

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**

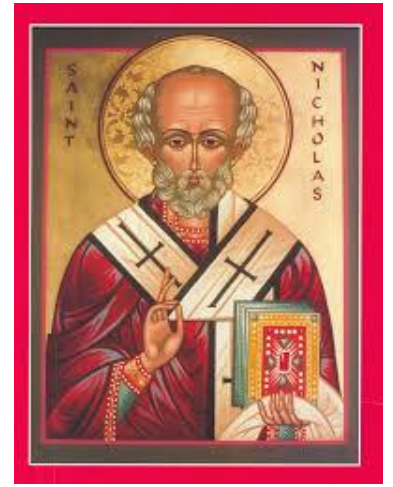
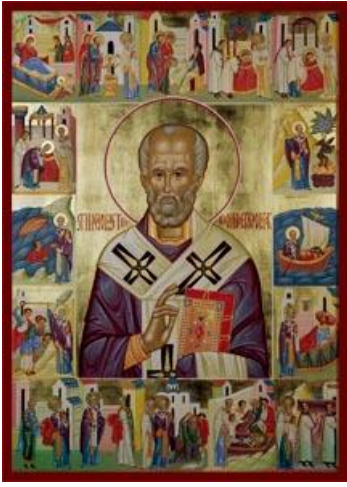
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, April 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder"

أحد البار يوحنا السلمى (الرابع من الصوم)

SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES:



We would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the
About Daoud family on the passing of our brother in Christ, **Nabil About Daoud**.

May his memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: Hebrews (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٦: ١٣-٢٠

يا إخوة، إن الله لما وعد إبراهيم، إذ لم يمكن أن يُقسم بما هو أعظم منه، أقسم بنفسه قائلاً: لأباركك بركة وأكثرتك تكثيراً. وذاك إذ تأتّى نال الموعد. وإنما الناس يُقسمون بما هو أعظم منهم، وتنقضي كلّ مشاجرة بينهم بالقسم للتنبّيت. فلذلك لما شاء الله أن يزيد ورثة الموعد بيئاً، لعدم تحوّل عزمه، توسط القسم، حتّى نحصل بأمرين لا يتحوّلان ولا يمكن أن يُخلف الله فيهما، على تعزية قويّة نحن الذين التجأنا إلى التمسك بالرجاء الموضوع أمامنا، الذي هو لنا كمرساة للنفس أمينة راسخة تدخل إلى داخل الحجاب حيث دخل يسوع كسابق لنا، وقد صار على رتبة ملكيصادق رئيس كهنة إلى الأبد.

THE GOSPEL: Mark (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit

saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

الإنجيل: مرقس ٩: ١٧-٣١

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان وسجد له قائلاً: يا معلّم، قد أتيتك بابني به روح أبكم، وحيثما أخذه يصصره فيزبد ويصرف بأسنانه ويبيس. وقد سألت تلاميذك أن يخرجوه فلم يقدرُوا. فأجابه قائلاً: أيها الجيل غير المؤمن، إلى متى أكون عندكم؟ حتى متى أحتملكم؟ هلم به إليّ. فلمّا رآه للوقت صرعه الروح فسقط على الأرض يتمرّغ ويزبد. فسأل أباه: منذ كم من الزمان أصابه هذا؟ فقال: منذ صباه، وكثيراً ما ألقاه في النار وفي المياه ليهلكه. ولكن إن استطعت شيئاً فتحنّن علينا وأغننا. فقال له يسوع: إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن. فصاح أبو الصبيّ من ساعته بدموع وقال: إني أؤمن يا سيّد، فأعنت عدم إيماني. فلمّا رأى يسوع أنّ الجمع يتبادرون إليه، انتهر الروح النجس قائلاً له: أيها الروح الأبكم الأصمّ أنا أمرك بأن أخرج منه ولا تعدّ تدخل فيه. فصرخ وخطبه كثيراً وخرج منه، فصار كالصبيّ حتّى قال كثيرون إنّه قد مات. فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضه فقام. ولمّا دخل بيتاً سأله تلاميذه على انفراد: لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نُخرجه؟ فقال لهم: إنّ هذا الجنس لا يمكن أن يخرج إلا بالصلاة والصوم. ولمّا خرجوا من هناك اجتازوا في الجليل ولم يُرد أن يدري أحد، فإنّه كان يُعلّم تلاميذه ويقول لهم: إنّ ابن البشر يُسلّم إلى أيدي الناس فيقتلونه، وبعد أن يُقتل يقوم في اليوم الثالث.

