of light?

There are two more remarks I should like to make. Today we read that the people were in need, that the apostles noticed this need and spoke to the Lord about it. And the Lord said: "It is up to you to relieve this need, to feed these hungry people". "How?" they said, "we have only two fishes and five loaves, can that possibly be enough for such a crowd?" And Christ blessed those fish and those loaves and it was enough for the crowd.

So what is expected of us in order that God can freely, by His sovereign power, perform heavenly miracles on earth? First, that we should notice someone else's need. So often we pass by it and do not open the door to God to allow Him to enter and do that which it is impossible for us to do. Let us open our eyes in order to see the needs of the people around us — material, psychological, spiritual; the loneliness and longing and countless other needs.

And another thing that the Lord urges upon His disciples is, "give everything that you have, and we shall be able to feed them all." The disciples did not leave aside some fish and some bread for themselves, they gave it all to the Lord. And because they gave everything, the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of love, the kingdom where God can act freely and untrammelled, was established and all were satisfied. This call is addressed to us also: when we see want, let us give all, and all will be well.

Now a final remark: when the paralytic about whom we read a few weeks ago was brought to Christ He saw the people's faith and cured the sick man. We can supply the faith that is lacking in those around us, we can carry them on our faith as on a stretcher. But faith is not enough; in the case of the paralytic there was not only the faith that the Lord could heal him, but there was caring love for the sick man. If only there were such love amongst us the beginning of the Kingdom of God would already be established in our midst, and God could act freely.

Let us consider this, for every one of God's miracles was introduced, and so to speak conditioned, by the participation of man. It depends on us that the Kingdom which we pray and long for should be established on earth, that Kingdom which we are called on to build together with God and in His name.

توصيات الى أهل رومية

يبدأ بولس حديثه في اللاهوت وينهيه بالأخلاق كما في هذه الرسالة الى أهل رومية. يلاحظ في بدء المقطع أن في الكنيسة أقوياء وضعفاء وكلهم إخوة. الأقوياء هم المتمسكون بالمسيح بشدة ويعرفون عنه الكثير بالفضائل التي في نفوسهم تستقبل السيد. والضعفاء ليس عندهم هذه الخبرة او ليس عندهم معرفة كبيرة. في الكنيسة نتقبل أحدنا الآخر لأن الله قبله. الكنيسة لا تقبل كبرياء العارفين كما لا تقبل أن يقول الضعيف انا هكذا وأصرّ أن أبقى ضعيفاً ولست أريد ان أتعلّم او ان أجاهد في سبيل بهاء روحيّ أعظم. كلنا يجاهد ليصل الى الذروة.

أمام هذا المشهد لنا "الرجاء بالصبر وبتعزية الكتب". نصبر من أجل رجاء أكبر وتمسك بالإيمان عظيم. والإيمان يأتي من الكتب المقدسة اذا قرأناها. وسطورها لا تنتقل اليها إن لم نقرأ. ودائماً أنا مصدوم لأن الكثيرين من إخوتنا لا يعرفون العهد الجديد، واذا اظبوا على الصلاة يسمعون 52 مقطعاً من الأنجيل الأربعة ويدركون قليلاً قراءة الرسالة وربما سمعوا شيئاً في الصيام. كيف تأتيهم تعزية الكتب؟

يضيف بولس، الى رجاء معرفتهم بالكتب، أن يكونوا مثقفين الآراء بحسب المسيح يسوع مستندين على العقيدة الواحدة واستقامة الرأي وما همّه أن يكونوا مثقفين في أمور هذه الدنيا، في السياسة مثلاً. الكنيسة ليس لها رأي في هذه السياسة او تلك إلا أنها مع الفقراء والمظلومين وضد الهدر والسرقة.

ينتج من هذا أننا "بنفس واحدة وفم واحد نُمجّد الله أباً ربنا يسوع المسيح". نمجّده من كل كياناتنا ونحن مثقفو الآراء التي تأتيها من إنجيله.

