

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**

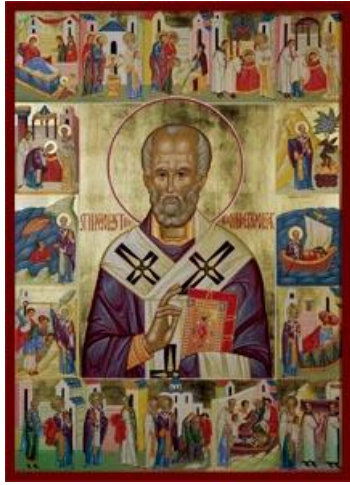
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, December 12, 2021

**Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ &
Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, the Wonderworker**

أحد الأجداد - عيد القديس سبيريدون العجائبي

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!

DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy
and condolences to

**Basma and Peter Tannous and the
Entire Imseeh and Tannous Families**

on the passing of

Khamis Ayyoub Imseeh

into eternal life.

May His Memory Be Eternal!

We would like to offer our deepest sympathy
and condolences to the

Entire Tannous Family

on the passing of

Almaz Tannous

into eternal life.

May Her Memory Be Eternal!

NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 24th

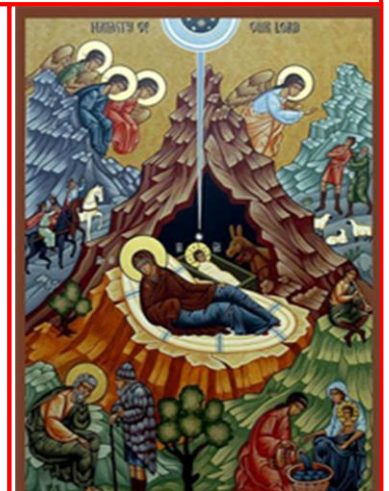
We would like to wish you a happy Advent season!

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 كنيسةنا الأرثوذكسية المقدسة، يبدأ صوم الميلاد في ١٥ تشرين الثاني، ويستمر حتى

٢٤ كانون الأول. صوم مبارك



THE EPISTLE: Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness

and truth—proving what is acceptable to the Lord; and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them; for it is a shame even to speak of the things which they do in secret. But all things when they are exposed are made manifest by the light, for everything that is made manifest is light. Therefore, he says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon thee.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.

الرسالة: أفسس 5: 8-19

يا إخوة، اسلكوا كأولاد للنور، فإن ثمر الروح هو في كل صلاح وبرّ وح، مختبرين ما هو مرضي لدى الرب. ولا تشتركوا في أعمال الظلمة غير المثمرة بل بالأحرى وبخوا عليها، فإن الأفعال التي يفعلونها سرّاً يقبح ذكرها أيضاً، لكن كل ما يوبّخ عليه يُعلن بالنور، فإن كل ما يُعلن هو نور. ولذلك يقول استيقظ أيها النائم وقم من بين الأموات فيضيء لك المسيح! فانظروا إذاً أن تسلكوا بحذر لا كجهلاء، بل كحكماء مفتدين الوقت فإن الأيام شريرة. فلذلك لا تكونوا أغبياء بل افهموا ما مشيئة الرب، ولا تسكروا بالخمير التي فيها الدعارة بل امتلئوا بالروح، مكملين بعضكم بعضاً بمزامير وتسابيح وأغاني روحية، مرتلين ومرتلين في قلوبكم للرب.

THE GOSPEL: Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

الإنجيل: لوقا 14: 16-24

قال الرب هذا المثل: إنسان صنع عشاء عظيماً ودعا كثيرين، فأرسل عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين: تعالوا فإن كل شيء قد أُعدّ. فطفق كلهم، واحد فواحد، يستعفون. فقال له الأول: قد اشتريت حقلاً ولا بد لي أن أخرج وأنظره، فأسألك أن تُعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد اشتريت خمسة فدادين بقر وأنا ماض لأجرّبها، فأسألك أن تُعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد تزوجت امرأة فلذلك لا أستطيع أن أجيء. فأتى العبد وأخبر سيده بذلك. فحينئذ غضب رب البيت وقال لعبده: اخرج سريعاً إلى شوارع المدينة وأزقتها، وأدخل المساكين والجدع والعميان والعرج إلى هنا. فقال العبد: يا سيد قد قُضي ما أمرت به، ويبقى أيضاً محلّ. فقال السيد للعبد: اخرج إلى الطرق والأسيجة واضطربهم إلى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي. فإني أقول لكم إنه لا يزوق عشاءي أحد من أولئك الرجال المدعوين، لأن المدعوين كثيرين والمختارين قليلين.

