

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**

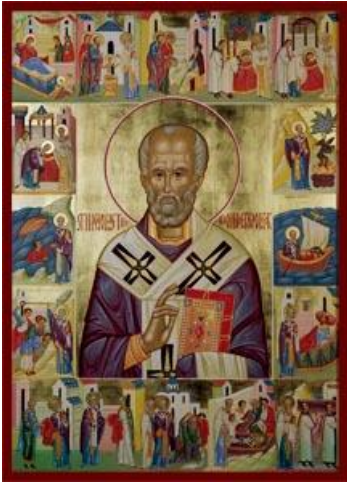
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, February 27, 2022

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

أحد مرفع اللحم - الدينونة

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!*

February 26th is Saturday of Souls.

On **Sunday, February 27th**, 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 26 شباط. سوف نقيم يوم الأحد 27 شباط تذكارا عاما لجميع الراقدين منذ الدهر من ابائنا واخوتنا على رجاء القيامة والحياة الابدية. سنذكر بشكل خاص جميع الذين رقدوا بالرب مؤخرًا!

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, Beatrice Nicholas, Hanna Dayeh, Hanna Skef, Dr. Christiana Najjar, Evon Mousa Kharbout, Nadia Khoury Abdal and Fuad Malouf. May their memories be eternal!**

If you would like to add your loved ones names, please contact Fr. George Baalbaki.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if any one sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

يا إخوة إنَّ الطعام لا يُقرِّبنا إلى الله، لأنَّنا إن أكلنا لا نزيد وإن لم نأكل لا ننقص. ولكن انظروا ألا يكون سلطانكم هذا معثرة للضعفاء، لأنَّه إن رآك أحد، يا من له العلم، متكئاً في بيت الأوثان، أفلا يتقوى ضميره وهو ضعيفٌ على أكل ذبائح الأوثان، فيهلك بسبب علمك الأخ الضعيف الذي مات المسيح لأجله. وهكذا إذ تُخطئون إلى الإخوة وتجرحون ضمائرهم وهي ضعيفة إنَّما تُخطئون إلى المسيح. فلذلك إن كان الطعام يُشكِّكُ أخي فلا أكل لحمًا إلى الأبد لنلَّا أشكَّك أخي. ألسْتُ أنا رسولاً؟ ألسْتُ أنا حرّاً؟ أما رأيْتُ يسوع المسيح ربَّنَا؟ ألستم أنتم عملي في الرب؟ وإن لم أكن رسولاً إلى آخرين فإنِّي رسول إليكم، لأنَّ خاتم رسالتي هو أنتم في الرب.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

الإنجيل: متى ٢٥: ٣١-٤٦

قال الرب: متى جاء ابن البشر في مجده وجميع الملائكة القديسين معه، فحينئذ يجلس على عرش مجده، وتُجمع إليه كل الأمم، فيُميَّز بعضهم من بعض كما يُميَّز الراعي الخراف من الجداء، ويُقيم الخراف عن يمينه والجداء عن يساره. حينئذ يقول الملك للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا يا مباركي أبي رثوا الملك المعد لكم منذ إنشاء العالم لأنِّي جُعتُ فأطعمتموني وعطشتُ فسقيتموني وكنْتُ غريباً فأويتموني وعرياناً فكسوتهم ومريضاً فعدتهم ومحبوساً فأتيتم إليَّ. حينئذ يُجيبه الصديقون قائلين: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعاً فأطعمناك أو عطشاناً فسقينك، ومتى رأيناك غريباً فأوييناك أو عرياناً فكسوناك، ومتى رأيناك مريضاً أو محبوساً فأتيينا إليك؟ فيُجيب الملك ويقول لهم: الحق أقول لكم بما أنتم فعلتم ذلك بأحد إخوتي هؤلاء الصغار فبني فعلتموه. حينئذ يقول أيضاً للذين عن يساره: اذهبوا عني يا ملاعين إلى النار الأبدية المعدة لإبليس وملائكته، لأنِّي جُعتُ فلم تُطعموني وعطشتُ فلم تسقوني وكنْتُ غريباً فلم تأووني وعرياناً فلم تكسوني ومريضاً ومحبوساً فلم تزوروني. حينئذ يُجيبونه هم أيضاً قائلين: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعاً أو عطشاناً أو غريباً أو عرياناً أو مريضاً أو محبوساً ولم نخدمك؟ حينئذ يجيبهم قائلاً: الحق أقول لكم بما أنتم لم تفعلوا ذلك بأحد هؤلاء الصغار فبني لم تفعلوه. فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب الأبدي، والصديقون إلى الحياة الأبدية.

قناديل الهيكل ALTAR CANDLES



Offered by the Children and Grandchildren of Nadim and Basma Howell on the special occasion of their 62nd wedding anniversary on March 6th. *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!

