

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**

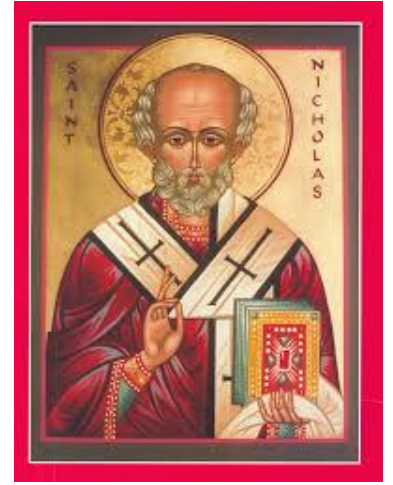
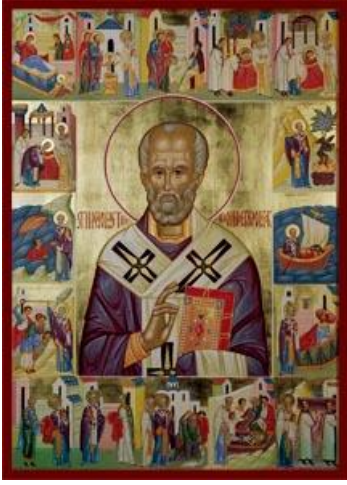
(586) 214-4428 revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, March 27, 2022

Third Sunday of Great Lent

Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

أحد السجود للصليب المقدس (الثالث من الصوم)

CHURCH IS OPEN!

Mask is not required but recommended regardless of vaccination status.

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: Hebrews (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٤: ١٤-١٦، ٥: ١-٦

يا إخوة إذ لنا رئيس كهنة عظيم قد اجتاز السماوات، يسوع ابن الله، فلنتمسك بالاعتراف، لأنّ ليس لنا رئيس كهنة غير قادر على أن يرثي لأوهاننا بل مجرب في كلّ شيء مثلنا ما خلا الخطيئة. فلنقبل إذا بثقة إلى عرش النعمة لننال رحمة ونجد ثقة للإغاثة في أوانها. فإنّ كلّ رئيس كهنة متّخذ من الناس يقام لأجل الناس في ما هو الله ليقرّب تقادم وذبائح عن الخطايا في إمكانه أن يشفق على الذين يجهلون ويضلّون لكونه هو أيضاً متلبساً بالضعف، ولهذا يجب عليه أن يقرّب عن الخطايا لأجل نفسه كما يقرّب لأجل الشعب. وليس أحد يأخذ لنفسه الكرامة بل من دعاه الله كما دعا هرون. كذلك المسيح لم يُجدّد نفسه ليصير رئيس كهنة بل الذي قال له: «أنت ابني وأنا اليوم ولدتك»، كما يقول في موضع آخر: «أنت كاهن إلى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق».

THE GOSPEL: Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and

the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

الإنجيل: مرقس ٨: ٣٤-٣٨ و ٩: ١

قال الرب: من أراد أن يتبعني فليترك نفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني، لأن من أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها، ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يخلصها. فإنه ماذا ينفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟ لأن من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطي يستحي به ابن البشر متى أتى في مجد أبيه مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم إن قوماً من القائمين ههنا لا يدركون الموت حتى يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة.

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل



Offered by **Michael & Nadia Rantisi and Family** for the Good Health of **Tariq & Marya Rantisi** on the occasion of their Birthdays. *God Bless and Many Years!*

 Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health and well-being of **Bashar Nashawati, Bishar Hennawi and the Entire Bashour Family**. *God Bless and Many Years!*



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** in Loving memory of **Bishara Wahab, Dr. Tali Bashour and Bishara Kubein** on the occasion of the Feast day of Annunciation. *May Their Memories be Eternal!*

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 **Chris and Michelle Rantisi** on the birth of their newly baby boy, **Luke Simon Rantisi**. From **Simon & Rima Rantisi and Jamal & Muna Saleh**. *God Bless you all!*

MARCH IS LADIES' MONTH

In keeping with the tradition in our Archdiocese, ladies will show their involvement in the life of the church in the most visible way during the month of March.

They will usher, collect trays, read the Epistle and deliver sermonette...

Our Ladies Auxiliary usually prepares a Lenten Luncheon on Sundays. This year they are asking for your help by donating or preparing food.



Sermonette:

Janet Baqleh



Epistle in Arabic:

Mery Skef Saddekni



Epistle in English:

Betty Husary

Lady Auxiliary Bake Sale! Palm Sunday, April 17th, following Church Service.

We are currently taking pre-orders via phone.

