

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

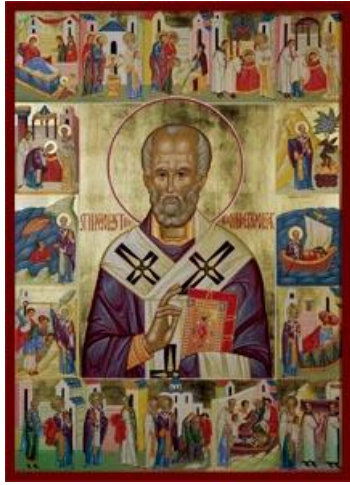
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Sub-Dn. Tariq Rantisi

Parish Council Chairman: Azar Azar

Parish Council Vice Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, November 21, 2021

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

عيد دخول السيدة الى الهيكل

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

CHURCH IS OPEN! If you plan to attend, please make sure to wear a mask 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 SERVICES:



One Year Memorial Service for the Servant
of God,

Sub- Deacon Michel Khoury.

May His Memory Be Eternal!



Forty Days Memorial Service for the
Servant of God,

Salim Fassho.

May His memory Be Eternal!

NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 24th

We would like to wish you a happy Advent season!

Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period preceding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality and the preparation for the feast of the advent of our Lord on December 25th.

بدء صوم الميلاد: أبناء الرعية الأحباء: كل عام وأنتم بألف خير.

في كنيستنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد في ١٥ تشرين الثاني، ويستمر حتى ٢٤ كانون الأول. صوم مبارك



THE EPISTLE: Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these

things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

الرسالة: عبرانيين 9: 1-7

يا إخوة، إن العهد الأول كانت له أيضا فرائض العبادة والقدس العالمي لأنه نُصِبَ المسكن الأول الذي يقال له القدس وكانت فيه المنارة والمائدة وخبز التقدمة، وكان وراء الحجاب الثاني المسكن الذي يقال له قدس الأقداس وفيه مستوقد البخور من الذهب وتابوت العهد المغشّي بالذهب من كل جهة فيه قسط المنّ من الذهب وعصا هرون التي أُفْرِخت ولوحا العهد، ومن فوقه كاروبا المجد المظللان الغطاء، وليس هنا مقام الكلام في ذلك تفصيلاً. وحيث كان ذلك مهيباً هكذا فالكهنة يدخلون الى المسكن الأول كل حين فيتممون الخدمة. واما الثاني فإنما يدخله رئيس الكهنة وحده مرة في السنة ليس بلا دم يُقَرَّبُه عن نفسه وعن جهالات الشعب.

THE GOSPEL: Luke. (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

الإنجيل: لوقا 10: 38-42 و 11: 27-28

في ذلك الزمان دخل يسوع قرية فقبلته امرأة اسمها مرتا في بيتها. وكانت لهذه أخت تسمى مريم، فجلست هذه عند قدمي يسوع تسمع كلامه. وكانت مرتا مرتبة في خدمة كثيرة، فوقفت وقالت: يا رب أما يعنيك أن أختي قد تركتني أخدم وحدي؟ فقل لها تُساعدني. فأجاب يسوع وقال لها: مرتا، مرتا، إنك مهتمة ومضطربة في أمور كثيرة، وإنما الحاجة الى واحد. فاختارت مريم النصيب الصالح الذي لا يُنزع منها. وفيما هو يتكلم بهذا رفعت امرأة من الجمع صوتها وقالت له: طوبى للبطن الذي حملك والتديين اللذين رضعتهما. فقال: بل طوبى للذين يسمعون كلمة الله ويحفظونها.

Holy Bread of Oblation is offered by:

✠ David Hanhan and his family, in loving memory of His Son, Joseph David Hanhan.

May His Memory Be Eternal!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Natalie & Luis Ocegueda and family on the birth of their daughter, Yasmine on October 28th. *Congratulations and God Bless!*

Parish Council Election will take place on Sunday, December 12th.

There will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the upcoming term.

The Candidates interested in running as a Parish Council member should be in good standing (spiritually qualified and pledged for the last two years).

Please submit your candidate's name to Father George and/or Azar Azar as soon as possible.

In order to vote in the elections, members must be spiritually and financially in good standing with the church.

The Feast of the Patron Saint of our Church * Saint Nicholas*:

Monday, December 6th, Celebrating the Great Feast of St. Nicholas the Patron Saint of our Church. Diving Liturgy at 11:00 AM *followed by a luncheon.*

SAVE THE DATE:

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: **This Saturday, November 20th, at 9AM.** We will host our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the less fortunate in our area. We will assemble sandwiches and goodie bags to distribute. This event is for everyone to join! We also need your help with donations to make this happen.

