

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

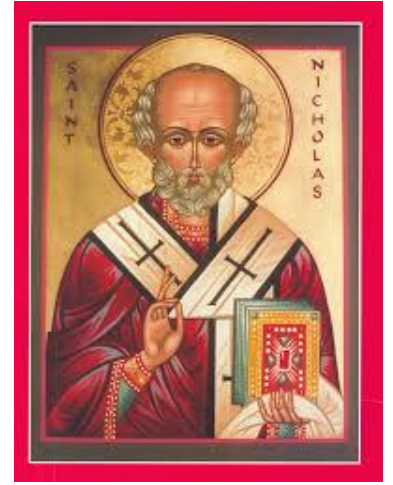
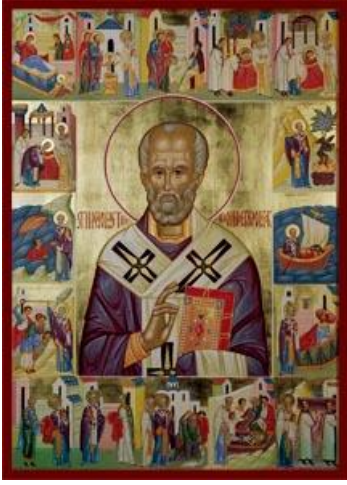
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, February 13, 2022

Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

أحد الفريسيّ والعشار

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!*

THE EPISTLE: Timothy (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

الرسالة: ٢ تيموثاوس ٣: ١٠-١٥

يا ولدي تيموثاوس إنك قد استقرت تعليمي وسيرتي وقصدي وإيماني وأناتي ومحبتتي وصبري واضطهاداتي وآلامي، وما أصابني في أنطاكية وإيقونية ولسترة، وأية اضطهادات احتملت وقد أُنقذني الرب من جميعها، وجميع الذين يريدون أن يعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيح يسوع يُضطهدون. أما الأشرار والمغويون من الناس فيزدادون شرًا مُضِلِّين ومُضِلِّين. فاستمر أنت على ما تعلمته وأيقنت به عالمًا ممن تعلمت وأنك منذ الطفولية تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة على أن تُصيرك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع.

THE GOSPEL: Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٨ : ١٠-١٤

قال الربّ هذا المثل: إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا، أحدهما فرّيسيّ والآخر عشّار. فكان الفرّيسيّ واقفاً يصليّ في نفسه هكذا: «اللّهمّ إنّني أشكرك لأنّي لستُ كسائر الناس الخُطفة الظالمين الفاسقين ولا مثل هذا العشّار، فإنّي أصوم في الأسبوع مرّتين وأعشّر كلّ ما هو لي». أمّا العشّار فوقف عن بُعد ولم يُردّ أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء، بل كان يقرع صدره قائلاً: «اللّهمّ ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». أقول لكم إنّ هذا نزل إلى بيته مبرّراً دون ذاك، لأنّ كلّ مَنْ رفع نفسه اتّضع، ومَنْ وضع نفسه ارتفع.

February 26th is Saturday of Souls. On Sunday February 26th, a General Memorial Service “For All Those Who Have Fallen Asleep Since The Ages” will take place. Special Commemoration will take place for all those who passed away recently! Memory Eternal.

سبت الأموات هو يوم السبت ٦ اذار. سوف نقيم يوم الاحد ٧ اذار تذكارا عاما لجميع الراقدين منذ الدهر من ابائنا واخوتنا على رجاء القيامة والحياة الابدية. سنذكر بشكل خاص جميع الذين رقدوا بالرب مؤخراً!

Offered in loving memory of all who have fallen asleep recently: **Leila Khoury, Almaz Tannous, Dr. Tali Bashour, Joseph David Hanhan, Basima Jaghab Atwan, Fr. Gregory Ofiesh, Hanna George Karkar, Hanna Yousef Qaqundah, Salim Fassho, Farah Massis, Samir Massad, Margo Bader, Suhaila Salfiti Rezkalah, Dr. Elias Kouchakji, and Hanna Skef.**

May their memory be eternal!

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل



In loving memory of **Salim Yousef Rantisi** for his 68th birthday offered by **his wife Mona Rantisi and children Cynthia, Steve, Krystle, Hanna and Claudia and their families Christian, Jasmine, Dominic, Giselle, George and Gabriel.** *May his memory be eternal!*



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health and well-being of **Summer Hanhan**, on the special occasion of her birthday. *God Bless and Many Years!*



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health and well-being of **Riad Husary**, on the special occasion of his birthday. *God Bless and Many Years!*

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:

*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!

*PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – Our Journey to Pascha! : Sunday, February 13th.

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

* ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT: Saturday, March 5th.

