

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الارثوذكسية

## St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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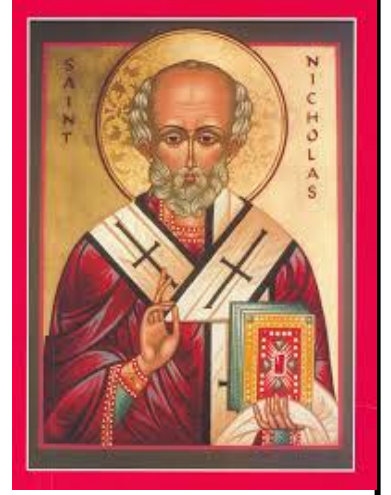
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*Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014*

**THE EPISTLE St. Paul to the Hebrews.** Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**الرسالة: عبرانيين :** يا إخوة بالإيمان نزل ابراهيم في ارض الميعاد نزوله في ارض غريبة، وسكن في خيام مع اسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه للموعود بعينه، لأنه انتظر المدينة ذات الأسس التي الله صانعها وبارئها. وماذا أقول ايضا؟ انه يضيق بي الوقت إن أخبرت عن جدعون وباراق وشمشون ويفتاح وداود وصموئيل والأنبياء الذين بالإيمان هزموا الممالك وعملوا البر ونالوا المواعد وسدوا أفواه الأسود وأطفأوا حدة النار ونجوا من حدّ السيف وتقووا من ضعف وصاروا أشداء في الحرب وكسروا معسكرات الأجانب، وأخذت نساء أمواتهن بالقيامة، وعذب آخرون بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب ولم يقبلوا بالنجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل، وآخرون ذاقوا الهزء والجلد والقيود ايضا والسجن، ورجموا ونشروا وامتحنوا وماتوا بحدّ السيف وساحوا في جلود غنم ومعرز وهم معوزون مضايقون مجهودون (ولم يكن العالم مستحقا لهم)، وكانوا تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم، مشهودا لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا المواعد، لأن الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئا أفضل أن لا يكملوا بدوننا.

**THE GOSPEL St. Matthew. (1:1-25)**The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

**الإنجيل: متى 1:1-25** كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن ابراهيم. فابراهيم ولد اسحق واسحق ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته، ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تامار، وفارص ولد حصرون وحصرون ولد آرام وأرام ولد عميناداب وعميناداب ولد نحشون ونحشون ولد سلمون وسلمون ولد بوعز من راحاب وبوعز ولد عوبيد وعوبيد ولد يسي ويسي ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأريّا وسليمان ولد رحبعام ورحبعام ولد أبيتا وأبيتا ولد آسا وآسا ولد يوشافاط ويوشافاط ولد يورام ويورام ولد عزريا وعزريا ولد يوتام ويوتام ولد آحاز وآحاز ولد حزقيا وحزقيا ولد منسى ومنسى ولد آمون وآمون ولد يوشيا ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شالتئيل وشالتئيل ولد زربابل وزربابل ولد أبيهود وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم وألياقيم ولد عازور وعازور ولد صادق وسادوق ولد أخيم وأخيم ولد أليهود وأليهود ولد ألعازر وألعازر ولد مثن ومثن ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي ولد منها يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح. فكل الأجيال من ابراهيم الى داود اربعة عشر جيلا، ومن داود الى جلاء بابل اربعة عشر جيلا، ومن جلاء بابل الى المسيح اربعة عشر جيلا. اما مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا: لما خطبت مريم امه ليوسف وجدت من قبل ان يجتمعا حبلى من الروح القدس. وإذ كان يوسف رجلا صديقا ولم يريد ان يُشهرها، هم بتخليتها سرا. وفيما هو مفكر في ذلك اذا بملاك الرب ظهر له في الحلم قائلا: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف ان تأخذ امرأتك مريم، فان المولود فيها انما هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابنا فتسميه يسوع، فانه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم (وكان هذا كله ليتم ما قيل من الرب بالنبى القائل: ها إن العذراء تحبل وتلد ابنا ويدعى عمانوئيل الذي تفسيره الله معنا). فلما نهض يوسف من النوم صنع كما أمره ملاك الرب، فأخذ امرأته ولم يعرفها حتى ولدت ابنها البكر وسماه يسوع.

### ***Holy Bread of oblation offered by:***

- ❖ St. Nicholas church to all those who carry the names: **Ibraheim, Yousef, David, Jacob, and Ishaq** on the occasion of their feast day. Happy Name's Day!
- ❖ Mimi Hanhan in loving memory of **Basem Hanhan, Shukri & Wadia Hanhan, Joseph & Margaret Hanhan, Nakleh Aho & Rimon Dabit**. May their memory be eternal! And for the good health of **Mimi Hanhan's & family, Aho's family**. Many Years!
- ❖ Rimon and Sana Jada for the good health of **Antoinette Khoury**. Many years!
- ❖ Rossete Saba and family in loving memory of **George Nicola Saba (Son) and Nicola George Saba (Husband)**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Hanneh Fashho and her family in loving memory of **Abed Fashho, Jamelieh, Malakeh, Osta and Nadia Tannous, and Hilda Rantisi** May their memory be eternal
- ❖ Basima and Khader Atwan in loving memory of **Issam, Basem and Naimah Jaghab**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ ROSE HABIB and SALLY HABEEB and family, in memory of our dearest departed father, **LOUIS**, and brother, **ROBERT**, on their Christmas birthdays. Also, in memory of our beloved mother, **JULIA**, brother **GEORGE** and wife **BARBARA**, and **ELIAS HABEEB**, and all our dear departed family and friends, at this blessed Christmas season. May their beautiful memory be eternal!