Ka'ak Date, Warbat, Walnut Katayef, Ma'moul: \$3 each

Helbeh, Maqruta, Burma, Hala with Jeben, Barazek, Baklava, and more: \$2 each

For Pre-orders, please contact the church office, Janet Azar, Inam Shami, Juliet Najjar or Randa Shatara. *Pre-order pick-ups are on Saturday, April 16th and Sunday, April 17th from 12 PM- 2 PM @ St. Nicholas Church.*

2022 Great Lent

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

Day	Date	Celebration
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
The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2022		برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام 2022
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm مساءً خدمة النوم الكبرى "يا رب القوات" الإربعاء
Fridays (Followed by Potluck)	Akathist Service	7 pm مساءً خدمة مديح والدة الإله الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy	11 am صباحاً القداس الإلهي الأحد

Palm Sunday Luncheon

On Sunday, April 17th, we will serve delicious Luncheon (Fish) after the service celebrating the Palm Sunday offered by **the Massad Family**. Donation: \$45

Please call the church office to reserve your seat in advance as soon as possible.

Good Friday Flowers \$50 (Minimum Donation) per Bouquet

الزهور لتزيين نعش المسيح يوم الجمعة العظيمة

Name: _____ الأسم

Phone Number _____ رقم التلفون

Donation(\$): _____ المبلغ

Message: _____

Good Friday flowers: Dear Parishioners: To avoid misspelling of the names, please mail or email the names along with the donation or put it in the tray on Sunday in an envelope with your name & write a memo that this donation is for the "Bier of Christ". Thank you for your cooperation.

Lenten Luncheon: Join us this Sunday, for Fish & Chips Lenten Luncheon offered by **the Shami Family**. If you would like to pre-order for pick-up on Sunday, please contact the *Church office (415-648-5200), Inam Shami (650-270-3369) or Sue Rantisi (650-823-2949)*. Donation: \$10 per plate.

PASCHA (EASTER) BREAKFAST ITEMS NEEDED:

As our custom, the family of St. Nicholas Parish enjoys breaking the Fast together on the dawn of the Resurrection day. After Divine Liturgy we will have breakfast together in celebration of the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Call the church office if you would like to donate items or finances. Thank you for your donations!

It is the time of giving!

Food for Hungry People

Seminarians and Family

IOCC for Ukraine

If you would like to donate to one or more of these charities, please send your donation to the Church office.

“Every drop of kindness has a ripple effect. You never know how far reaching each ripple might be. I have never seen anyone corrected through anger, but always through love.”

—St. Joseph the Hesychast

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

- ☞ **MENS MONTHLY MEETING:** Next Tuesday, March 29th, in the Church hall. All men are welcomed and encouraged to join us for our monthly meeting. Please contact Jeries Azar for more info.
- ☞ **NEWLYWEDS AND MIDDLE-AGED FAMILIES MEETING:** Friday, April 1st, at 6 PM in the Church hall.
- ☞ **LADY AUXILIARY MONTHLY MEETING:** Saturday, April 2nd. St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary will be having their monthly meeting at Mimi Hanhan's home in Sacramento. *All of you ladies are welcome!* If you are planning to join us, please RSVP with the *Church office (415-648-5200) or Sue Rantisi (650-823-2949)* to confirm your spot. We look forward to a great meeting!
- ☞ **ST. NICHOLAS WORKSHOP:** Sunday, April 10th, directly following Church Service in our hall. This is going to be an event for the whole family to enjoy! Bring your children and grab a seat as we will host a fun, creative, and educational workshop from cookie baking & decorating, bread making, flower designing, Egg decorating, palm cross making, and many more activities for you to enjoy!
- ☞ **AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR SALE in Diamond Heights:** Habitat for Humanity is building 8 affordable homes for first-time homebuyers. Applicants cannot have owned a home in the past 3 years, meet income guidelines and willing to complete 500 volunteer hours. Approved applicants qualify for monthly payment equal to 30% of your gross household income, no down payment and will have 0% interest mortgage. There is a mandatory virtual info session prior to applying. Applications are now open until April 22nd and the lottery will be held on May 13th. For more info, please visit: www.habitatgsf.org/amber-drive-info.

- ☞ **ST. NICHOLAS SPRING HAT SHOW:** Sunday, May 22nd, directly following Divine Liturgy. *Ladies, Get ready to show up in your spring hats!* 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-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>
- ☞ **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 ST. NICHOLAS UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Dates!

