

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 SABA, Archbishop
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

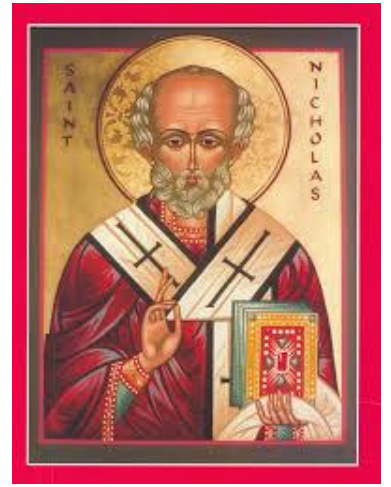
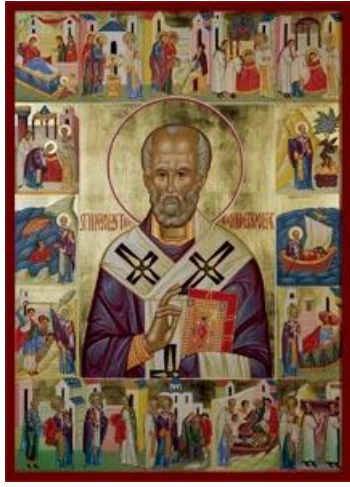
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Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Sub-Dn. Tariq Rantisi

Parish Council Chairman: **Salim Qaru**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Azar Azar**



Sunday, January 07, 2024

Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John

تذكار جامع للنبي السابق يوحنا المعمدان

January 6th is the Great Feast of Theophany

عيد الظهور الالهي (الغطاس)

We will have evening service on **Friday, January 5th at 6PM**

Service of Water Blessing will take place after service.

House Blessing Starts on Monday, January 8th.

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Monday, January 8th. If you would like the priest to bless your home, please call the church office 415-648-5200 or

Fr. George's cellphone: 586-214-4428 to schedule a visit.



QATAYEF: This Sunday, January 7th, following Church service, we will have Qatayef offered by **Radi and Janet Baqleh**. God bless you and your family. كل عام وأنتم بخير

THE EPISTLE: Acts (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

الرسالة : أعمال الرسل

في تلك الأيام حدث إذ كان أبولوس في كورنثوس، أن بولس اجتاز في النواحي العالوية وجاء إلى أفسس، فوجد بعضاً من التلاميذ فقال لهم: «هل نلتم الروح القدس لما آمنتم؟» قالوا له: «لا، حتى إننا لم نسمع بوجود الروح القدس». قال: «فبأيّة معموديّة اعتمدتم؟» فقالوا: «بمعموديّة يوحنا». فقال بولس: «إن يوحنا عمد بمعموديّة التوبة قابلاً للشعب أن يؤمنوا بالذي يأتي بعده أي بالمسيح يسوع». فلما سمعوا اعتمدوا باسم الرب يسوع، ووضع بولس يديه عليهم فحلّ الروح القدس عليهم، فطففوا يتكلمون بلغات ويتنبأون. وكانوا كلهم نحو اثني عشر رجلاً. ثم دخل المجمع، وكان يجاهر مدة ثلاثة أشهر يفادهم ويفقهم بما يخص ملكوت الله.

THE GOSPEL: John. (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

الإنجيل : يوحنا

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ رَأَى يُوحَنَّا يَسُوعَ مُقْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ: «هُوَذَا حَمَلُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يَرْفَعُ خَطِيئَةَ الْعَالَمِ! هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي قُلْتُ عَنْهُ: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي رَجُلٌ قَدْ صَارَ قَبْلِي، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مُنْقَدِّمِي. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ. لَكِنْ لِكَيْ يُظَهَرَ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ، جِئْتُ أَنَا أَعْمِدُ بِالْمَاءِ». وَشَهِدَ يُوحَنَّا قَائِلًا: «إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ الرُّوحَ مِثْلَ حَمَامَةٍ قَدْ نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَاسْتَقَرَّ عَلَيْهِ. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ، لَكِنَّ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي لِأَعْمِدَ بِالْمَاءِ، هُوَ قَالَ لِي: إِنَّ الَّذِي تَرَى الرُّوحَ يَنْزِلُ وَيَسْتَقَرُّ عَلَيْهِ، هُوَ الَّذِي يُعَمِّدُ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَأَنَا قَدْ عَانَيْتُ وَشَهِدْتُ أَنَّ هَذَا هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ».