ST. NICHOLAS SUNDAY SCHOOL: **Sunday School is now in session!** Please encourage your children and teens to join our curriculum. We are also looking for more teachers. If you have any questions reach out to Esther Clemence Azar.

ST. NICHOLAS FUNDRAISING EVENT: **Friday, November 26th, at 7PM,** we will host a fundraising event for our sister church **Dormition of the Theotokos of the Greek Orthodox Church, كنيسة رقاد العذراء in Abood Palestine.** Father Emmanuel Awwad from Ramallah, and the pastor of that church will be sharing with us the success story of rebuilding this 1700 year old church, one of the first four churches built in Palestine. Light dinner will be served. Recommended Donation: \$50 per person.

BURBARA: On **Sunday, December 5th**, delicious Burbara Pudding will be served after Divine Liturgy. Donated by **Diana Batshon**, in loving memory of her husband **Michel Batshon, Janet Baqleh** for the good health of her family, and **Salwa Schnoudi** for the good health of her son **Naim Schnoudi**, on the occasion of his birthday. **Thank you Diana, Janet, and Salwa.** May God bless you all and all of your families.

THE FEAST OF THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR CHURCH *SAINT NICHOLAS*:

Monday, December 6th, Celebrating the Great Feast of St. Nicholas the Patron Saint of our Church. Diving Liturgy at 11:00 AM *followed by a luncheon.*

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS PARTY: **Friday, December 17th**, doors open at 7:30PM. Join us for an incredible night as we present the musically talented, **Bishara Sakhnini**, and live band led by **Maestro Radwan Shakshir**. \$100 for adults (food and open bar) and babysitter available for \$25 per child (includes a kids meal).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We would like to thank all of you that joined us, volunteered, and donated to our Thanksgiving Family Night. It was a beautiful event and **we are so thankful for you.**



Here is the link for the pictures from our incredible night!

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=stnicksf&set=a.10160026243804994>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is now in session! Please encourage your children and teens to join our curriculum. We are also looking for more teachers. If you have any questions reach out to Esther Clemence Azar at 415.994.6440. *Thank You!*

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH FOOD DRIVE



Tommorrow: Saturday, November 20th, at 9 AM, we will host our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the less fortunate in our area. We will assemble sandwiches and goodie bags to distribute. This event is for everyone to join: Teens, Young Adults, as well as adults! We will need all sorts of donations to make this happen.

Food / Drink Donations: *Deli meat, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, Mustard and Mayo packets, foil, bags of chips and small water bottles.* **Non Food Donations:** *ziploc bags, toothbrushes / toothpaste, hand sanitizers, band-aids, socks, t-shirts, sweaters, jackets, blankets, etc.* If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Shadi Azar. *Thank you in advance!*

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

is proud to host a fundraising event for our sister church

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

كنيسة رقاد العذراء
in Abood Palestine

Father Emmanuel Awwad from Ramallah, the pastor of that church will be sharing with us the success story of rebuilding this 1700 year old church, one of the first 4 churches built in Palestine.

Friday, November 26th, at 7pm
Light dinner will be served
Recommended donation: \$50 per person
5200 Diamond Heights Blvd | San Francisco

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Christmas Party



PRESENTING
THE MUSICALLY TALENTED

BISHARA SAKHNINI
LIVE BAND LED BY MAESTRO
RADWAN SHAKSHIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH | DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET HALL
5200 DIAMOND HEIGHTS BLVD, SF, 94131

\$100 PER PERSON
FOOD AND OPEN BAR
BABY SITTER AVAILABLE
\$25 PER CHILD
KIDS MEAL INCLUDED

-FOR RESERVATIONS-
CHURCH OFFICE: 415.648.5200
MAURICE KARI: 650.455.1600
ELIAS BATSHON: 650.580.7185
JERIES AZAR: 415.710.0456
SALIM QARU: 650.642.0168

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: 415.648.5200*



BURBARA: On Sunday, December 5th delicious Burbara Pudding will be served after Divine Liturgy. Donated by **Diana Batshon**, in loving memory of her husband **Michel Batshon**, **Janet Baqleh** for the good health of her family and **Salwa Schnoudi** for the good health and well-being of her son **Naim Schnoudi**, on the occasion of his birthday. Thank you, **Diana, Janet and Salwa**. May God bless you all and all of your families.



