

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**

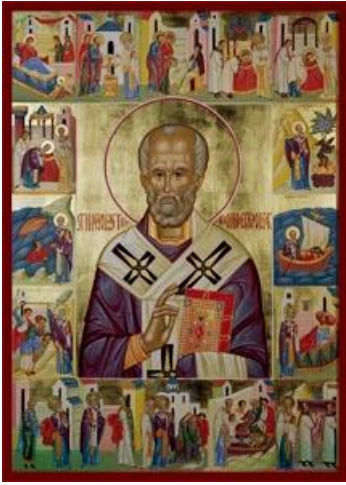
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Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Sub-Dn. **Tariq Rantisi**

Parish Council Chairman: **Azar Azar**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



**Sunday, October 09, 2022**

**The Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus**



**SYMPATHY & CONDOLENCES:**

We would like to offer our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to

**Rami Khouri Kaileh and to the Entire Kaileh Family** on the passing of **Riad Kaileh**.

+ *May His Memory Be Eternal* +

**THE EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians (6:16-7:1)**

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**الرسالة: 2 كورنثوس**

يا إخوة، أنتم هيكل الله الحي، كما قال الله، "إني سأسكن فيهم، وأسير فيما بينهم، وأكون لهم إلهاً وهم يكونون لي شعباً. فلذلك أخرجوا من بينهم واعتزلوا" يقول الرب "ولا تمسوا نجساً. فأقبلكم وأكون لكم أباً وتكونوا أنتم لي بنين وبنات، يقول الرب القدير." وإذ لنا هذه المواعيد، أيها الأحباء، فلنطهر أنفسنا من كل أدناس الجسد والروح، ونكمل القداسة بمخافة الله.

**THE GOSPEL: Luke (7:11-16)**

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you: arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

الإنجيل: لوقا ٧: ١١-١٦

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع منطلقاً إلى مدينة اسمها نازين، وكان كثيرون من تلاميذه وجمعٌ غفيرٌ منطلقين معه. فلَمَّا قَرُبَ من باب المدينة إذا مَيِّتٌ محمولٌ وهو ابنٌ وحيدٌ لأمّه وكانت أرملةً وكان معها جمعٌ كثيرٌ من المدينة. فلَمَّا رَأَاهَا الرَّبُّ تَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهَا وقال لها: لا تبكي. ودنا ولمس النعشَ فوقفَ الحاملون. فقال: أَيُّهَا الشَّابُّ لَكَ أَقُولُ قُمْ. فاستوى المَيِّتُ وبدأ يتكلَّم فسَلَّمَهُ إِلَى أُمِّهِ. فَأَخَذَ الْجَمِيعَ خَوْفٌ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: لَقَدْ قَامَ فِيْنَا نَبِيٌّ عَظِيمٌ وَافْتَقَدَ اللَّهُ شَعْبَهُ.

## ***October is Youth Month!***

**October is Youth Month** in our Archdiocese. During this month, we encourage our youth to Read the Epistles, Take the Collections, Usher, Chant and Sing, and Take Part in Church Activities. Please encourage and help our youth participate in the life of the Church during October and throughout the year.

**Please contact Church office or Ilyan Baalbaki** if you'd like your teen to participate in any of the roles listed: Epistle reader, chanter, usher, and sermons.



### **Thank you All for making our festival a big success!**

**A huge thank you to all who worked hard to prepare and plan this year's festival.**

Thank you to those who came and helped prepare and to those that volunteered during the festival. Also to our family and friends who supported us by attending this annual event. May God bless you all!