**Coffee hour offered by:**

- ❖ Maha Dabit and family in loving memory of husband and father **Rimon Dabit (10-Years)**  
May his memory be eternal!

## Announcements:

↪ **Christmas Service will take place on Christmas Eve Wednesday, ↪  
Dec 24th. Matins at 5:00 pm, Divine Liturgy at 6: 00 PM**



→ **Christmas Party: Dec 20<sup>th</sup>** we will have a Christmas party at our Banquet Hall with the famous singers Suhail Bashour and Nader Zaki. Ticket \$75 per person. To buy tickets please contact:

**Sana Jada: (650) 255-1380, Maurice Kari : (650) 455-1600.**



→ **Christmas Play:** we will have a Christmas party **This Sunday Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**. Everyone is invited to attend and have fun



→ **Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Ladies will be offering a Christmas Bake Sale after the Divine Liturgy. For more info call Suhaila Sweiss: (650) 455-9790.

→ **Young Adult Winter Retreat** The Fellowship of St. John the Divine will be hosting their second annual Young Adult Winter Retreat in Big Bear, CA from January 16-18, 2015. The retreat is very inexpensive so that young adults from all over the diocese can attend. Join young adults from across the diocese for a weekend of prayer, fellowship, and fun! The speakers will be Mother Victoria from St. Barbara Monastery & Fr. David Sommer. \$50/\$75 w/ Lift Ticket. More information and registration can be found on the website [www.dlawyoungadults.com](http://www.dlawyoungadults.com). **Or contact Tariq Rantisi : (650) 290-3492.**

### ↪ Note:

**Our dear beloved ones in Christ:** You can help in spreading the word of God by providing us the email addresses of the members of your family and your friends who do not receive our bulletin via email. Please send their emails to: [info@stnicholas-sf.com](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)



➔**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015.** *By the grace of God, we invite you to prayerfully participate in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Enthronement Gala Celebration of*

HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH  
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METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

Saturday, January 31, 2015

Sheraton Universal Hotel – Universal City, California  
Benefitting St. Nicholas Camp and Youth Education Programs

3:30 PM Clergy and Clergy Wives Reception

5:00 PM Great Vespers Service

6:00 PM Cocktail Reception

7:30 PM Dinner and Program

*Please note there will be a Youth and Young Adult Brunch with Metropolitan JOSEPH on Saturday 11:00 AM and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy beginning with Orthros on Sunday 9:15 AM Both of these events will take place at St. Nicholas Cathedral : 2300 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057*

Adult Tickets are \$185.00 per person, Young Adult Ticket 18-30: \$100 (includes the Youth and Young Adult Brunch Saturday Morning), Child's Ticket (up to 17 years): \$75 (includes the Youth and Young Adult Brunch Saturday Morning) To order tickets online or place an ad in the program book visit: <http://antiochianladiocese.org/enthronementgala.html>. To purchase by check, kindly remit check or money order payable to St. Nicholas Cathedral to: Anna Nasser | St. Luke Orthodox Church |13261 Dunklee Avenue | Garden Grove, CA 92840. Phone: [714-971-2244](tel:714-971-2244) Deadline for Reservations is January 15, 2015



**The Christ Child:** The little helpless figure in swaddling clothes represents the complete submission of Christ to the physical conditions governing the human race. The earth provides him with a cave. The animals watch over him in silent wonder and we humans offer him one of us, the Virgin Mother. His manger is like a coffin and his swaddling clothes are very much like the grave clothes, for this child is born to die. Far from the Christmas-card image of being born in a sweet, cosy stable, surrounded by cuddly animals and adoring fans, Christ is born in a dark cave. The craggy rocks above the cave form the shadow of the cross on which he dies. One very old version of the Christmas story has it that Christ was born in a cave outside Bethlehem, which is why the icon shows him that way, in the midst of jagged rocks and pitch dark. Christ has come into the world to save it, but that means he has come into a place of darkness and danger. He is in the depths. His birth anticipates his death, just as the gift of myrrh (a spice used in burials) points us to Christ's death and burial. So, while the nativity is a joyful event, it carries a serious message. Jesus Christ is God with us, God come to live the life of a human being on earth. But he has also come to die, to set us free from our slavery to evil, poverty and injustice. As one writer puts it: "God became a human child so that we might become children of God."

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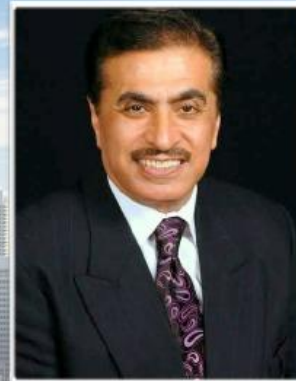
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