قناديل الهيكل ALTAR CANDLES



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** in Loving memory of
Nabil Abou Daoud. May His Memory 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!

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

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

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

To Pre-order, 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.*

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

Food for Hungry People

Seminarists and Family

IOCC for Ukraine

2022 Great Lent

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

Day	Date	Celebration
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

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.

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.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

- ☞ **ST. NICHOLAS KIDS & FAMILY EASTER WORKSHOP:** Next 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



Metropolitan Anthony:
SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER



Lent is a time of repentance, a time when our heart of stone must be made by the power of God into a heart of flesh, from insensitive to become perceptive, from cold and hard to become warm and open to others, and indeed, to God Himself.

Lent is a time of renewal when like spring, everything become new again; when our life that had gone into a twilight becomes alive with all the intensity which God can communicate to us, humans, by making us partakers of His Holy Spirit, by making us partakers, through the Holy Sacraments and the direct gift of God, of the Divine nature.

It is a time of reconciliation, and reconciliation is a joy: it is God's joy, and it is our joy; it's a new beginning.

Today is the day of Saint John of the Ladder, and I want to read to you a few phrases of his which are relevant to the particular time of the year in which we live:

“Repentance, that is our return to God is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. And one who repents, is one who deserves condemnation - and yet, goes away from the tribunal without shame, because repentance is our peace with God. And this is achieved through a worthy life, alien to the sins we committed in the past. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain.”

And if we ask ourselves how we can achieve it, how we can come to this, how we can respond to God Who receives us as the father received the prodigal son, a God Who has waited for us, longingly, Who, rejected, never turned away from us - how can we respond to Him? Here is a short word about prayer :

“Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fill it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence. And if a word, in thy prayer, reaches you deeply, if you perceive it profoundly - dwell in it, dwell in it, because at such moments our Angel guardian prays with us because we are true to ourselves and to God”.

Let us remember what Saint John of the Ladder says, even if you forget the short comments (which I introduced) to make his text more readily understandable. Let us remember his words because he was a man who knew what it means to turn to God, to *stay* with God, to be God's joy and to rejoice in Him. He is offered us in this time, when we are ascending towards the days of the Passion, he is offered us as an example of what grace Divine can do to transform an ordinary, simple human being into a light to the world.

Let us learn from him, let us follow his example, let us *rejoice* in what God can do by His power in a human being, and let us confidently, with faith, with an exulting and yet serene joy follow the advice, listen to God *begging* us to find a way of life and telling us that with Him, in Him we *will* be alive, because He *is* the Truth but also the Way and also Life eternal.

عنف وحنان فصلاة وصوم

«ابني به روح أخرس وحيثما أدركه يمزقه»، عبارة استتبعها والد الصبيّ بأخرى: «إن كنتَ تستطيع شيئاً فتحنّ علينا وأعتنا». بهاتين العبارتين توجه هذا الوالد المتألم نحو يسوع، فأشار إلى عنف معاش وحنان مطلوب وطريق على تلاميذ المسيح أن يسيروا فيه، كما يطالعا إنجيل الأحد الرابع من صوم.