More details to follow.

***LADIES MEETING: Saturday, February 26th.**

Ladies, Please join us for our monthly meeting, it will be held at Inam's house , on Saturday Feb 26th at 11:30 am. Light lunch will be served: cost \$10. We will be discussing the yearly agenda, and setting up the activity for "March ladies' month". Hope to see you all!

Address: please contact the office for the address.

***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.

***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-registration/> .

***70th ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2022: June 29th – July 3rd**

PLC is 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> .

***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 Church

2022 Great Lent

{ Lent Period: March 7th – April 23rd }

Day	Date	Celebration
Saturday	February 26 th	Saturday of Souls
Sunday	February 27 th	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)
Sunday	March 6 th	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
Monday	March 7th	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 24th	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
Sunday	June 12 th	Pentecost

St. Nicholas Church 2022

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Month	Day	Event
February	6 th	Young Adults Luncheon – 1:15 PM at <i>Seafood Station</i>
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

Metropolitan Anthony

THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE



Today we are confronted with the story of the Pharisee and of the Publican (St Luke XVIII: 10-14). The Publican was aware of his unworthiness, he was aware that he was unworthy of presenting himself before the face of God, but also of being admitted into the company of respectable people, people of whom God would approve. He came to the door of the Temple and could not cross the threshold because he knew that in this world “soiled, polluted, desecrated by human sin, by blood and evil in all its forms, the Temple was a place which was devoted to God alone. All the rest of the world, to use a phrase of Satan tempting Christ, all the rest of the world "has been betrayed into my hands by man". But the Temple is a space which men of faith, frail indeed but believing in God, cut out of this realm of horror to be a vision of

divine beauty, a dwelling place for the One who as nowhere to rest His Head in a world that was stolen from Him and betrayed into the hands of the adversary. As the Publican stood on the threshold he knew that he belonged to the realm of evil, and had no access into the realm of God; and yet, he felt the difference, he felt horror at himself and a sense of worship, of adoration with regard to the Divine Realm. He beat his chest and asked for mercy because there was nothing else he could hope for and count on.

And the Pharisee stood right in the middle of the Church; he had walked in and taken his stand there as one who had the right to be there. Why? Not because he was a man of pure heart, but because he was faithful to every one of the formal rules established by the Synagogue, as a number of us are faithful to the outer, external rules of life that do not penetrate even through our skin, which do not reach our heart, which do not give a new shape and meaning to our thoughts.

So, again, we are confronted by two men and asked by Christ: who are you? Are you one who is so deeply aware of the sanctity of God that he knows that, apart from a God who would step down to us to heal and save, there is no access to Him. Or are we like the Pharisee who would say to God, throw it in His face: I have done all that is prescribed. You have nothing to ask of me!.. We are not that arrogant because we have not even the courage of being arrogant as the Pharisee was, neither have we got the constancy of courage to be as faithful as he was to the full of the life of the law.

Let us ask ourselves then: do we emulate the Pharisee in deed, outwardly faithful to all the tenets of our Christian Faith? And beyond this, do we allow our faith to transform our heart, to rule our will, to enlighten our mind?

This is the task which the Gospel offers us. Think about it. It will be one more step to pronouncing upon ourselves a judgement so that we are not condemned.

واقع التعالي وإقصاء الآخر ومداواته (من نشرة رعيتي – جبل لبنان)

يُقيّم مثل الفرّيسيّ والعشّار التواضع الذي تعتبره المدينيّة الحاضرة ضعفاً ومذلةً. إنّهُ رأس الفضائل لأنّه يحارب الكبرياء، رأس الرذائل.

يمثّل الفرّيسيّ نمط إنسان اليوم، المقتنع بقدراته الذاتية والذي يحصر علاقته بالله ببعض «الفرائض» الخارجية، متجاهلاً أنّ هذه العلاقة لا تكون فاعلة إلا بمحبّة الآخرين.

عالم اليوم هو عالم الفردية والتفوق على الذات وتمجيد الأنا بامتياز. بابتعاد الإنسان عن الله يجعل هذا العالم منه إلهاً بديلاً. فيعتبر هذا الإنسان أنّه محور كلّ شيء، وكلّ شيء متاح له، حتّى إذا تعدّى على الآخرين. أفقدتنا المدينيّة الحديثة كلّ حسّ بالخطيئة، وأقنعتنا بأنّه يحقّ لنا أن نمجّد ذاتنا وننظر إلى الآخرين نظرة متعالية، فوقيّة، ونعتبر أنّ التواضع لا يليق بإنسان عاقل. تخشى طبيعتنا الساقطة الآخر. من يخاف من الآخرين يرفض المجادلة والنقاش واختلاف الآراء. يجعل من الآخرين أعداء له كي يضيف عليهم تساؤلاته وقلقه، بخاصّة في أيام المآسي التي تُشعره بهشاشته وضعفه. يتناسى الفرّيسيّ النهج أنّ الخوف غلب مرّة واحدة على الصليب. وأنّ القائم من بين الأموات أزال كلّ كراهيّة، داعياً الناس إلى المحبّة والأخوة، معلّماً إياهم أنّهم ما عادوا بحاجة إلى «كبش للمحرقة»، لأنّ الإنسان الآخر هو شريكهم في الإنسانيّة، ولا يحققون ذواتهم إلا في التواصل المحبّ معه.