Ladies Auxiliary: Meat Fare Sunday Luncheon

This Sunday, February 27th, Our Ladies Auxiliary will start the Lenten season with a Luncheon. The first Sunday will be Meat pie and Zaatar pie.
To preorder, please contact **Janet Baqleh** at (650) 438-7371.

Teen SOYO's Bake Sale

This Sunday, February 27th, our Teen SOYO will be hosting a bake sale after Divine Liturgy. Selling Brownies, Cookies, and Cupcakes for \$3 per pastry.
Thank you for supporting our Teens!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

***SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School is in session! 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!

***NEWLYWEDS & MIDDLE-AGED FAMILY MEETING: Tonight at 6 PM.**

We will have our first Newlyweds & Middle-aged family meeting and dinner hosted by Fr. George. All Newlyweds and Middle-aged family members are welcome to join us! Feel free to bring your children as we will have a baby-sitter available. Please let Father George know if you plan to attend.

***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.

*** ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY NIGHT - Sponsored by the Tannous Family:**

Saturday, March 5th at 6 PM.

Please join us as the Tannous Family are sponsoring an incredible night to raise funds to help the needy families in Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon. We need your support! All you can eat buffet and live entertainment by the Superstar Nader Zaki, featuring Maestro Radwan and band. \$50 per adult and \$25 per child. Please contact the church office for any questions 415-648-5200 and God Bless you All!

***ST NICHOLAS YOUNG ADULTS & TEEN SOYO: MOVIE THEATER TAKE OVER!**

Monday, March 21st at 6 PM.

Please join us as we reserved a whole theater for St. Nicholas Young Adults and Teen Soyo to watch "Man of God," which follows the events of St. Nektarios, one of the most renowned saints of the Orthodox Church. This movie is being played only one day throughout the whole country. To secure the spot, we are asking for payment upfront. \$11 per ticket, we accept Venmo or Paypal. Please RSVP with Ilyan Baalbaki or Shadi Azar.

***CAMP THY (Three Holy Youths) 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>

***TREE OF LIFE:** If you would like to purchase a Leaf with your name or a loved one's name engraved to hang on the Tree, please contact the Church office.

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

2022 St. Nicholas Church CHURCH EVENTS

Month	Day	Event
March	5 th	St. Nicholas Family Night
March	21 st	St. Nicholas Young Adults and Teen SOYO Movie Take Over!
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
SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT

Today, on our preparation journey towards Lent, we have come to an ultimate stage: we are confronted with judgement. If we pay attention to it, next week our spiritual destiny will be in our own hands, because next week is the day of Forgiveness.

The link between these two days is too obvious. If we only could become aware that all and each of us stand before the judgement of God and the judgement of men, if we could remember and realise with depth, wholeheartedly, in earnest that we are, all of us, indebted to each other, all responsible to each other for some of the pain and the heaviness of life, then we would find it easy, when we are asked to forgive, not only to forgive, but, in response to this request, to ask for forgiveness ourselves.

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It is not only by what we do, not only in a way by what we leave undone, it is by this extraordinary lack of awareness, of our

responsibility, of all we could be to others, and to do to others, that we do not fulfil our human vocation. We could, and we should, on all levels and for all men, and beyond men for the whole world which is ours, be a blessing and a revelation of things great, of things so great, so deep that people, we first of all, could realise that we are on the scale of God Himself, that our vocation is not only to be morally good, but to be as great as God. A mystic of Germany said in one of his poems 'I am as great as God, God is as small as I.'

If we only could remember this, and this is why the judgement is not only a moment when we are confronted with a danger of condemnation; there is in the very notion of judgement something great and inspiring. We are not going to be judged according to human standards of behaviour of decency. We are going to be judged according to standards which are beyond human ordinary life. We are going to be judged on the scale of God, and the scale of God is love: not love felt, not an emotional love, but love lived and accomplished. The fact that we are going to be judged, that indeed we are being judged all the time, above our means, beyond all our smallness must, should reveal to us our potential greatness. And the parable which we have read today can be seen in those very terms: men are judged by Christ, in His parable, on humanity. Have these men been human or not? Have they known how to love in their hearts first, but also in action, in their very deeds because, as Saint John puts it, one who says that he loves God and does not love his neighbour actively, creatively is a liar. There is no love of God if it is not expressed in every detail of our relationship with men, with people and with each person.

And so, let us this week prepare ourselves for the final stage of our journey by asking ourselves in the face of this divine judgement, 'Am I human? Am I human within myself, in my behaviour - not my general attitude, but my ways: are they human? Is my life an expression of a fine, a thoughtful, a perceptive, a creative, and at times a generous and a sacrificial love?' As the object of love is the test of this love, it must be my neighbour; to love God who asks for nothing is too easy.