***Special Thanks to the Festival Committee for all of their hard work, dedication and the time they invested towards making this festival a huge success. God bless you and your families!***

### **ALTAR CANDLES** قناديل الهيكل



Offered by **Salwa Shnoudi** for the continued good health and well-being of her family: **Issa, Salwa, Naim and Rami Shnoudi, Darren & Nisreen (Shnoudi) Donlon and Eileen & Raymond Donlon.** *God Bless and Many Years!*



Offered by **Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, & Matthew Howell, Jane & Oscar Moran** for the continued good health of **Jennifer & Brandon Howell** on the special occasion of their birthdays on October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup>. *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 AND BEST WISHES:**

***Congratulations!***

- To **Shadi and Esther Clemence Azar** for the Churching of their baby girl, **Angelina Shadi Azar.** *May God grant them many years!*
- To the newlyweds, **Darren and Nisreen (Shnoudi) Donlon and their families.** *May God grant them many years!*

**COFFEE HOUR For This Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, is Offered By:**

Offered by **Issa and Salwa Shnoudi** for the good health of **their family**, especially to the newlyweds, **Darren and Nisreen (Shnoudi) Donlon**. *Congratulations and Many Years!*

**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](http://www.scvorthodox.com) for more info.
- **ST. GEORGE'S 24<sup>TH</sup> 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. Cost \$65- seats are limited.  
To RSVP, please contact Inam Shami (650)270-3369 or Randa Shatara (415)871-1043.
- **YOUNG ADULTS AT THE EXPLORATORIUM:** For 18+ : Thursday, Oct.20<sup>th</sup> from 6PM-10PM. We will meet out front by the front entrance at 6 PM. Purchase your tickets from the Exploratorium website. See you there!
- **SAVE THESE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS OF 2022:**

November	19 <sup>th</sup>	St. Nicholas Annual Thanksgiving Family Night
December	11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Elections
December	17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Nicholas Christmas Party

**Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**  
**On Prayer for the Departed**

Whenever someone dear to us departs this earthly life and enters into eternity, we pray for God's mercy, indeed for God's love to enfold the person and bring him into the eternity of joy which is in God. Every Saturday, as on certain other occasions, we pray regularly for the departed, but on Saturdays in a special context - we pray also to the Mother of God and sing her glory. And it is not by chance or in vain that the two prayers are intertwined.

When we pray for the departed, we do not ask God to be unjust and to pardon sins gratuitously, and not to reject those who have rejected Him and are still unable to commune with Him before the love of God has penetrated them, as the warmth of the sun penetrates the cold bodies of the earth.. We pray for the departed testifying thereby that they have not lived in vain on earth, that they have, while they were on earth, kindled in our hearts a flame, a flame of gratitude, of reverence, of love; this flame may be small or great; it may be nothing more than the flickering light of a candle, but it can also be like the burning bush, shining with all the glory of the love of God, of His divine presence. We testify, when we pray for the departed, that we have received from them a message, a message of truth, of faith, of hope, of joy; that they have been for us a way to God, that they have opened to us a door which leads into eternal life, because life eternal consists in knowing the living God, and we pray to Him indeed, because He is not the God of the dead but the God of those who live. And if our love can be undying, if the Old Testament could say that love is stronger than death - how much more can we say that the love of God in Christ is stronger than anything - death indeed, among other things, because in Christ death has been defeated, death has been harrowed, life has gushed forth like a torrent from the tomb of the Resurrection.

And this is why we turn to the Mother of God, both in prayer and in veneration, rejoicing that

She is one of us, a Woman among women, and yet - a Woman like none for the greatness, the perfection of her gift of self to God, of her transparency to God, for her suppleness in the creative hands of God. Indeed, it is because She could believe unreservedly, heroically that the Incarnation was made possible! She is truly the Mother of Life, but not as the first Eve, the mother of all those who live on earth and are doomed one day to depart this life. - No, She is the Mother of Life because She has brought into the world Life Eternal, God Himself become man, the Son of God Who in, but also through Her, has become the Son of man.