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

PLEASE JOIN US UNTIL THE END
OF OUR GREAT FAST FOR
GREAT COMPLINE SERVICES
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT
7 PM & AKATHIST SERVICE
EVERY FRIDAY AT 7 PM.



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

SUNDAY OF THE CROSS



As we progress deeper and deeper into the weeks of Lent, we can say with an ever-growing sense of gratitude and of joy, of a serene and exulting joy the words of a Psalm, 'My soul shall live, and with gratitude I will give glory to the Lord'.

In the first week of Lent we have seen all the promises of salvation given in the Old Testament fulfilled: God became man, salvation has come, and all hopes are possible. And then, in the second week of Lent, we had the glorious proclamation of all the Saints of Christendom that not only did God come and dwell in our midst, but He has poured out upon us, into the Church, and into every human soul ready to receive Him the presence, the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us gradually commune ever deeper to the Living God until one day we become partakers of the Divine nature.

And today, if we ask ourselves, 'But how that? How can we be forgiven, how can evil be undone?' - one step brings us deeper into gratitude, deeper into joy, deeper into certainty when we consider, when we contemplate the Cross.

There is a passage of the Gospel in which we are told that when Christ spoke of salvation and of its conditions, Peter said to Him, 'Who then can be saved?' - and Christ answered, 'What is not possible to men is possible for God!'. And He Himself came; the fullness of God abided in a human person, and He has power to forgive because He is the victim of all the evil, all the cruelty, all the destructiveness of human history. Because indeed, no one but the victim can forgive those who have brought evil, suffering, misery, corruption and death into their lives. And Christ does not only forgive His own murderers, when He says, 'Father, forgive - they don't know what they are doing': He goes beyond this, because He had said, 'Whatever you have done to one of My smaller brethren and sisters, you have done it to Me' - not only in good, but indeed, the worst: because in compassion, in solidarity He identifies with every sufferer: the death, the pain, the agony of each of those who suffer is His. And so, when He prays, 'Father, forgive! They do not know what they are doing, what they have been doing', He prays for each of us not only in His own name, but in the name of all those upon whom evil has visited because of human sin.

But it is not only Christ who forgives; everyone who has suffered in soul, in body, in spirit, - everyone is called to grant freedom to those who have made him suffer.

And so, we can see why Christ says, 'Forgive so that you may be forgiven' because both the victim and the culprit are tied in one knot of solidarity and reciprocal responsibility. Only the victim can say, 'Lord - forgive him, forgive her', and only then can the Lord say, 'I do!'.

But do you realise what responsibility it puts on each of us with regard to all and everyone? But also the depth, the glorious depth of hope which opens up to us when we look at the Cross and see that in solidarity with all mankind Christ taking upon Himself all the suffering of the world, accepting to die an impossible death has said in the name of all the sufferers, 'Yes, -

forgive!'

This is one more step towards freedom, this is one more step towards the moment when we will be faced with Christ's resurrection that engulfs us also because the risen Christ is risen and is offering all and each of us the fullness of eternal life.

And so again, and again we can say that Lent is a spring of a new life, a new time, a time of renewal, not only in repentance, but in being taken by Christ Himself as the shepherd took the lost sheep, as the Lord took up His Cross, brought it to the place of death, and undid death, undid evil by forgiveness and giving His life. Once more we are confronted with another step of our freedom and of newness. Let us enter ever deeper into this mystery, into this wonder of salvation, and rejoice in the Lord, and rejoicing, step after step, more and more, let us also express our gratitude by newness of life.

التزام حمل الصليب (من نشرة رعيتي) كشفاء لواقع الإنسانية المريض

إذ نحن مقبلون إلى انتصاف مسيرة الصوم تضع لنا الكنيسة الصليب أمامنا لتذكّرنا بأنّه محور خلاصنا، ولتحنّنا على أن نلتزم حمل صليبنا كلّ يوم. الصليب حركة فداء إلهي - تجاه ضعفنا ووهنا- تكشف لنا محبة الله الباذلة، كما تظهر لنا واقعنا المريض المليء بالتناقضات والظلم والإدانة والحد والكراهية. فالرب يسوع المسيح بارتفاعه على الصليب لم يرفع خطايا العالم معه فقط، إنّما رفع أيضًا كلّ هذا الواقع المرير وافتداه بدمه. بهذا العمل الخلاصي أعطانا الرب يسوع إمكانية شفاء نفوسنا ورسم لنا طريق العلاج.

