

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

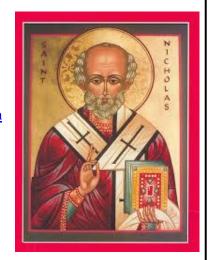
Email: <u>info@stnicholas-sf.com</u>--website:<u>stnicholas-sf.com</u>
His Eminence **Metropolitan JOSEPH**, Archbishop
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

(586) 214-4428 <u>revbaalbaki@yahoo.com</u>

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki** Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar** Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, February 6, 2022 After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

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 SERVICE

Nine days Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God, **Leila Khoury** offered by her family. *May Her Memory Be Eternal!*

THE EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

الرسالة: ٢ كونثوس ٦: ١٦-١٨ و٧: ١

يا إخوة أنتم هيكل الله الحيّ كما قال الله إنّي سأَسكن فيهم وأسير في ما بينهم وأكون لهم إلهًا وهم يكونون لي شعبًا، فلذلك اخرجوا من بينهم واعتزلوا يقول الربّ، ولا تمسّوا نجسًا فأقبلكم وأكون لكم أبًا وتكونون أنتم لي بنينَ وبنات يقول الربّ القدير. وإذ لنا هذه المواعد أيّها الأحبّاء فلنطهّر أنفسنا من كلّ أدناس الجسد والروح ونكمّل القداسة بمخافة الله.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

الإنجيل: متّى ١٥: ٢١-٢٨

في ذلك الزمان خرج يسوع إلى نواحي صور وصيدا، وإذا بامرأة كنعانية قد خرجت من تلك التخوم وصرخت إليه قائلة: ارحمني يا ربّ يا ابن داود، فإنّ ابنتي بها شيطان يُعذّبها جدًّا. فلم يُجبها بكلمة. فدنا تلاميذه وسألوه قائلين: اصرفها فإنّها تصيح في إثرنا. فأجاب وقال لهم: لم أُرسَل إلا إلى الخراف الضالة من بيت إسرائيل. فأتت وسجدت له قائلة: أغثني يا ربّ. فأجاب قائلًا: ليس حسنًا أن يؤخذ خبز البنين ويُلقى للكلاب. فقالت: نعم يا ربّ، فإنّ الكلاب أيضًا تأكل من الفُتات الذي يسقط من موائد أربابها. حينئذ أجاب يسوع وقال: يا امرأة عظيم إيمانك فليكن لك كما أردت. فشُفيت ابنتُها من تلك الساعة.

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل

Offered by Sue Wais for the good health and well-being of her husband Donald Wais & herself and her daughter & 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 beloved Mother, Janette Abu Ghazaleh Tannous on the occasion of her 4th year memorial and her Father Khalil Fareed Tannous.

+ May their memories be eternal!

Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health of **Mery Skef Saddekni** on the special occasion of her birthday on February 4th.

God Bless and Many Years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

*HOUSE BLESSING:

If you would like the V. Rev. Fr. George Baabaki to bless your home, please contact the church office or Fr. George to schedule a visit.

Church Office: 415-648-5200 | Fr. George: 586-214-4428

*SUNDAY SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION:

Welcome to the new 2022 Sunday School Year! We are excited to welcome everyone back and have new students join us! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Esther Clemence Azar at estherbatarse@gmail.com Thank you and looking forward to seeing all the children back at Church!

*ST NICHOLAS YOUNG ADULTS LUNCHEON:

This Sunday, February 6th, at 1:15 PM after Church service. This will be the young adults' first luncheon of the year. Come join us for some spiritual discussions, social fun, and great food. Election will also take place for 2022 young adult board. Looking forward to seeing you all! Seafood Station: 803 Cortland Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110.

*TEEN SOYO EVENT:

Friday, February 11th. More info. to be announced.

*JUDGMENT SUNDAY (Meatfare Sunday):

Sunday, February 27th. The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory.

*AHOS (Antiochian House of Studies):

Educational opportunities offered by the Antiochian House of Studies. We encourage you to register and learn in depth of our Orthodox faith. Please visit http://tahos.org/ to apply.

* ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT:
Saturday, March 5th. More details to follow.

*CAMP THY 2022:

June 20th – June 25th. Camp is back at St. Sava Mission in Jackson, Ca! Registration is open with limited space. To register or for more information, please visit: https://campthy.com/camper-purple-2 registration/

*70th ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2022:

June 29th – July 3rd taking place in Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, hosted by Orthodox Church of the Redeemer. To register or for more information, please visit: https://antiochianevents.com/la

2022 Great Lent <u>Lent Period: March 7th – April 23rd</u>			
Day	Date	Celebration	
Sunday	February 27 th	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)	
Sunday	March 6 th	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)	
Monday	March 7 th	FIRST MONDAY of GREAT LENT	
Sunday	March 13 th	Sunday of Orthodoxy	
Friday	March 25 th	Annunciation of the Theotokos (Fish Allowed)	
Sunday	March 27 st	Sunday of the Holy Cross	
Sunday	April 10 th	Catholic Palm Sunday	
Sunday	April 17 th	Orthodox Palm Sunday (Fish Allowed) /	
		Catholic Easter	
Friday	April 22 nd	Great and Holy Friday	
Sunday	April 24 th	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA	
Sunday	June 12 th	Pentecost	

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS February- December 2022			
Month	Day	Event:	
February	4 th	Teen SOYO Event	
February	12 th	St. Nicholas Annual Valentine's Party	
March	5 th	St. Nicholas Family Night	
June 20 th – 25 th		Camp THY	
June 30 th – July 3 rd		PLC in Santa Clara	
July	24 th	St. Nicholas Annual Day Picnic	
October 1 st – 2 nd		St. Nicholas Annual Festival	
November	19 th	St. Nicholas Annual Thanksgiving Family Night	
December	11 th	Parish Council Elections	
December	17 th	St. Nicholas Christmas Party	

The Reception of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ By Sergei V. Bulgakov



This feast commemorates the bringing of Jesus Christ to the temple by the Most Holy Mary, after the fulfillment of the days of purification (Lk. 2:22-39), established in the law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8; Ex. 13:2, 13; Num. 3:13, 8:16-18) with an offering for redemption consisting of 5 shekels. Although the Immaculate Virgin had no need of purification, she nonetheless came to the temple to fulfill the law. In the temple the Child was met by the righteous Symeon (Feb. 3). In sacred joy the holy elder sings praise and thanksgiving to God, having fulfilled the expectation of his heart, and, inspired with the feeling of unearthly blessing, takes the Child in his embrace and in the decline of his days utters the wonderful words, which the Holy Church repeats daily in the Vespers hymn at sunset: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in

in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel" (Lk. 2:29-32). Hearing these words, Joseph and Mary marveled at them for these words clearly witnessed that the mystery of God was already revealed to the righteous Symeon. Continuing then his divinely inspired prophecy, the righteous elder turned to Mary and pointing to the Child, said: "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through Thine own soul also), that the thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk. 2:34-35).

While the holy elder uttered his prophetic speech about the Divine Child, the Righteous Anna was in the temple (Feb. 3). She also added her inspired voice to the voice of Symeon, giving glory to God and, as a prophetess, probably, prophesying about the Child in a prophetic sense. Having fulfilled in the temple all that was required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary returned to Nazareth with the Divine Child.

From the event of the Reception of the Divine Child by the righteous Symeon the feast received its name in the Orthodox Church. The Event of the Reception is celebrated on February 2 because this day is 40 days after December 25. The origin of the feast goes back to deep antiquity. Undoubtedly, this feast was known in the 4th Century in the Church of Jerusalem; from Jerusalem it passed to other Churches in the 5th-6th centuries. Actually the solemn commemoration in the Western Church and in the East did not begin at one and the same time. Western writers attribute the establishment of the solemn commemoration of this feast (actually the Litya) to one Pope Gelasius (in the year 496), and others to St. Gregory the Great (in the year 600), and they believe, that in this way the named Popes meant to destroy the pagan feast of Lupercalia which fell in February and during that period was still strong among the Romans. The solemn commemoration of the Reception began in the Eastern Church in the time of Justinian (to 541-542). At the end of 541 in Constantinople and its surroundings appeared a strong plague continuing for 3 months and by the end of each day from 5 to up to 10 thousand people died. This affliction was soon joined by a new one - an earthquake in Antioch that destroyed many buildings and destroyed a lot of people. During these afflictions on the feast of the Reception in Constantinople an all national solemn prayer, or Litya, was done for deliverance from evil, and the afflictions stopped. In grateful commemoration of the deliverance from afflictions the church prescribed the Litya on this feast before the liturgy in the monasteries (outside the dwellings).