ALTAR CANDLES قناديل الهيكل



Offered by **St. Nicholas Church** for the good health of all who are named *Hanna, John or Johnny* on the occasion of the Names's Day after St. John the Baptist especially: **Hanna Azar, Hanna Ghattas, Hanna Shami, Hanna Khoury, Hanna Khoury, Deacon John Dibs, John Fashho, Johnny Katout, Johnny Khoury, John Lahlouh, John Rizqallah, John Saba, John Abdallah Shami, Johnny Shami, Johnny Awwad, John Siner, Dr. Elias Hanna, Ibrahim & Somaya Hanna and the Entire Hanna Family. God Bless and Many Years!** Also in loving memory of **Abdallah Hanna Shami, Hanna Salim Shnoudi, Hanna Najib Batshon, Hanna Skef, John Saleh, Hanna Shami, Hanna George Karkar, Hanna Qaqundah, John Thome, and Deacon John Tershay.**

May their memory be eternal!

Holy Bread of Oblation

✠ Offered by **David Hanhan and his family**, in loving memory of his mother **Afdokia Hanhan** and his son **Joseph David Hanhan. May Their Memory Be Eternal!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

GENERAL PARISH MEETING & INSTALLATION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

January 28, 2024, more details to follow.

2024 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE: PLC will be held at the Westin in Tucson, AZ from July 3-7th, hosted by Holy Resurrection Church. To register, please visit

<https://www.antiochianevents.org/events/diocese-of-los-angeles-and-the-west-3/>

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.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

When a human enters into the world, he enters from nowhere, of total, radical absence enters through the gates of time in order to grow into eternity. He enters an ephemeral world in order to become citizen of God's Kingdom. When Christ was born, the Eternal entered into the narrow limits of time; He Who was immensity itself was limited by space and became a man in the flesh although the fullness of the Godhead abided, dwelt in this human frame. He entered into a world of sin in order to overcome sin, and in a world of suffering to endure it all together with us.

But on the day of His Incarnation God delivered unto us in the frailty of the child of Bethlehem the fullness of His love, and love is always defenseless and frail, abandoned and surrendered. It was an act of God by which He gave Himself to us and in which the humanity of the Incarnate Son of God was helplessly delivered into the history of mankind.

When we are baptised, we are plugged into waters that cleanse us from sin. When Christ came unto Jordan, He came sinless, but this time in the maturity of manhood, at a point at which His human will, identified with the will of God, made Him a self-offering; He brought Himself there to begin, to start the way to the Cross. Thousands were baptised in the Jordan, and each of them proclaimed his sins and these waters of Jordan were heavy with the murderous sins of men. Christ had no sin to proclaim and to confess, and when He entered into these waters of Jordan, He entered, to use an image of a contemporary divine, as one plunges, walks into a dye — He was dyed with the darkness of our sins. He came out of it carrying all the sins of the world. He came out of the waters of Jordan loaded with the condemnations that lay upon the world. And this is the time when He begins His ascent to the Cross.

We are now keeping the feast of the Baptism of Christ, a dread event, an event that should keep us spellbound, in awe: Him Who is pure shares the impurity of human sin so that He may save us. We will bless the waters, the natural waters that surround us. Let us pray the Lord to send upon these waters grace and blessing for them to become pure and holy, endowed with the power to cleanse and to renew, to make us and all the objects and all the places where they will be sprinkled, partakers of this purity of the waters of Jordan which had touched the holy and pure body of the Incarnation, of The One Who had taken upon Himself all the evil of world. Let us pray that the grace of the Spirit of God may come upon these waters and that they may be truly blessing and salvation by the power of Christ, by the power and dwelling of the Holy Spirit.