أمّا العشّار فيمثّل الإنسان العارف بضعفه، المتكلّ على الله، والذي يعتقد أنّ لا سبيل إلى الخلاص إلا في رحمته تعالى. نكتسب التواضع بعمل مشترك بيننا وبين الله. علينا أولاً أن نعرف ذواتنا بممارسة فحص للضمير دائم والإقرار بأخطائنا. والطلب إلى الله أن يفتح أمامنا «أبواب التوبة». التوبة الحقيقيّة تغبّر الذات وتقلب المقاييس وتجعلنا كما أرادنا الله عندما دمج صورته فينا. نتغيّر حقاً إذا تمثّلنا ببسوع الذي قال: «تعلّموا منّي فإني وديع ومتواضع القلب». نتعلّم من يسوع بالتعرّف إلى فكره في الكتاب المقدّس، والحوار معه في الصلاة، والاندماج فيه في سرّ الشكر والليتورجيا، وأخيراً وليس آخراً، بلقائه وخدمته في الإنسان الذي اختار أن يسكن فيه. فقط عندما ينمو المسيح فيّ وينقص الأنا أصبح متواضعاً. يكمن ميزان التواضع «في الغفران لأخيك الذي أساء إليك قبل أن يطلب المغفرة»، كما قال أحد آباء الصحراء. ويوصينا الآباء بعامّة بأن نمتنع عن كلّ إدانة. فكيف نتجرّأ على أن نطلب إلى الله أن «اغفر لنا ما علينا كما تغفر لمنّ لنا عليه»، إذا كنّا نضمر الشرّ لأخوتنا؟

لا يمكننا الوصول إلى التواضع الحقيقيّ إلا بمعونة الله. لذلك، لا بدّ من صلاة العشّار «اللّهم ارحمني أنا الخاطيء». إنّ تهتّداً واحداً منه، وصرخة واحدة من اللصّ الشكور، كانا كافيين لكشف محبّة الله لهما. لا تنفع الصلاة والاشتراك في الخدم الإلهيّة إن لم يقترنا بالمناقب الإنجيليّة في الحياة اليوميّة. لا تواجه تحديات العالم الحديث بإطلاق الأحكام ضده، بل بشهادة من يقتدي بالمسيح في حياته وعلاقته بالآخرين.

نهيئاً لمثل هذا العيش في الجماعة الكنسيّة، فنعني أنّنا، كلّما اشتركنا في القدّاس الإلهيّ، نُعلن إيماننا بالثالوث القدّوس المحبّة، ونؤكّد محبّتنا لبعضنا بعضاً. وبعد اتّحادنا بجسد الربّ ودمه الكريمين، نحمل حضور الربّ فينا إلى العالم الذي لا يعرفه. ولن يعرفه العالم إلا إذا أحببنا بعضنا بعضاً وأحببنا الجميع، وتجسّدت هذه المحبّة في سلوكنا وأعمالنا. ألا أعطانا الله أن نبدأ هذه الفترة التحضيريّة للصوم الأربعينيّ المقدّس بالتزام التواضع المؤدّي إلى المحبّة، عسانا نصبح قيايمين.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

Banquet Hall



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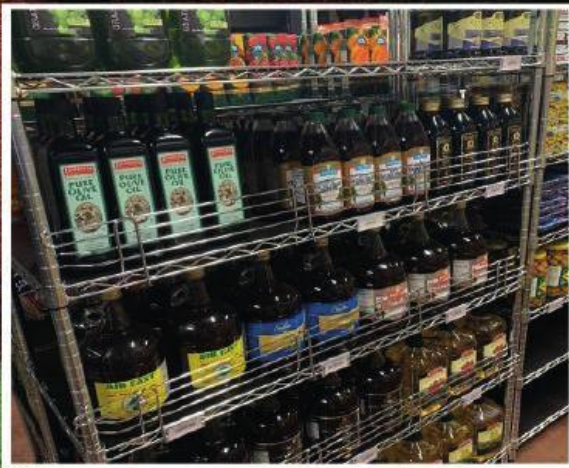
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