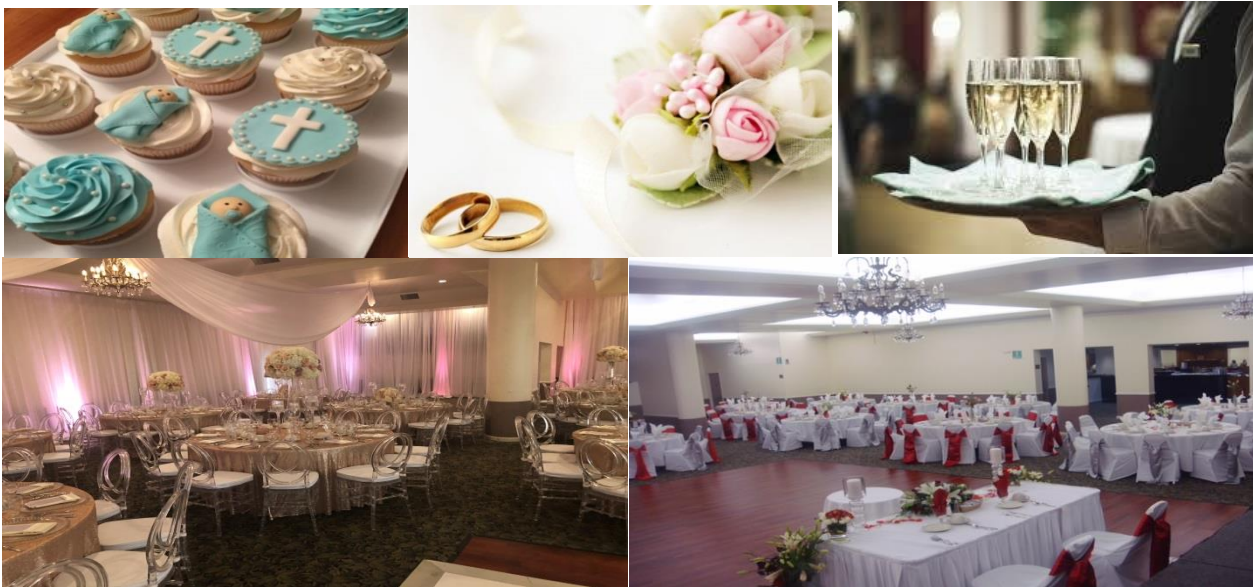
ثم يختم بقوله: "فليتخذ بعضكم بعضاً كما اتخذكم المسيح"، اي فليكن كلّ منكم للآخر مثل أب او ابن او أخ. تعهّدوه في الخدمة لأنكم معاً عائلة الأب. وفي كل هذا لا يسعى أحد الى مصالحه او إكثار محبّيه بل تعاونوا وأقيموا بنياناً روحياً واحداً لمجد الله. أنتم لستم غاية لذواتكم. تخدمون بعضكم بعضاً لكي يبقى الله سيّداً على الكنيسة. ساندوا بعضكم بعضاً ليس للمنافع المتبادلة ولكن لتكونوا واحداً لله في يسوع المسيح ربنا.

الله هو الذي يجعلكم واحداً بيسوع المسيح اذا أطعتموه. تعاونوا في تفعيل كل منكم موهبته للآخرين. هذا يعطي تعليمًا وذاك افتقاداً او إحساناً والآخر وعظاً او تدبيراً لشؤون الكنيسة. فلا يفرّق بينكم أحد لأن المسيح اذا أعطي من كل واحد للآخر يكون هو الجامع بينكم وتصير الكنيسة، اذ ذاك، جسداً واحداً عاملاً في كل فرد من أفرادها وهي موحّدة بنعمة المخلص لها وبقبول كل مؤمن فيها عطاء الرب، وفي هذا تبدون جسداً واحداً للمسيح حتى إنّ من رآكم موحّدين يكون شاهداً للمسيح الواحد القائم في كل واحد منكم. "المحبة لا تسقط أبداً" وهي التي تبني كلاً منكم وتبنيكم مجتمعين.

المطران جاورجيوس

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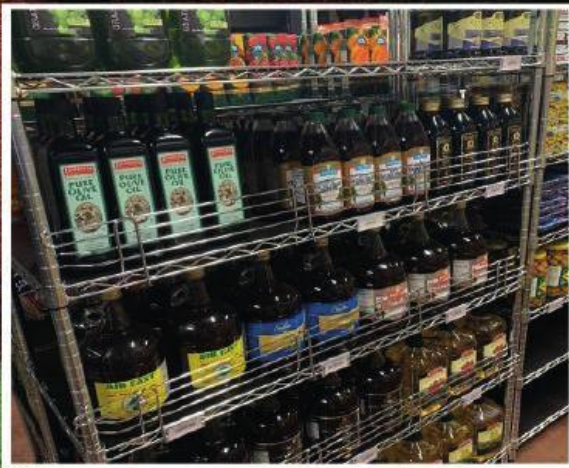
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