

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**

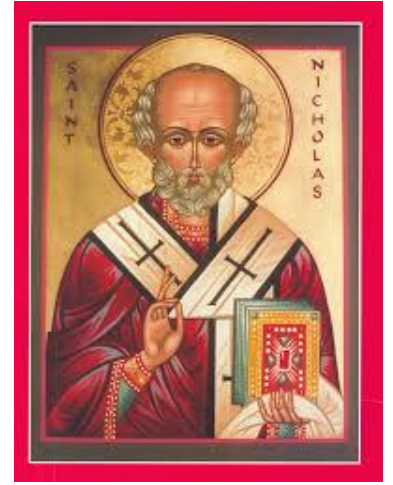
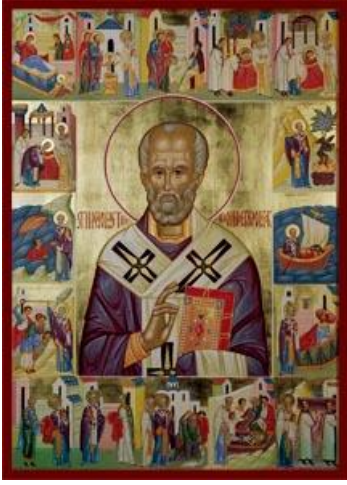
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, July 17, 2022

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of Fourth Ecumenical Council

Great-martyr Marina

آباء المجمع المسكوني الرابع

MEMORIAL SERVICES:



Six Months Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God, + **Leila Ghandour Khoury** will be held this **Sunday, July 17th**, offered by her family.

May her memory be eternal!



One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God, + **Hanna George Karkar** will be held on **Sunday, August 7th**, offered by his family.

May his memory be eternal!



One Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God, + **Fr. Gregory Ofiesh** will be held on **Sunday, August 21st**, offered by his family.

May his memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: Titus (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة: تيطس ٣: ٨-١٥

يا ولدي تيطس، صادقة هي الكلمة وإياها أريد أن تقر حتى يهتم الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمال الحسنة، فهذه هي الأعمال الحسنة والنافعة. أما المباحثات الهذيانة والأنساب والخصومات والمباحكات الناموسية فاجتنبها، فإنها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورَجُل

البدعة، بعد الإنذار مرة وأخرى، أعرض عنه، عالما ان من هو كذلك قد اعتسف وهو في الخطيئة يقضي بنفسه على نفسه. ومتى أرسلت اليك أرتيماس أو تيخيكوس فبادر أن تأتيني إلى نيكوبولس لأنني قد عزم أن أشتي هناك. اما زيناس معلم الناموس وأبلوس فاجتهد في تشييعهما متأهبين لنلا يعوزهما شيء. وليتعلم ذوونا أن يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية حتى لا يكونوا غير مثمريين. يسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلم على الذين يحبوننا في الإيمان. النعمة معكم أجمعين، أمين.

Matthew (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

متى

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تُخْفِيَ مَدِينَةً وَاقِعَةً عَلَى جَبَلٍ. وَلَا يُوقَدُ سِرَاجٌ وَيُوضَعُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ، لَكِنْ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ لِيُضِيَءَ لْجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. هَكَذَا فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِيَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الصَّالِحَةَ، وَيَمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. لَا تَظُنُّوا أَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَحْلَ الْنَّامُوسَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءَ، إِنِّي لَمْ آتِ لِأَحْلَ لَكِنْ لِأَتَمِّمَ. الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُ إِلَى أَنْ تَزُولَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ، لَا يَزُولُ حَرْفٌ وَاحِدٌ أَوْ نَقْطَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ مِنَ النَّامُوسِ حَتَّى يَتِمَّ الْكُلُّ. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَحُلُّ وَاحِدَةً مِنْ هَذِهِ الْوَصَايَا الصَّغَارِ وَيُعَلِّمُ النَّاسَ هَكَذَا، فَإِنَّهُ يُدْعَى صَغِيرًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ؛ وَأَمَّا الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ وَيُعَلِّمُ، فَهَذَا يُدْعَى عَظِيمًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل



Offered by St. Nicholas Church in good health and well-being of **Inam Shami**.
God Bless and Many Years



Offered by St. Nicholas Church in good health and well-being of **Steve Robinson**, husband of Annette Habeeb Robinson.
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!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Raad and Nahren Halteh** on the new addition to their family,
Natalia Rae Halteh. *God bless and many years!*

ST. NICHOLAS YOUNG ADULTS EVENT:

Thursday, July 21st from 6:30PM- 9PM at St. Nicholas Church.