SOME REMINDERS:

***Parents, don't neglect your duty before God to take an active part: Try your best for your children to not miss Church Services and all of the Youth (children, teens, and young adults) Activities and Events.

***Practice personal evangelism. A sincere welcome shows visitors you are happy they joined us.

***Young adults should be Pledging Members of the parish.

***Notify Father George in advance of your departure, return, those who are sick, and those that need to be visited.

***All enjoy fellowship. Try to offer and sponsor a Coffee Hour after services.

God Bless You All!



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh FEASTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Since early days the Church has given to the Mother of God titles of holiness greater than those which are given to any saint. She is called the All-holy, Panagia. We venerate Her as One who is greater and holier than the Cherubim and the Seraphim, greater than the angels of God who, endowed with vision, can see, contemplate and adore, greater than the angels of God who are, as it were, the throne of the Most High. Because the ones as the others see, worship, serve God as their Lord, as their Master, and yet somehow they remain farther from Him than She, who in Her exceeding holiness has become the kin of God, has become the Mother of the Incarnate Word, who is the Bride, the perfect revelation of what the whole creation is called to be and to become.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Mother of God to the Temple quite obviously raises historical problems. We know that in Israel no one was allowed into the Holy of Holies, that the High Priest entered it only once a year after having undergone purification by sacrificial blood. What the feast stands for primarily is described, enlarged on, in a sermon on prayer written in the 19th century by Theophane the Recluse. The Holy of Holies, he says, is the heart of hearts of human worship. It is the place where men in the Old Testament can meet God to the extent to which God can be met. It is the heart of the mystery of Israel. It is also the point which somehow is beyond the point of the sacrificed. The sacrifice opens the door to it. The sacrifice somehow remains this side of it. And to enter into the Holy of Holies means first and foremost to enter into that depth of adoration, into that depth of prayer which makes one present to the living God, which makes one stand face to face with the living God. The presentation of the Mother of God, apart from historical features, is extolled by the Church because it indicates to us where She stands in the

whole of Her life, in the divine presence in complete surrender, in complete adoration. Tradition has it that she was brought by Joachim and Anna. On the icons you can see young girls with candles bringing her to the temples. She was handed over to the high priest, who took Her into the place to which he had no access himself. Now I don't think there is any advantage in discussing the possible historicity of an event of that kind. From a purely historical point of view it is unlikely that it could have happened. But what matters is what it stands for, and it stands for a moment when, having reached the maturity of a young child, but the maturity of one who can already worship, serve, lend an ear, be ready to respond and to obey, She chose all that and went into that depth of obedience, of listening, of attention to what was God's will. By what I say I do not mean to say that it did or did not happen. But what matters as far as She is concerned is obviously this aspect of the thing much more than the historicity of the event as described in icons or in folkloric tradition.



والدة الإله (المطران جاورجيوس)

عيد دخولها الى هيكل اورشليم منذ طفولتها يعود الى ما بين القرنين السادس والثامن للميلاد. هو عيد رمزي معناه أن الله هيأ مريم منذ وقت باكر لتصبح أم يسوع وتقدم لنا الخلاص به. ما من حدث مذكورة فيه العذراء قبل البشارة.

اختيرت القراءة الإنجيلية اليوم لنذكر مريم باسمها، ولكن المذكورة في القراءة هي أخت ألعازر. التلاوة الإنجيلية تتحدث عن بيت فيه مرتا وعن أخت لها اسمها مريم. هذه "جلست عند قدمي يسوع تسمع كلامه". هاجسها لاهوتي. اما مرتا فكانت مرتبكة بشؤون البيت. هذا أمر ذو أهمية ولا سيما أن عندها ضيفاً كريماً. نعرف من إنجيل يوحنا أن هذا البيت كان في بيت عنيا. بعد دخول يسوع البيت وجلسه، قالت مرتا للسيد: "يا رب أما يعنيك أن أختي قد تركتني أخدم وحدي؟ فقل لها أن تساعدني". يسوع يستطيع أن "يمون" في هذا البيت. إذ ذاك أجابها المعلم: "مرتاً، مرتاً، إنك مهتمة ومضطربة في أمور كثيرة، وإنما الحاجة الى واحد". لم يقل: الحاجة الى شيء واحد، ولكنه قال: الى واحد. ربما عنت الكلمة الحاجة الى شخص واحد وهو أنا. ثم أكمل قوله: "فاختارت مريم النصيب الصالح الذي لا يُنزع منها". العمل الأصلح أن نُصغي الى يسوع ونسمع كلامه وتالياً أن نُحبّه.