يوحنا السابق

في اليوم الذي يلي عيد الظهور الإلهي، نقيم ذكرى جامعة للقديس يوحنا المعمدان. تبرز شخصية يوحنا أمامنا ساحرة صداعة بأن معًا. رجل في منتهى التواضع لكي يُظهر المسيح لإسرائيل. كان يختفي ويريد أن يختفي واعتبر أن رسالته قد انتهت بمجيء ذلك العظيم المرتجى. لذلك انتهى دوره بعد أن عمّد يسوع بالماء إلى أن سُجن من أجل الحقيقة التي قالها لهيرونس.

قد نسأل لماذا استطاع أن يكون متواضعًا، وكيف تمكّن من أن يحيا هذه الحياة الجديدة، كيف قدر على أن يصمد أمام الملك الظالم وأن يذهب به صموده حتى الشهادة. سرّ ذلك في أنّه كان زاهدًا بكلّ ما يملك الناس وبما يشتهي الناس. كان يوحنا يعيش وحده في الصحراء ليشير إلى أنّ وحدة الإنسان هي مع الله ولقائه مع الحقيقة. هذا يتمّ بالعيش بالفقر بلا طعام، بلا مأوى. كان يوحنا يقتات من الجراد والعسل البرّي.

أن نأكل كثيرًا يعني أننا نخشى الموت، وألا نأكل يعني أننا لا نخاف الموت. نظرًا أنّ الطعام يقينا خطر الموت. أمّا يوحنا فكان يطلب الوحدة حتى النهاية حتى حدود الجوع. زهد بكلّ ما يساورنا من أمجاد. زهد بالكنهوت وأبوه كان كاهنًا وكان الكهنوت حقًا له. وكان الكهنوت يعني آنذاك بعضًا من مجد. زهد بمجد كان يستطيع أن يناله إذ كان مقرّبًا من هيرونس الملك الذي كان يصغي إليه بفرح. ولأنّه كان زاهدًا بمجد البلاط الملكي كان يوبّخ الملك. ما كان يحجب ضميره بسبب الصداقة التي تربطه بالملك.

كان يوحنا يؤمن بأنّ الله حقوقًا على الناس وبأنّ عليه أن يذكر الناس جميعًا بحقّ الله عليهم وبأنّهم جميعًا تراب. لكن من يتعاطى أمورًا كهذه يعرض نفسه ويوحنا عرض نفسه لما قال لصديقه الملك: لا يجوز لك أن تأخذ امرأة أخيك. ما كان هذا الكلام يروق للملك الزاني مع أنّه كان يُسرّ بالأقوال الأخرى التي كان يسمعها من يوحنا. ثمّ كانت هذه الحفلة الساهرة الماجنة، وكان الملك قد دعا أكابر القوم وآكلهم وشاربهم حتى سكر، وأقسم أن يعطي الصبيّة الراقصة ما شاءت ولو كان نصف مملكته. فذهبت إلى أمّها التي طلبت رأس يوحنا على طبق. ومن بعد ذلك صار رأسه نورًا للعالمين.

هذه الميثة الكبرى، التي نعيّد لها في الكنيسة المقدّسة في ٢٩ آب، كانت تهيئة لموت المخلص. يوحنا رجل عاش قبل يسوع وكأنّه مخلص، لذلك جعلت الكنيسة عيدًا له في ثاني يوم من ظهور الربّ يسوع كأنّه هو أيضًا ظهر بضياء. المطران جاورجيوس



Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

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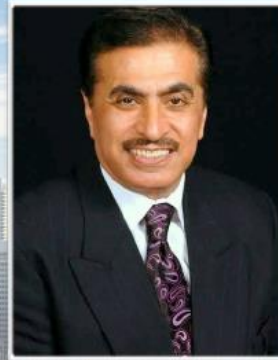


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