Join us for Ping-Pong, billiards, fellowship and a great time! Bring snacks to share potluck style and we look forward to seeing you all there!

ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PICNIC IS NEXT SUNDAY!!

Bring your family and friends and join us on **Sunday, July 24th @ 12 PM** at Meadowlands picnic site located in **Baylands Park: 999 Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089.**

Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Nicholas Church at 10 AM instead of 11 AM.

Donation: \$25 Adult / \$10 Child (ages 6-12)

✂ **TESLA RAFFLE TICKET:** Our annual raffle ticket with the grand prize of a brand new Tesla is back! \$50 per ticket, drawing will take place on Sunday October 2, 2022. To purchase your ticket(s), please contact Elias Batshon (650) 580-7185 or the Church office (415) 648-5200.

SAVE THE DATES : UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

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 of Sourozh

WHO CAN BE SAVED?

If so hard, so absolutely exacting are the claims of the Gospel, who then can be saved? This is the question which the Apostles asked from the Lord, and His reply was both encouraging and also so disheartening, for those who wish to achieve things with their own strength. He said, this is impossible for men, but all things are possible for God. There is a breach of continuity as it were between things heavenly and things earthly; things earthly never grow to become heavenly; heaven must come down to us for us to be filled with what heaven is. The Spirit is not the highest point of our soul, the life of eternity is not simply the fullness of the life of time. Things of God are divine and we can only receive them, possess them as a gift, not reach out to them or conquer them simply by growing heavenwards; when we try do so, we build a new Tower of Babel and we go astray and we do not reach to heaven.

But how then can we become capable of receiving what God is ready to give? In the Epistle of St Paul, we are told that it is grace Divine that wrote all that the Apostles wrote, that it is the power and the action of God Himself and not human sagacity and strength and cleverness, so that the only way in which we can fulfill our vocation and become what we are meant to be, citizen of heaven, sons of God by adoption, is to become capable of receiving the grace of God which is given us so freely, so generously, but which we receive with such scarcity because our hearts are narrow, and we are closed. We must learn to open up, to become receptive and this is what St Paul meant when He said, in the words, spoken to him by the Lord Himself. "My power is made manifest in weakness". It is only when we become receptive that the divine power can become active, otherwise we block the way to God's actions. But it is not only weakness. We all are weak, but we are not at all receptive; there is a special way in which we must become weak in order to be receptive and I will try to explain it or to hint at it by three examples.

The first is not far as it may seem from concrete, strict reality. If you remember that in Scripture, the word which we read "The Spirit" means the blowing of the wind, the blowing of God, the action of God, then this example will perhaps make sense: when we sail a boat, we become capable of directing it thanks to the wind that blows; if we display a sail, this sail is capable of catching the wind because it is frail, because it is supple, because it can be directed into any direction by the wind himself. We must only learn so to dispose it as to catch the wind. This is a first type of frailty which is helpful for us in our search of God, be supple and yet learn to be perceptive where the wind blows, where the spirit breeze and open wide so as to be filled with it, so as to allow to be filled with it, so as to allow the Spirit Himself to direct the course of our boat. But very often our weakness is still there and yet we try to be strung and wise and active and it prevents God from boat. But very often our weakness is still there and yet we try to be strung and wise and active and it prevents God from doing what He could easily do if only we did not help in an