لا غرو أنّ العنف الذي يمارسه الشيطان كبير ومؤذٍ. لكن يبدو من الحادثة الإنجيليّة أنّ يسوع صوّب سهامه نحونا، نحن تلاميذه، وليس نحو الشيطان، فغمز من قناتنا عندما دوى صوته القائل: «أيّها الجيل غير المؤمن، إلى متى أكون معكم؟ إلى متى أحتلمكم؟». موقف المسيح هذا يهزّك في العمق، ويستدعي منك أن تسأل عن مكانك عزك وضعفك وعدم فاعليّة خدمتك، فيأتيك الجواب، البسيط والبلغ بأن: صومك وصلاتك لا تهملهما أبداً، وهذا على أساس أن «كلّ شيء مستطاع للمؤمن»!

يبدو أنّ العنف الكبير في هذا الإنجيل هو غياب الإيمان بالله والحنان، بخاصّة ذاك الحنان الذي رأيناه مرتسماً على وجه يسوع والذي طرق بابَه والد الصبيّ من أجل شفاء ابنه. وفهمنا من إشارة الربّ في نهاية الإنجيل أنّه، حنان ضروريّ لمواجهة أيّ عنف، بحيث إذا اقترن بالإيمان الحيّ، جعل من الصلاة والصوم بلسماً عظيماً في خدمتنا وشهادتنا لحقيقة إيماننا.

ربّ سائل: أعلّ الصلاة والصوم يلبّيان القلوب والأذهان بحيث نصير أكثر شفافيّة لعمل الروح؟ أيجعلهما أكثر مطواعيّة في تحقيق مشيئة الله؟ أوليس في الحنان الذي حمله المسيح إلينا العلّة التي أدت إلى تحريرنا من عنف الأهواء المتسلّطة علينا والتي نسلّطها بدورنا أحياناً على الآخرين «عنفاً» نمارسه بأشكال متنوّعة، خفيّة أو ظاهرة، واعية أو غير واعية، مقصودة أو غير مقصودة؟ يرى البعض في الحسد أو الغيرة عنفاً نسلّطه على ربطنا الأسريّة أو صداقاتنا مثلاً. آخرون يعتقدون أنّ الإدانة أو التكلّم بالسوء على آخرين أو استغيابهم للحديث عليهم، أشكال من أشكال العنف الذي به نهدم الربط الأخويّة والمهنيّة والمجتمعيّة.

هل يحتاج المرء إلى تعداد أشكال هذا النوع من العنف في ممارساتنا اليوميّة ليقطع دابر العنف المستشري بيننا، والذي نكون نحن مسؤولين عنه بالدرجة الأولى؟ له أن يقوّم حصاد ما زرعه عبر شهادته وأقواله وتصرفاته. له أن يكتشف إذا ما كانت تبني النفوس أو تؤذيها، أو تأتي بضرر أو فائدة على أبناء الجسد الواحد، فرادى وجماعةً. بكلمة واحدة، لنا أن نفحص إذا ما كنّا نبني، في نفوسنا ونفوس الآخرين، المسيح ونرتفع وإيّاهم إلى ملء قامته.

عقلنا وقلوبنا البعيدان عن الصلاة يجعلان منّا مسرحاً سهلاً لعنف الأهواء، ما يفقدنا الحنان الذي يسكبه فينا عيش الإيمان. أمّا ضعف ممارسة الصوم (ليس فقط عن الأطعمة، بل عن الأهواء) فيغلّب فينا عدم الانضباط وغياب اليقظة، فيسير المرء على سجيّته، ولنا أن نتحمّل وزر الانفعالات والأفعال في هذه الحالة.

هذا هو المشهد المؤلم الذي يقدمه كلّ «أب»، في بيته ورعيّته وكنيسته، إلى أبيه السماويّ لكي يتحنّن علينا ويعيدنا إلى صواب، سواء من تألموا من الشياطين، أو الذين يخدمون المسيح ولا يستطيعون أن يعينوا أترابهم وإخوتهم لأسباب شتى. ما أحلى أن نتحلّى بالإيمان الفاعل بالحنان لكي ننهض بعضنا البعض ونكون مع المسيح خداماً حقيقيّين وفاعلين لمجده.

سلوان متروبوليت جبيل والبترون

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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