

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**

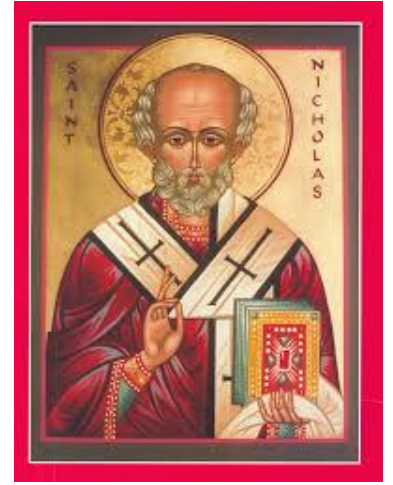
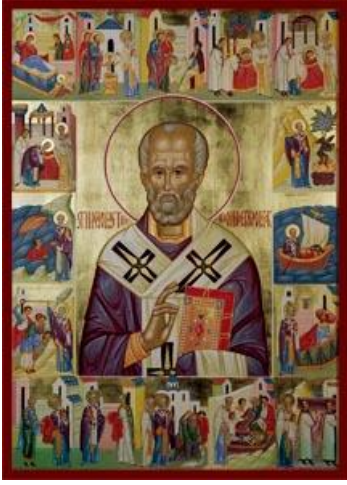
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Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

THE EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians (6:1-10)

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

الرسالة: ٢ كورنثوس 6: 1-10

يا إخوة بما أنا معاونون نطلب اليكم ان لا تقبلوا نعمة الله في الباطل لأنه يقول اني في وقت مقبول استجبت لك وفي يوم خلاص أعنتك. فهذا الآن وقت مقبول، هوذا الآن يوم خلاص. ولسنا نأتي بمعثرة في شيء لنلا يلحق الخدمة عيب، بل نظهر في كل شيء أنفسنا كخدام الله في صبر كثير، في شدائد، في ضرورات، في ضيقات، في جلدات، في سجون، في اضطرابات، في آتاعاب، في أسهار، في أصوام، في طهارة، في معرفة، في طول أناة، في رفق، في الروح القدس، في محبة بلا رياء، في كلمة الحق، في قوة الله بأسلحة البر عن اليمين وعن اليسار، بمجد وهوان، بسوء صيت وحسنه، كأنا مضطرون ونحن صادقون، كأنا مجهولون ونحن معروفون، كأنا مائتون وما نحن أحياء، كأنا مؤدبون ولا نقتل، كأنا حزانى ونحن فرحون كأنا فقراء ونحن نغني كثيرين، كأنا لا شيء لنا ونحن نملك كل شيء.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

لوقا 6: 31-36

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: "كَمَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ النَّاسُ بِكُمْ، كَذَلِكَ افْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ بِهِمْ فَإِنَّكُمْ إِنْ أَحْبَبْتُمُ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَكُمْ، فَإَيُّهُ مِنْهُ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً يُحِبُّونَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ وَإِذَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ، فَإَيُّهُ مِنْهُ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً هَكَذَا يَصْنَعُونَ وَإِنْ أَقْرَضْتُمُ الَّذِينَ

تَرْجُونَ أَنْ تَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ، فَإِنَّهُ مِنَّةٌ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً يَقْرَضُونَ الْخَطَاةَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ الْمِثْلَ وَلَكِنْ، أَحِبُّوا أَعْدَاءَكُمْ، وَأَحْسِنُوا وَأَقْرَضُوا غَيْرَ مُؤَمِّلِينَ شَيْئاً، فَيَكُونَ أَجْرُكُمْ كَثِيراً، وَتَكُونُوا بَنِي الْعَلِيِّ. فَإِنَّهُ مُنْعِمٌ عَلَى غَيْرِ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَالْأَشْرَارِ فَكُونُوا رُحَمَاءَ كَمَا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ.

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ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL: October 1-2

Our long awaited 26th annual food festival is THIS WEEKEND!