untimely way. You have certainly seen how a little child is given his first lessons in writing: a pencil is put into his hand, the mother takes both the little hand and the pencil into hers and moves. And so long as the child does not know what the mother intends to do, as long the hand is limped in the mother's hand how beautiful are the lines! Straight, free. But a moment comes when the child imagines that he knows what the mother intends to do and then the child becomes helpful, it pushes and it pulls and the lines go wrong. This is also what we do continuously: the Lord is trying to direct our hand, to make us write the right story of our life in the Book of Life, but we imagine that we know better, that we know exactly what He intends and we are so helpful! And so ugly is the writ in this Book of Life. If only we can learn to have our hand directed until we truly understand what God means to do, until we truly understand what the lines are and what the writ is! But we do not and our imaginary, our very frail strength appears to be strong enough to blur what God is writing with His hand. These two examples show that we must be frail with intelligence, frail with open mind, frail with all the suppleness we are capable of, watchful; and then we will learn first and become creative afterwards. Strength and limitation, strength and deadness always go together; life and frailty are always associated to each other.

An old writer gave an example of this when he said: look at an oak, how strong and powerful, and yet, how little life there is in the trunk and how protected, and yet imprisoned this life is by the trunk; and look at the vine: how frail the little branches and the terminal twigs are, and they are full of life... This is what we must learn, to acquire this wide, this intelligent understanding, weakness and frailty, to discern the pattern of the divine writ and then, the salvation comes because salvation lies in the perfect harmony there is between the will of God and the will of man, the full harmony between Him who is all things, and us, who are called to become partakers of the divine nature, partakers of the life divine.

May God grant us to overgrow our weakness and our illusory strength, to unlearn the false creativeness that has made the world in which we live so frightening, and to learn that alert, vigilant suppleness and frailty through which God can work freely and build the Kingdom of God, beginning and within the city of man.

المدفوعون إلى الواجهة والمتوارون خلف المسيح

عندما اختار يسوع تلاميذه الأول وطلب منهم أن يكونوا صيادي بشر، دفعهم إلى الواجهة بشكل خفي. لكن النص الإنجيلي الذي يُتلى لمناسبة الاحتفال بأباء المجمع المسكوني الرابع أفصح علناً عن أننا مدفوعون، إلى الواجهة من دون موارد. وهذا يضعنا في مرمى الله ورمى البشر ورمى الأحداث. فكيف يكون هذا؟

إليك كيف يعلن يسوع الأمر: «أنتم نور العالم» (متى ٨: ١٤). يضعنا في الواجهة، من دون أن يعني أن النظر مسلط علينا، أو أننا محط الاهتمام. وجودنا وحضورنا وشهادتنا عوامل تشكّل نوراً كاشفاً على حياة أترابنا وأحداث العالم فتعطيها معناها كما هي قائمة في نظر الله. تصبح نقطة تماس بين الله الإنسان، لأنّه، عبر اختبارنا هذا، يمكن للآخرين أن يعاينوا كيف يحيا الله معنا وكيف نحيا نحن معه. هذا هو النور الموضوع في العالم، من أجل حياة العالم وخلاصه.

ماذا يحمل هذا النور إلى العالم؟ يحمل قناعتنا الشخصية بأنّ الآب الذي كشفه لنا يسوع هو كلّ شيء بالنسبة إلينا. ويتضمّن أيضاً عيشنا لكلمة يسوع وانتظام حياتنا اليومية وتربيتنا على أساسها. ويعكس بالحقيقة أننا نستمدّ من يسوع السلام للعالم، والرحمة العظمى لنفوسنا، والمحبة في علاقتنا مع القريب وخدمتنا له.

إلى من يتوجّه هذا النور؟ الحريّ به أن يضيء أولاً «لأهل البيت» (متى ٥: ١٥)، أي المحيط الأقرب إلينا، من يعيشون معنا ومن نعيش في وسطهم؛ وثانياً، «الناس» (متى ٥: ١٦)، أترابنا وأبناء جيلنا، ولربّما الأجيال اللاحقة، بحال تقدّسنا.