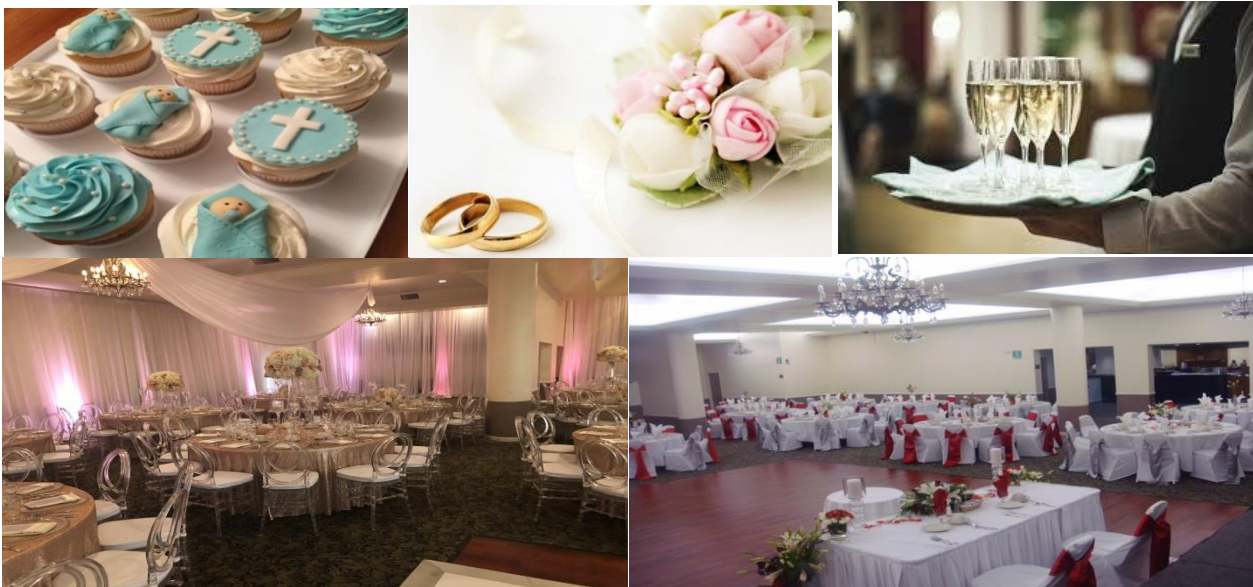
ينتهي الكلام عن مرتا ومريم. يبدأ كلام آخر من موضع آخر في إنجيل لوقا، اقتبسته الكنيسة من هذا الموضع وألصقته بالكلام الذي جرى بين يسوع ومرتاً ومريم. في هذا الكلام الأخير "رفعت امرأة صوتها وقالت له: طوبى للبطن الذي حَمَلَكَ. هذا كلام فيه تعظيم لوالدة الإله دون أن يتبين سبب هذا التعظيم. يسوع لا يُبدي رأيه المباشر في هذا التعظيم ولكنه يقول: "بل طوبى للذين يسمعون كلمة الله ويحفظونها". ليس المعنى أن الرب يُقلل من أهمية أمومة مريم له. ولكنه يرفع أهميتها الى كونها تسمع كلمة الله وتحفظها. أهم من علاقات الدم علاقة الانسان بكلمة الله سماعاً وحفظاً.

هل يعني هذا أن والدة الإله كانت تقرأ الكتاب المقدس؟ هناك أيقونات تُمثّلها قارئة لما جاءها الملاك. هذا ليس غريباً، فما من شك أن علماء اليهود كانوا يُعلّمون المؤمنين. هؤلاء أكانوا أمّيين أم قرّاء كانوا يستمعون الى الكلمة في الكنيس يوم السبت كما يستمعون الى المواعظ في اللغة الدارجة.

هذا العيد إشارة من إشارات عديدة على أهمية مريم العذراء، في الوجدان الأرثوذكسي. اللافت أن النصوص المريمية طوال الأسبوع وعلى امتداد الشهور كثيرة جداً. التابع ليسوع لا يسهل أن يُهمل في تقواه مكانة مريم في التجسد الإلهي.

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

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- 200 square foot elevated stage
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\$2,700,000 | 8 Unit Mixed-Use Property

- Off Market Transaction
- Represented Seller



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