Please join us with your family and friends for amazing food, delicious sweets, car raffle for a chance to win a brand new Tesla, live music & entertainment, kids corner (Jumper, Arts & Crafts, Balloon Artist, Face Painting, Visit from Insect Discovery Lab and more), local business vendor booths, craft beers, hookah lounge and so much more!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Saturday, Oct. 1st from 12-9 pm & Sunday, Oct. 2nd from 12-7 pm.

We would appreciate your generosity to donate and help us with purchases.

Thank you for your continuous support.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH ANNUAL FESTIVAL CAR RAFFLE TICKETS:

We are down to the last couple of days to purchase your car raffle ticket(s)!
\$50 per ticket.

To purchase, please contact Elias Batshon (650) 580-7185 or the Church office (415) 648-5200.

Drawing will take place on Sunday, Oct. 2nd at the end of the festival.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

- **FALL GATHERING: OCTOBER 7-9, 2022.** Hosted by St. Simeon Orthodox Christian Mission Church in Santa Clarita, CA. Please visit www.scvorthodox.com for more info.
- **ST. GEORGE'S 24TH ANNUAL JERUSALEM FESTIVAL: October 8-9, 2022.**
1617 Southgate Ave. Daly City, CA.
- **ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH LADIES AUXILIARY DINNER: October 15, 2022 at 7PM.**
Tannourine Restaurant: 120 W 25th Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403. To RSVP, please contact Inam Shami, Janet Azar or the Church Office.
- **SAVE THESE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS OF 2022:**

October	1-2	St. Nicholas 26th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival
November	19th	St. Nicholas Annual Thanksgiving Family Night
December	11th	Parish Council Elections
December	17th	St. Nicholas Christmas Party

Metropolitan Anthony

-The Meaning of Love-

The meaning of love is the meaning of life, because love, in spite of what we very often think or imagine, is not a simple feeling. When we speak of God, and we say that God is love, we do not mean that He is infinite feeling. We mean something deeper than this: that God is a plenitude of life and of being. And this applies also to our human love. Someone who is possessed by love is a man who has a plenitude of life in himself, in whom the sense of life, the power of life is so full, so great, that life is sure of itself. And this generates joy, courage, enthusiasm, and it goes so deep that it is beyond death itself. The Holy Scripture says that love is stronger than death. Indeed it is stronger than death because it has placed itself by its fullness, its power, its intensity in the realm of the resurrection, in the realm of eternal life. And this is why love is capable of final sacrifice, not only of giving and of receiving but of laying down one's life, because this life, if it is given, is also possessed in its fullness. It is plenitude of life which finds expression in final sacrifice. You may remember the words of Christ: 'No one is taking My life from Me, I give it freely Myself.' In that respect love, the fullness of life which it expresses, is invulnerable. People may take our lives, people may put us to any test, and yet one remains invulnerable because no one in reality is taking; the person who loves is giving.

I would like to give an example of this. During the Russian Revolution a mother with two children was hiding in a small town. One evening a woman came, as young as she was, in her late twenties, and told her that she had been discovered, betrayed, and that she was to be arrested in the night in order to be shot. The mother looked at the children, and her new friend said, 'Don't worry, you go, and you hide.' And the mother said, 'How could I go with these two children. I would be found within a few hours.'- 'No', said her unknown friend, 'I will stay behind, call myself with your name and be shot perhaps, but you will escape.' And so she did.

This was an act of love, which proceeded from such fullness of life, from such certainty that life was not ending, and that it was only in the fulfilment that she would find in her death that she could do this.

No one has greater love than he who lays down his life for his friends. Who does it himself, freely, and who in doing so, attains to the fulfillment of life because life is worth only what one lives for, and life attains this fulfillment when all is done that can humanely be done beyond fear, in joy, in certainty.

This is the meaning of love to me. Such fullness of life, that will allow me to accept, to become totally vulnerable, never recoil, never resist, give myself to the last, without discrimination to anyone and for anyone with a certainty that love shall never be defeated, that love is stronger than death; because to love means that we already have renounced a limited self and grown into communion, that is community of life with God, who is love itself.