ما هو مفعول هذا النور على العالم؟ من جهة، يكشف حقيقة عناية الله للإنسان ومحبّته له والتزامه إياه حتّى يصل إلى ميناء الخلاص. وعليه، من تنفتح عيناه على هذه المعرفة يمجد الآب. ومن جهة أخرى، هو مصدر تعزية، بفعل عمل الروح القدس فينا من أجل البرّ والأعمال الصالحة. وعليه، من يلمس هذه التعزية، يدرك مدى الدفء الكامن في محبة الله وعنايته. هذا ما عبّر عنه يسوع عندما أوصانا: «فليضي نوركم هكذا قدام الناس لكي يروا أعمالكم الحسنة ويمجّدوا أباكم الذي في السماوات» (متى ٥: ١٦).

كيف نعيش شهادتنا؟ لو كنّا في مهبّ ريح قادرة على أن تطفئ شعلتنا وتقضي على وجودنا، فإنّنا لا نستسلم ولا نهرب من حقيقة الإنجيل أو نتخلّى عن العيش بمقتضاها، وكأنّنا نخبئ تحت المكيال (متّى ٥: ١٤ و ١٥). على العكس، نبقى في الواجهة، أي معرّضين لشتّى أنواع التجارب والضيق، ولكن نبقى ثابتين في استنادنا إلى الإيمان بيسوع. ومن صار بيننا مؤثلاً للروح القدس، وكانت فضيلته مخفية عن الآخرين، فهذا يدعوه الربّ من مخبئه ويضعه مثلاً يُحتذى أمام الناس، ليتعلّموا منه طريق الإيمان بالمسيح، وطريق التوبة الصادقة، وطريق الخدمة الياذلة، وطريق السلام والمصالحة.

ولكن كيف عسانا نرى أنفسنا في هذا النور؟ نشعر أنّنا لا شيء، فلا نمجّد سوى الله، ولا نطلب إلى أحد آخر سواه. ونشعر أيضاً بعدم استحقاقنا لعناية الله بنا، فلا نتذمّر من سوء الأوضاع ولا نخاف من خطر أو نقلق بشيء مهما كان. ونشعر أخيراً بحاجتنا الدائمة والثابتة إلى أن نطلب إلى الربّ أن ينيّر طريقنا كلّ حين وفي كلّ شيء. هذا يضعنا في طريق الطاعة، فلسنا نحن من اختار نفسه لهذه الرسوليّة، بل الربّ هو الداعي إيانا إليه، إلى اتّباعه. ويضعنا أيضاً في الفرح، لأنّ الله أعطانا أن ندعو باسمه بين أترابنا ونعاونه في مشروع خلاص العالم. فهو الواضع السراج في مهبّ الريح، والمدينة على قمة الجبل، وهو الواضع لكلّ واحد جهاده والمانح المعونة والتعزيات فيها. هذا عايناه حقيقة في شهادات الآباء القديسين ومثالهم وتعليمهم. هلاً أقبلنا إذاً إلى النور وطرّدنا كلّ تردّد وخوف وقلق وخجل، ليضيء نور المسيح في العالم؟

سلوان متروبوليت جبيل والبترون وما يليهما

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PICNIC

Divine Liturgy will be held
at 10 AM instead of 11 AM
at St. Nicholas Church.

SUNDAY, JULY 24TH, 2022 @ 12 PM

FOOD | GAMES | FELLOWSHIP | MUSIC | FUN

Baylands Park (Meadowlands picnic)

999 Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Donations: \$25 Adult / \$10 Child (ages 6-12)

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

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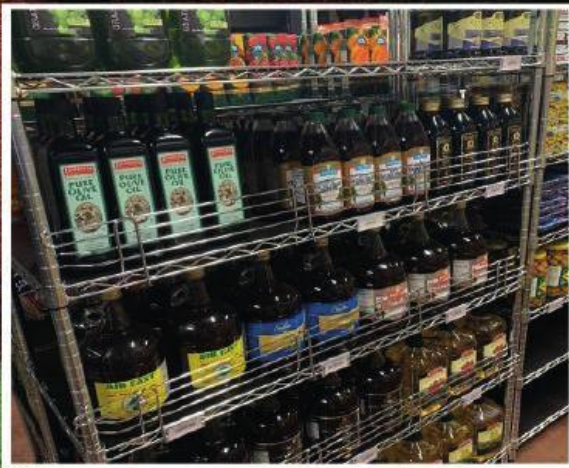


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