Celebrating the Reception of the Lord, the Holy Church, confessing and asserting that "Christ

revealed Himself to the world not as an opinion, or a phantom, but in truth", accuses those ancient false teachers who rejected the human nature in Jesus Christ, considering this to be unworthy and untrue of God. Together with this example of the Savior and His Immaculate Mother, who did all that was required by the law, it inspires us to fulfill the rules and rites of the Holy Church and reminds us of our churching in the Church of Christ, about our consecration to God, to Whom we also should bring our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice, pure and full of grace. Besides this the Holy Church, singing of Sts. Symeon and Anna on this feast, inspires us to find according to the example of the righteous Symeon, graceful comfort and salvation in Christ, entrusting to Him a beneficial meditation on his life and death, and by the example of the Prophetess Anna, as often as possible, to visit the temple of God and thank the Lord with prayers and fasting. Finally, the feast of the Reception teaches us, in the afflictions that overtake us, to turn to the Lord God, the ever quick Helper and Protector of all who call on Him with faith and true repentance.

الكنعانيّة: قدوة وشفيعة وأمّ حكيمة

في الإنجيل المعروف بالكنعانية، نلامس عربونًا لقيامة الإنسان بالمسيح. بالفعل، هل لك أن ترى كيف يخرج من قاعة المحكمة من كان محكومًا عليه حكمًا مبرمًا وقد حصل على أكثر من براءته، إذ حصّل كرامة أرفع وأسمى ممّا له، واعتبارًا أثمن وأبقى ممّا قد يراوده؟ حادثة شفاء ابنة الكنعانيّة تساعدنا على الاستدلال على طريق قيامتنا اليوم. لقد امتدّت المرأة الكنعانيّة نحو المسيح امتدادًا لم يحلها عن تحقيقه لا كونها من خارج ملّة اليهود أو كونها امرأة، ولا موقف التلاميذ المتذمّر من التماسها الرحمة من المسيح بإصرار. لم يثنيها شيء عن أن تناديه صارخة: «ارحمني يا سيّد يا ابن داود. ابنتي مجنونة جدًّا» (متّى ١٥: ٢٢). استمدّت قدرتها على الامتداد نحوه من استعدادها الكبير لأن تتفانى كرمى ابنتها حتى الاتضاع الأخير، خصوصًا باستخدام يسوع صورة رمي خبز البنين إلى الكلاب (متّى ١٥: ٢٦)، والتي تشير إلى النجاسة التي تأتي منها المرأة الكنعانيّة بداعي الطقوس الوثنيّة التي يمارسها أهل شعبها. وامتحنها يسوع أيما امتحان، فنالت الإكليل الذي حصل عليه الفتية الثلاثة القدّيسون في الأتون، بقيامتهم أحياء من الأتون المتّقد. اختارت الكنعانيّة أن تقبل المعنى المضمور في كلام المسيح والصورة المشار إليها، وأخذت على عاتقها إثم شعبها واحتملت العار الآتي من أن توسم بنجاسة أمّتها. لم تدافع عن نفسها ولا برّرت نفسها، بل اختارت أن تأنيه ابنتها.