She also had to die, as Christ did, in total solidarity, in union with us; but She died inseparably united to the God to Whom She had given her soul and her body, her life without reserve, and indeed, as we are told in one of the Church's prayers, the grave and death proved incapable of keeping her a prisoner. She so communed to eternal life by her total gift of self to God and for unity with Christ, that She rose alive, and She is after Christ the first fruit of all those who have lived on earth, departed this earthly life and entered into eternity; She alone, after Christ, entered it fulfilled, entered it in body and soul. We are expecting the glorious resurrection of the last day, when living souls, cleansed, renewed by repentance, by the tears of our broken-heartedness and washed in the blood of the Lamb will be reunited to our bodies and stand, an incarnate humanity beyond death, beyond sin, beyond everything which is less than communion with God, since we are promised that the day will come when God shall be all in all.

And when we pray now to the Mother of God, and for the departed, these are thoughts which are in our hearts and minds. Yes, death is overcome, and we have evidence of it in the person of the Mother of God, and not only in the unique victory of Christ. But can we, frail, hesitant in our faith, hope to follow her into eternity? Indeed, yes, if we learn from her the transparency that allowed the light of God to shine through her, the surrender that allowed her to become the vessel of the Incarnation, the gift of self, heroic, courageous, self-sacrificing that allowed her to be the Mother of our Saviour.

We must remember the words of Saint Paul, or rather of Christ spoken to Paul when he felt unable to fulfil his earthly mission and asked for strength, "My grace sufficeth unto thee, My power is made manifest in weakness", - not in laziness, not in cowardice, but in that weakness which is perfect surrender.

Let us learn from the Mother of God so to surrender that the life of God may pervade us; and let us pray for all the departed who entered into eternity in twilight that they should be enlightened, indeed, more that this - be filled with light, in the words of Saint Gregory Palamas, like pure crystals which obscure no light that flows through them, and yet reflect it in all directions through the many, many facets of their unique personality .....

Let us hope, let us believe, let us surrender, let us learn, and give glory to the Mother of God, and to our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ!

#### الواقع الراهن

#### بين محمول على نعش أو محمول بالإيمان

مسيرة الإيمان بالقيامة سارها معنا يسوع وأعطانا محطات مختلفة حتى يستضيء عقلنا وقلوبنا بها فنتبهاها وتصير حقيقة نبني حياتنا على أساسها. إحدى هذه المحطات نعثر عليها في مبادرة يسوع في جنازة الابن الوحيد لأرملة نائين. أمام نعش هذا الشاب تأخذنا أفكارنا ومشاعرنا إلى أمه التي تخفقها العبرات، ويضيق صدرها بفقدان ابنها الوحيد بعد أن فقدت زوجها، وتختلط عليها المشاعر بشأن معنى الحياة والموت. بالحقيقة، شأنها هو شأننا أيضًا. أوليست خبراتنا مشتركة في هذا المجال؟ فما الجديد الذي يضئ به علينا إقامة يسوع لابن أرملة نائين؟

أولاً، حضور يسوع في الجنازة. يواجه يسوع واقعنا معنا. ونحن بدورنا مدعوون إلى أن نواجه واقعنا هذا معه. فإن حدثت هذه المبادلة الأساسية، أضاعت على حياتنا وعبورنا لهذه التجربة، وثبتت دعائم إيماننا بالمسيح. غياب هذه المبادلة يفقدنا حضور يسوع في جنازاتنا كما كان في جنازة ابن هذه الأرملة، وهناك تكون الخسارة مزدوجة، لأنه من دون نور الإيمان يصير الموت



نهاية مشؤومة وليس بداءة مغبوطة.

ثانيًا، حنان يسوع تجاه الأمّ الثكلى. شارك يسوع هذه الأمّ في مصابها كما يشاركنا في مصابنا. كلمها بسلطان عندما طلب منها ألا تبكي (لوقا ٧: ١٣). أراد أن يهيئها والذين معها إلى ما هو مزمع أن ينكشف، أي قدرة الله على الحياة والموت بأن، وأن يكون حدث إقامة ابنها والإيمان بالقيامة الداعي إلى الكفّ عن البكاء على قدر محتوم، وهو عودتنا إلى التراب عوضًا من أن يكون معبرًا لعودتنا إلى البيت الأبوي.