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل



Offered by **Naifeh A. Batarse and Her Children** for the continued good health and well-being of **Esther Clemence Azar**, on the occasion of her birthday on December 12th. *God Bless and Many Years!*



Offered by **Naifeh A. Batarse and Family** in Loving Memory of **Ester Clemence Shami**, on the special occasion of her birthday on December 16th. *May Her Memory Forever Be Eternal!*



Offered by **Nadim, Baasma, Janan, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon, and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran**, for the continued good health of **Jim Howell** on the special occasion of his birthday on December 17th. *God Bless and Many Years!*



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health of all who are named **Spiro**, after **Saint Spyridon**, on the occasion of their Names' Day! Especially: **Spiro George Hanhan, Spiro Akram Hanhan, Spiro Anwar Hanhan, Spiro Wael Hanhan, Spiro Peter Tannous, Spiro Tannous** and All those who have the name **Spiro**. *Many years and God Bless!*

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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

LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY: **This Sunday, December 12th, at 2 PM.** Ladies, please join us at *Inam Shami's House* for our Christmas party this year. If you would like to participate in our white elephant, please bring a gift no less than \$20. It will be a Potluck so please feel free to bring any dish you would like. If you have any questions or need address to the party, please reach out to *Sue Rantisi* at 650.823.2949. Thank you and hope to see you there!

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*. *Thank You!*

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS PARTY: **Next 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 (dinner and open bar), babysitter available for \$25 per child (includes a kids meal), and young adults for \$75 (dinner and open bar with reserved tables just for the young adults!). We look forward to seeing you all for a beautiful event!



ST. NICHOLAS YOUNG ADULTS WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY:

Dec. 23rd, 6:30-10PM.

Please join us for our annual Christmas party! Location is 151 S. Spruce Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080, in the back studio of Raymond's Sourdough Bakery! Food will be catered, bring a white elephant gift if you would like to participate! \$25 minimum please. If you have any questions, contact *Shadi Azar*.
Excited to celebrate with everyone!



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Bridal Feast

How often have we heard today's a parable about those people who were called to the Bridal Feast of the King, and who refused to come. The one who had acquired a plot of land; he thought he was in possession of it; in reality, he was so attached to it that he could not detach himself from it: he was a prisoner of what he thought he possessed. And so it is with whatever we imagine we possess; it is enough for us to have the smallest thing in our hand — and this hand is alienated to us; we cannot use it anymore, we cannot use our arm, our whole body is conditioned by what we possess, or imagine we possess: we are held a prisoner by it.

Others refused to come because they had bought five pairs of oxen: they had to try them, they had a task to fulfil, they had work to do, they had perhaps what they believed to be a mission in life, and therefore they had no time for anything except that that was their personal concern.

And the last refused to come because his heart was full of his own joy; having married, how could he be concerned with anyone else's marriage? He was full of his own joy — how could he participate in anyone else's joy? And so, they all turned away from the call.

Doesn't it apply very directly to us? Each of us possesses something that he deems so important that he is prepared to turn away from God — yes, from God: there is no time for prayer, there is no time for worship. At the same time we turn away from other people who need us because we are busy with our own business?

And how often happens that we are full of joy or of sorrow — but they are our own, we hug them to our heart, we have no time for anyone else's sorrow or anyone else's joy.

But then, what should we do? You hear every Sunday in the Liturgy words that say, 'Let us lay aside all the cares of this life'; does it mean that we must turn away from the earth on which we live, from the tasks which are ours, from the joys and true sorrows that come our way? No!

But there is an answer to it perhaps in the lines that precede the reading from the Epistle which we heard today, where we are told: Are you risen with Christ? Are you where He is? Is your life hid in God with Christ? What does it really mean to us? It means that if we are dead with the death of Christ to everything which is destructive of love, destructive of compassion, which is self-centredness, which is self-love, which leaves no space for anyone but ourselves — if we are dead to all this, and if we have accepted life on Christ's terms, ready to live for others, live for God, live for the joy and life of those who surround us — then we are risen with Christ, and our life is indeed hid with Christ in God, it is at the very depth of God, at the very depth of divine love! And then we can turn to the earth; then, instead of possessing we can serve, instead of overpowering we can try to bring this earth of ours, in an act of love, in an act of reverence to be free, to be God's earth, to be able to bring fruit, not as it does being raped, being violently possessed by us, but giving us its fruit in an act of responsive love. And the same applies to our tasks; we are called to serve, we are called to make of all our life an act of concern, of love, of service — then, all that we do becomes an act of God, then it becomes meaningful and it does not separate us from God.