ما هو جواب الإنسان عن هذه المبادرة الإلهية؟

الجواب عن هذا السؤال ينطلق من قاعدة أساسية، وهي أنّ إرادة الإنسان حرة في أن تقبل هذه المبادرة أو أن ترفضها، رغم حاجة الإنسان الماسة إلى التجاوب مع محبة الله تجاهه لينال الخلاص، «لَوْ لَمْ أَكُنْ قَدْ جِئْتُ وَكَلَّمْتُهُمْ، لَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُمْ خَطِيئَةً، وَأَمَّا الْآنَ فَلَيْسَ لَهُمْ عُذْرٌ فِي خَطِيئَتِهِمْ» (يوحنا ١٥ : ٢٢). فعناية الله بالإنسان لم تنف قط إرادة الأخير في أن يقبل محبة الله أو يرفضها، بل أعطته إمكانية الخلاص إذا ما كان هذا خياره. فإذا قبلت إرادة الإنسان الشخصية التفاعل مع مبادرة الله تجاهها فهي إنّما تقبل وتلتزم حمل صليبها لتتبع يسوع. من هنا يأتي التزام الإنسان الشخصي بحمل الصليب كجواب منه عن محبة الله.

كيف يتحقّق فعليًا هذا الالتزام بحمل الصليب في حياتنا اليوم؟

تفتح الظروف الصعبة التي نعيشها اليوم في بلدنا والأزمات المتراكمة التي تحدث بنا المجال، أمامنا كمؤمنين، لأن نشهد أمام العالم لصليب يسوع كخشبة الخلاص الوحيدة والفعالة على ضوء خبرة قيامة المسيح. هذا يصير ممكنًا وحقيقيًا ومحسوسًا حينما يلمس العالم خبرة القيامة التي نعيشها شخصيًا في حياتنا، والتي تعطينا الدافع والقوة لأن نلتزم حمل صليبنا دائمًا كجواب منّا عن مبادرة الله نحونا، فنحن نلتزم حمل الصليب لأننا اختبرنا القيامة.

المحطة الأساسية في مسيرة عيشنا هذه الخبرة المزدوجة، أي خبرة الصليب-القيامة، تبدأ في التزامنا الروحي واستعدادنا لمواجهة أشكال الألم والضيق كآفة، من دون تدمير على صورة المعلم يسوع، «لأننا إذا شاركناه في آلامه فنشاركه في مجده أيضًا» (رومية ٨: ١٧). إذًا، نلتزم اليوم حمل صليب أتعابنا اليومية لنشارك المسيح في آلامه، عبر احتمالنا المشقات والصبر في أزمنة الضيق والأزمات المحدقة بنا. لكنّ هذا يسبقه أن نزهد بأنفسنا عن العالم وملذّاته. فإن كانت حياتنا الأرضية وصحتنا الجسدية وموائدنا الغنيّة وأموالنا وأرزاقنا وحياتنا المترفة هي أولوياتنا، فلن نصبر ولن نتحمل ألم فقدانها، سنندمر ونغضب ونلقي اللوم على الله والآخرين، حتّى إنّنا مستعدون لأن نؤذي الآخرين لتعويضها، أي أنّنا سننفّذ حمل صليبنا بآية وسيلة. أمّا إن كان المسيح أولويتنا، فمهما تأزمت أوضاعنا الحياتية سنعتبرها صليبًا نلتزم حمله لنشارك المسيح في آلامه ومجده، ولنشارك الفقراء والمثالمين والمظلومين والمرضى في تحمل أتعابهم وأوجاعهم، ولبسمة جراحهم ومساعدتهم على حمل صليبهم أي صليب الفقر والعوز والجوع والظلم والمرض، فتتحول آلام حياتهم إلى عذوبة ومرارة عيشهم إلى حلاوة محبة المسيح لهم، التي يلمسونها عبر محبتنا، فنكون ناليًا قد أحيينا في نفوس هؤلاء الصغار، من ماهي يسوع نفسه بهم، خبرة القيامة.

هكذا نتفاعل إذًا مع مبادرة الله نحونا عبر التزامنا الشخصي بحمل صليبنا، كما عبر التزامنا مساعدة الآخرين على تحمل صليبهم، فنصير نحن وإياهم إلى شركة حقيقية مع صليب المسيح نصل بواسطتها إلى شفاء نفوسنا.

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 with a vast and eclectic menu, showcasing a variety of catering options and premium beverages. Our friendly and professionally trained staff will work with you to identify your needs within your budget to create a personal and memorable event.

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- Off Market Transaction
- Represented Seller



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- ADU potential

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- Wrongful Death
- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Burn Injuries (Fires/Explosions)
- Auto/Motorcycle Crashes
- Uber/Lyft/Taxi Accidents
- Falls (Slip/Trip) & Construction



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