And if in the course of this week we find where we belong, we find both our shortcomings and the greatness of our vocation; if we make our peace with those to whom we are indebted, then, when the time comes to forgive, when someone else will have made the same discovery, we will be able with joy to give peace and forgiveness out of a sense of responsibility and of the creative joy of repentance.



العالم مليء بالنيّات الصالحة. وقد نتحلّى بأجملها وأبهاها، ولكن إن لم نترجمها أفعالاً على أرض الواقع ستبقى حبراً على ورق. والنيّات الصالحة تحمل في نفسها بذار المحبّة، فإن لم تقع هذه البذار في الأرض الصالحة، فكيف سيتسنى لها أن تنمو وتعطي ثماراً؟

ما يقتل النيّات الصالحة هي الأنانيّة المعشّشة فينا والتي تدفعنا إلى خيارات تتوافق مع نزواتنا وشهواتنا، وليس إلى اختيار أفعال المحبّة الصادقة. من منا لا يعرف معنى اللامبالاة بالآخر وبحاجاته، والتي قد تتطوّر إلى ازدرائه ولربّما إلى بغضه، لأنّه لا ينتمي إلى ما ننتمي إليه، سواء على الصعيد العائليّ أو الدينيّ أو السياسيّ أو الوطنيّ، أو حتّى إلى الاقتتال بدافع تأمين حاجاتنا على حساب حاجات الآخر.

وما يخمد فينا بريق النيّات الصالحة هي خياراتنا الخاطئة. فحسن استخدام حرّيتنا ينمي فينا طاقة المحبّة وروح الخدمة والمسؤوليّة تجاه الآخرين، بحال أخذنا كلمة الله على محمل الجدّ، وتعهّدنا أن نعيش إيماننا بصدق. لا شك في أنّ برود المحبّة فينا يفتح المجال لكلّ آفة وعلّة.

لذا يضعنا إنجيل الدينونة وجهاً بوجه مع أفعالنا، أفعالنا التي هي وليدة المحبّة المزروعة في أرض قريبتنا الطيّبة والصالحة والتي تثمر إلى أضعاف. ويضعنا أيضاً أمام الغربال الذي به نقوم استخدام طاقتنا وحرّيتنا ووقتنا، وكيفية النظر إلى حاجاتنا وحاجات الآخرين انطلاقاً من عيشنا لإيماننا.

في مثل الدينونة، وحدّ يسوع نفسه بالضعفاء، فدعاهم «إخوتي هؤلاء الصغار». فإن كنّا متّحدين به بالإيمان وشركة الأسرار المقدّسة، بدا طبيعيّاً أن تتمثّل إرادته ونحمل فكره (١كورنثوس ٢: ١٦) ونقتدي بمثاله (١كورنثوس ١١: ١). فقد تضامن يسوع مع العطاش والجياع والعراة والمسجونين إلى درجة جعلته يقبل كلّ فعل محبّة تجاه هؤلاء وكأنّه موجّه إليه شخصيّاً: «بما أنكم فعلتموه بأحد إخوتي هؤلاء الأصاغر فبي فعلتم» (متّى ٢٥: ٤٠).

كلّنا يتذكّر حديث بولس الرسول عن «الإيمان الفاعل بالمحبّة» (غلاطية ٥: ٦). فهل تشكّل هذه الحقيقة المبدأ الذي به يمكن للمؤمن أن يزن به كيفية استخدام محبّته وحرّيته؟ هلّا تبنيّاها وخطونا خطوة في هذا الاتّجاه، خصوصاً في ظروفنا الراهنة، سيّما وأنّها أظهرت الكثير من «الخراف» الذين التفتوا إلى حاجات قريبتهم وسعوا إلى تلبيةها، كما أفرزت أيضاً عدداً من «الجداء» الذين يحتاجون إلى إعادة نظر جذريّة في مقاربتهم واقعنا الإنسانيّ.

نعم، إنجيل الدينونة يدعونا إلى الخروج من منطقة الأمان التي نحصّن بها أنفسنا تجاه الواقع الصعب، إلى رحاب العمل على توسيع منطقة الأمان لسوانا، فنكون معاً في معيّة حياة، جنباً إلى جنب، بتضامن واضح، وانحياز كلٍّ لصالح المحبّة، العاملة والمنطلقة من إيماننا بيسوع، وعملاً بوصيّته بأن نحبّ إخوته الصغار. أوليس على هذا النحو نمجّد الآب، فيمجّدنا هو بدوره؟ عسانا نسمعه يقول لنا: «تعالوا يا مباركي أبي ربّوا الملوك المعدّ لكم منذ تأسيس العالم» (متّى ٢٥: ٣٤).

+ سلوان متروبوليت جبيل والبترون وما يليهما

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

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