قواعد الأخلاق المسيحية

يقول لنا إنجيل اليوم وهو مأخوذ من بشارة الإنجيلي لوقا: “كما تريدون ان يفعل الناس بكم، كذلك افعلوا أنتم بهم”. نجد هذا القول للسيد في إنجيل متى أيضاً (٧: ١٢). هذا قول ثانٍ والقول الأول، ولم يُقرأ اليوم، كان: “ما لا تريدون ان يفعل الناس بكم لا تفعلوه أنتم ايضاً بهم”.

عندنا في إنجيل اليوم قاعدتان أساسيتان في السلوك المسيحي: القاعدة الأولى هي أن نمتنع عن أذى الناس، ألا نشي بأحد، ألا نكذب، ألا نسرق، ألا نقتل. أي شيء لا نتمناه لأنفسنا ينبغي ألا نفعله ضد الآخرين لأن الآخرين، كل الآخرين، هم أبناء الله والرب يفرح بهم، يضيئهم جميعاً بوجهه الى اي حيّ انتموا ومن اي فئة جاؤوا. فالناس كلهم لله، شاؤوا أم أبوا، علموا به أم لم يعلموا. وكما ان الأبناء في العائلة قد لا يعرفون أن أباهم وأمهم يحبّانهم، قد لا يشعرون في ذاتهم بمحبة والديهم، مع ان الوالدين يحبّون اولادهم ويريدون لهم كل خير، هكذا الله معنا: يحب، يحب من يعرف نفسه ابناً له ومن لا يعرف نفسه ابناً له لأن هذه هي أخلاق الله.

والقاعدة الثانية في السلوك المسيحي أوجزها لنا ربنا بقوله: “كونوا رحماء كما ان أباكم هو رحيم”. هكذا اختتم إنجيل اليوم بعد أن أعطى السيد فيه أمثلة عن تعليمه: إن أقرضتم أحداً ولم يدفع لكم فلا تكونوا ضده. لا تنتظروا أن تستوفوا شيئاً، فالناس قد لا يبادلونكم العطاء بالعطاء.

المسيح لم يقل لنا: إن أحببتم الناس، يُحبّونكم بالضرورة. طبعاً هذه هي القاعدة أننا إذا أحببنا بشكل صحيح وعميق، بإخلاص، يبادلنا الناس المحبة. ولكن هذه ليست قاعدة منتظرة: قد يبادلوننا البُغض. قد لا يقدر انسان أن يحب. ولكن علينا نحن أن نتشبه بالمسيح الذي أحب أعداءه وغفر لهم وهو على الصليب، لأن المحبة غالبة في الأخير، هي دائماً منتصرة. هذا يعني أن لا نُقصي أحداً عن قلوبنا، الا نجعل واحداً في القلب وواحداً خارجه. كلهم في الداخل ونعاملهم على هذا الأساس. القربى ننشئها نحن، نحن نبادر بالاقتراب الى الناس ولا ننتظر منهم شيئاً. البشر في طبيعتهم لا ينفتحون على الآخرين، يتعصّبون لعائلتهم او قريتهم او طائفتهم. يظنون أن عائلتهم خير من بقية العائلات، وأن قريتهم أفضل من غيرها، وان طائفتهم خير من كل الطوائف. والواقع أننا كلنا من هذا الطين، كلنا مجبولون بالخطايا.

ما يقوله لنا الإنجيل هو أنه ليس من مجموعة بشرية امتازت بالأخلاق، هذا غير صحيح. توجد ظروف وانفعالات، ولكن البشر، الى اي مجموعة انتموا، بينهم خطاة كثيرون، كما بينهم محبّون كثيرون. الخطيئة والبر لا يحتكرهما أحد. الخطيئة موزعة، والقداسة موزعة.

عندما نجتمع معا لنُقيم الذبيحة الإلهية، نُعلن اننا جميعا واحد في المسيح، واحد في محبته، موزعون قلوبنا الى الناس جميعا من أطراف الدنيا الى أطرافها، لنبقى أمناء حتى النهاية، والحب عندنا له الكلمة الفصل.

المطران جاورجيوس



Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

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