And if joy has come into our heart, it is a gift of God; if sorrow has come into our heart, we can carry it to God, for it to be integrated in the mystery of salvation!

Let us reflect on this! Let us truly lay aside all the cares of this life in the sense that let us not be prisoners, but free: Christ has come to set us free. And then the earth, and our labour, and our joys, and our sorrows and everyone on earth will become part of the Kingdom of God. Then indeed, our life will be hid with Christ in God, but a God Who have chosen so to love the world as to be incarnate, to become man among men, to take upon Himself all the human destiny, createdness,

life in a fallen world, the consequences of human sin, and even the loss of God which is what kills. And, having accepted it all in an act of saving and redeeming love, He has risen, and anyone can enter into eternal life, the life of the resurrection by uniting himself or herself to Christ.

أحد الأجداد - المطران جاورجيوس

الأحد الذي يلي هذا، أحد النسبة، نذكر فيه الآباء بدءًا بإبراهيم، ومنهم جاء المسيح في الجسد حسب رواية متى. وهذه اللائحة هي لائحة الآباء العبرانيين مع أن إبراهيم لم يكن عبرانيًا. متى وجّه إنجيله إلى اليهود الذين كانوا ينتظرون أن المسيح يجيء منهم. غير أن السيد يجيء أيضًا ممن عاشوا قبل اليهود. وهذا ما سيذكره لوقا إذ يجعل الرب يسوع ليس فقط من إبراهيم ولكن من آدم. ربما كان لوقا وثني الأصل من أنطاكية أو كان من الدخلاء على اليهودية وأراد أن يعطي الطابع الانساني الشامل لشخص المسيح.

هذه الرؤية الشاملة جسدتها الكنيسة في هذا الأحد الذي نذكر فيه أجدادًا للمسيح هم من الأمم (أي من الوثنيين). نرتل في صلاة الغروب: "لقد زكيت بالإيمان الآباء القدماء، وبهم سبقت فخطبت البيعة التي من الأمم". وأيضًا أن المسيح المنقذ "عظم الأجداد في جميع الأمم". منهم من كان وثنيًا بوضوح، ومنهم من كان يهوديًا. يذكر ملكيصادق الذي أتى ذكره في الرسالة إلى العبرانيين.

هذا استقبل إبراهيم من كسرة الملاك وأعطاه إبراهيم عشرين من كل شيء. "لا بداءة أيام له ولا نهاية حياة بل هو مشبه بابن الله". وليس عبرانيًا. ونذكر الأجداد ابتداء من آدم.

لذلك كان المسيح أوسع من إسرائيل ورئيس إسرائيل الذي هو الكنيسة. لذلك يقول بولس في الرسالة إلى أهل غلاطية: "ليس يوناني ولا يهودي"، والمراد بها أن الآتين من الحضارة اليونانية صاروا واحدا في الكنيسة مع الآتين من إسرائيل، ويرادفها قوله "لا ختان (يعني اليهود) ولا قلف" وهكذا يُسمّى الوثنيين الذين لا يختنون. كذلك يقول "لا بربري ولا اسكيثي". البربري حسبما قال أرسطو هو غير اليوناني. الاسكيثيون من أصل إيراني كانوا ساكنين في جنوبي روسيا.

كل هذه الاختلافات العنصرية التي كان الأقدمون يعتدّون بها لا تتوحّد إلا إذا انضمت إلى المسيح، ومن هذه الزاوية تكون تخلصت من عداوة الأعراق، وكل ما كان عندها في وثنيّتها من خير وعلم ومعرفة يكون مهيبًا لمجيء المخلص. المسيح قبل ميلاده من مريم كان بطريقة أو أخرى مُتممًا كل الشعوب القديمة وتنتظره بما عندها من صلاح وفهم. فإن المسيح، لو كان من اليهود في جسده، إنما كان من الناحية المعنوية وريث كل الحضارات. عمدها بالإنجيل، وسقط من فكرها ما كان ضد الإنجيل، وثبت ما كان من الإنجيل.

كلمات للمسيح قبل تدوين الأناجيل كانت مزروعة في ثقافات الشعوب التي تقدّمت يسوع واعتنقته وورث منها المخلص ما ورث، وطرحته هي بمجيئها إليه ما كان يتنافى مع رسالته، وصار هو للجميع كل شيء. عندما نأتي إلى المسيح من أي موروث ثقافي، يبقى هو سيّدًا على كل ما نعرف ونحسّ، ويظلّ وحده قطب شخصيتنا ومنتهى طريقنا إلى الأب.

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!

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



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