أظهر ها يسوع، بهذا الامتحان، «قريبة» منه، فهو أخذ على عاتقه خطيئة الإنسان كلُّها وافتداه منها. انظر وا كيف احتملت الكنعانيَّة نار الاتّهام بقبولها الاتّهام واتّضاعها حتّى النهاية عندما أشارت إلى المسيح بأنّها، وإن كان لا يُرجى منها خير، إلّا أنّها آثرت أن تكون خيار اتها صحيحة وطمحت أن تُعطى هذه الفرصة، بقولها: «والكلاب أيضًا تأكل من الفتات الذي يسقط من مائدة أربابها» (متّى ١٥: ٢٧). هذا إقرار بنجاستها، من جهة، وبرغبتها، من جهة أخرى، في أن تكون قرب مَن يسعَهم أن يغذّوا جوعها إلى الُقداسة. ربّ قائل إنّ الكنعانيّة افتدت واقعًا بأكمله وعالمًا برمّته، في الوقت الذّي كانت نقطة البداءة متمحورة حول شفاء ابنتها. لم يتشعّب الموضوع، بل ذهب إلى العمق الذي يجيب طلب الكنعانيّة في حوار ها مع يسوع: بأن تأكل من فتات الخبز . هذه الحادثة قادتنا من هذا العمق إلى اكتشاف قدرة شفاعة هذه المرأة وإلى أن نختار ها مثالًا لأجيال بعدها. فهل نتبنّي هذه الشفاعة، المستقيمة روحيًّا والصالحة في كلّ آن، أمام أيّة معاناة نعيشها في سعينا إلى أن نلتمس معونة الله، خصوصًا إذا ما واجهنا الربّ بتقاعس لدينا ونجاسة فينا؟ نقلنا يسوع بالمرأة الكنعانيّة إلى ظفر كظّفر القيامة، بتطويبه إيّاها: «يا امرأة، عظيم إيمانك! ليكنْ لكِ كما تريدين» (متّى ١٥: ٢٨). أمّا هي فقد نقلتنا باتّضاعها من صعيد إلى آخر، من جحيم الغربة عن الله إلى فردوس الإيمان به، من النجاسة في العبادة إلى القداسة في التوجّه والموقف. أليس في هذه الخاتمة عربون قيامة يبشّر بالعافية والكرامة التي يقدّمها يسوع للإنسان؟ عند هذا المفترق في حياة الكنعانيّة، فاح عطر فرح قيامتها في أرجاء تلك التخوم المتغرّبة عن الإله الحقيقي والعبادة المقبولة منه. وهي استحالت علامة فارقة بين الذين هم من أهل الإيمان ومَن هم بعيدون عنه، وهي تدعو هؤلاء وأولئك على السواء، إلى الانطلاق بانسحاق وشجاعة وإصرار من جحيم العذاب وسلوك طريق الاتّضاع والتوبة وترجّى الله بإيمان. هكذا تقتنصنا إلى يسوع وتعلَّمنا أن نقبل الامتحان الحاضر بحكمة وصبر وامتنان، فتكون عرَّابتنا إلى الشفاء من غربتنا عن الله، كما كانت عرَّابة ابنتها في رحلتها نحو الشفاء. يضعنا امتحان الكنعانيّة أمام حقيقتنا. فمن جهة، هناك امتحان و اقعها الشخصيّ المتمثّل باعتلال ابنتها، وَمن جهة أخرى هناك امتحان نجاسة بيئتها والمتمثّلة بالوثنيّة. إنّهما واقعان حاضران في حياتنا اليوم. فهل نمتدّ في شقائنا نحو المسيح بإصرار كما فعلت هي؟ إيمانها الكبير نقلها من الهامش إلى أن تكون القلب النابض في الكنيسة، كنيسة القيامة، فهل نتبع في إثرها فننتعش كما انتعشت هي، وننعش معنا أترابنا كما أنعشت ابنتها بموقفها؟ هلَّا قبلنا أمُّومتها وشفاعتها اليوم من أجلنا؟ هلُّمُّ بِنا ٓ إِذًا نسجِد للربِّ مثلها و نتبنِّي دعاءها باستمر ار : «يا سيِّد، أعنِّي» (متِّي ١٥: ٢٥)!

+ سلوان مطران جبيل والبترون وما يليهما

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