ثالثًا، كلمة يسوع النافذة نحو الشاب المائت. أمر يسوع ميثًا: «أيّها الشاب، لك أقول قُمْ» (لوقا ٧: ١٤). فبعد تحنّنه، أظهر يسوع حقيقته. فهو يخاطب المخلوق على صورته حيًا كان أو ميتًا. فإذا أصغى هنا الميت إلى صوته ونفّذ أمره، فكم بالحريّ على الأحياء أن يبادروا إلى الإصغاء إليه طوعًا؟ أليس علينا أن نصغي إلى الحقّ؟ بات ما حدث مع هذا الميت برهانًا صامتًا وصارخًا يبيّن ضمائرنا حول أخذنا كلام يسوع على محمل الجدّ.

رابعًا، قدرة يسوع على إحياء الشاب. فمع ما أظهره يسوع من الحنان والتعبير عن الحقّ، انكشفت قدرة يسوع وسلطانه بأن يقيم ميتًا من الموت. عاد هذا الشاب إلى الحياة الأرضية من جديد: «فجلس الميت وابتدأ يتكلّم» (لوقا ٧: ١٥). ارتبط القول بالفعل، والقصد بالحقيقة، والمحبة بالحياة، والإنسان بالله. أتى كشف هذا السلطان تجسيدًا لمحبة الله وإظهارًا للحقيقة التي يقّمها للإنسان حتّى يأخذ بها بالإيمان.

خامسًا، تقديم يسوع الشاب إلى أمّه. «فدفعه إلى أمّه» (لوقا ٧: ١٥). هل في هذه الحركة عود على بدء؟ أم تسليم لوديعة بات علينا النظر إليها من منظار ما قصد يسوع أن يقودنا إليه؟ أي معرفته في المحبة والحقّ والقدرة التي يعبر عنها باسم أبيه؟ فهل نستلم هذه الوديعة في علاقتنا مع أبنائنا فنبنّهم على الإيمان بيسوع الغالب للموت والمعطي الحياة الأبدية؟ سادسًا، حضور يسوع في الجماعة الشاهدة للحدث. هاكم ما صاح به المشاركون في الجنازة أو الشاهدون للمعجزة: «قد قام فينا نبيّ عظيم وافترق الله شعبه» (لوقا ٧: ١٦). انتزعت الحادثة من قلوب هؤلاء مكانًا لله فيهم ولكلمته وتدبيره. فإن ثبتنا في الإيمان بيسوع وعملنا بمقتضاه، سرّنا سيرًا حثيثًا في معارج هذه الحياة نحو عتبة الشركة الدائمة مع الله، بخوف وتمجيد كما حصل مع الذين أطلقوا هذه الصيحة.

فهل ميّعنا يا ترى إيماننا حتّى إنّ لا تحرّك فينا علامات الله هذه ونزوله إلينا لا «الخوف» ولا «التمجيد»؟ هل أثّرنا، بالعمق، أن نبقى أسرى عدم إحساسنا بافتقاد الله الدائم لنا، بينما تلوّثت عقولنا بأشكال الموت المعشّشة فينا أو حولنا؟ هلّا تركنا مجالًا ليسوع لينادينا كلّ يوم وبقيما من الموت الذي فينا؟ هلّا تركناه يلامسنا بحنانه وكلمته وقصده وأمره؟ هلّا حملنا واقعنا من جديد بناء على عمل الله المحيي فيه، ورفعنا به عالمنا ومجدنا به خالقنا؟ نعم، الفرصة سانحة، والربّ مبادر، فهل سنتوقّف عن البكاء على واقعك الراهن وتأخذ به بين يديك وتقيمه بالإيمان بيسوع؟

+ سلوان متروبوليت جبيل والبترون وما يليهما



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