

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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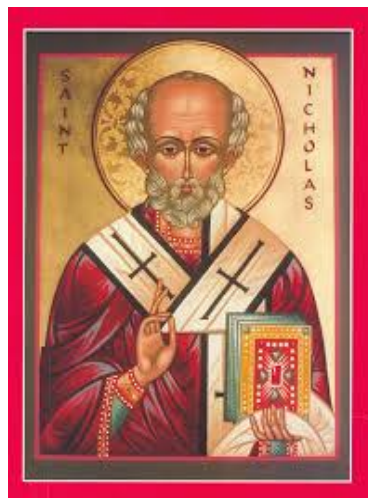
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Rev. Deacon Niphon Sweiss

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, March 29th, 2015

Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt

أحد القديسة مريم المصرية

✠ Condolences ✠

St. Nicholas Clergy and Parish family would like to express their sincere condolences to Fr. Nicholas Borzghol on the passing into eternal life of his mother Helena Bishara in Syria.

May her memory be eternal!



This Sunday March 29th, 9th and 40th Day Memorial Service for

Handmaiden of God Antwonette Emile Khoury

Offered by her children and family. May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14) Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٩: ١١-١٤ يا إخوة، ان المسيح اذ قد جاء رئيس كهنة للخيرات المستقيلة، فبمسكن أعظم وأكمل غير مصنوع بأيدي اي ليس من هذه الخليقة. وليس بدم تىوس وعجول بل بدم نفسه دخل الأقداس مرة واحدة فوجد فداء أبدياً، لأنه ان كان دم ثيران و تىوس ورماد عجلة يُرْس على المنجّسين فيقدّسهم لتطهير الجسد، فكم بالأحرى دم المسيح الذي بالروح الأزلي قرّب نفسه لله بلا عيب يطهر ضمائركم من الأعمال الميتة لتعبدوا الله الحي.

THE GOSPEL St. Mark. (10:32-45) At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

الإنجيل: مرقس ١٠: ٣٢-٤٥ في ذلك الزمان اخذ يسوع تلاميذه الاثني عشر وابتدأ يقول لهم ما سيعرض له: هوذا نحن صاعدون إلى اورشليم وابن البشر سيُسَلَّم إلى رؤساء الكهنة والكتبة، فيحكمون عليه بالموت ويسلمونه إلى الأمم فيهزأون به ويصقون عليه ويجلدونه ويقتلونه، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم. فدنا اليه يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي قائلين: يا معلم، نريد ان تصنع لنا مهما طلبنا. فقال لهما: ماذا تريدان ان اصنع لكما؟ قالا له: أعطنا ان يجلس احدا عن يمينك والآخر عن يسارك في مجدك. فقال لهما يسوع: انكما لا تعلمان ما تطلبان. أتستطيعان ان تشربا الكأس التي أشربها انا، وان تصطبغا بالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها انا؟ فقالا له: نستطيع. فقال لهما يسوع: اما الكأس التي اشربها فتشربانها وبالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها فتصطبغان، اما جلوسكما عن يميني وعن يساري فليس لي ان أعطيها الا للذين أعد لهم. فلما سمع العشرة ابتدأوا يغضبون على يعقوب ويوحنا. فدعاهم يسوع وقال لهم: قد علمتم ان الذين يُحسبون رؤساء الأمم يسودونهم، وعظماءهم يتسلطون عليهم. واما انتم فلا يكون فيكم هكذا. ولكن من أراد ان يكون فيكم كبيرا فليكن لكم خادما، ومن أراد ان يكون فيكم اول فليكن للجميع عبدا. فان ابن البشر لم يأت ليخدم بل ليخدم وليبذل نفسه فداء عن كثيرين.

Coffee hour offered by:

❖ **Suheila Atwan and Alex Resendez** for the good health of their family. Many Years!

Sponsors for Sunday's are needed. Please make checks payable St. Nicholas Church in the amount of \$25.00 or more.

Announcements:

MARCH IS LADIES' MONTH

In keeping with the tradition in our Archdiocese, ladies will show their involvement in the life of the church in the most visible way during the month of March.

They will usher, collect trays, read the Epistle and deliver sermonette...

Our ladies Auxiliary usually prepare a Lenten Luncheon on Sundays. This year they are asking of your help by Donating or preparing food for that purpose.

For more information see Suheila Sweis...

Sunday, March 29th: Sermonette: *Jean Kalil.*

Epistle Readers: Nathalie Hanhan (*English*), Salwa Hanhan (*Arabic*).



Palm Sunday Luncheon

Next Sunday April 5th is Palm Sunday. We will have fish luncheon downstairs after the service. Donation :\$35. For reservation, please call the church office.



GREAT LENT SCHEDULE 2015:

Every Monday and Wednesday is the Great Compline /pre-Sanctified Service at 7:00 pm. (صلاة يا رب القوات)

Every Friday is the Akathist Service at 7:00 pm starting February 27th.

(صلاة المدائح) **followed by Pot Luck dinner.**

Palm Sunday, April 5th (أحد الشعانين)

Pascha, April 12th. (عيد الفصح)

PASCHA (EASTER) BREAKFAST ITEMS NEEDED

As our custom, the Family of St. Nicholas Parish enjoys breaking the Fast together on the dawn of the Resurrection day. All the parishioners of St. Nicholas will have their breakfast together in celebration of the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Call church office if you would like to donate these items or money toward purchasing these items:

Feta Cheese	Cheese	Labneh	Olives	Ham
Orange Juice	Turkey	Pickles	Fruits	Napkins
Pita Bread	Tahini	Milk	Foam Cups	Olive
Oil	Eggs	Sausage	Bacon	Potato
Coffee	Pancakes	Knives	Forks	



Agape Service - صلاة الباعوث & Children's Eggs Hunt ***Sunday, April 12^h at 12:00 PM Agape (Vesper) Service***



Easter Sunday at 12:00 PM, there will be an Agape vespers and the readings of the Gospel of the Resurrection proclaimed to the four corners of the earth in the languages of all mankind. Following the Service we will have the Easter Egg Hunt donated by **Almaza Tannous, Mike Tannous, Hani Tannous, Gihan Cosentino, Christine Jekelian and their families in memory of Josef & Margarit Hanhan, Charles Tannous and Asal Tannous.** Also by Almaza Tannous for the good health of her children Mike, Hani, Gihan, Christine and their families.

Again this year, according to Margo's wishes, a "**GOLDEN EASTER EGG**" and a host of eggs will be donated, which will add to the excitement of the Feast.

2015 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES GREAT AND HOLY WEEK OF OUR LORD'S PASSION AND HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Saturday, April 4th

Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 11:00AM

Sunday, April 5th

Palm Sunday: Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Matins at 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy & Procession with Palms at 11:00 AM

Holy and Great Monday, April 6th & Tuesday April 7th

Bridegroom Matins 7:00 PM

Holy and Great Wednesday, April 8th

Holy Oil Service 7:00 PM

Confession Before & After the service

Holy and Great Thursday, April 9th

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Breakfast after liturgy

Matins with 12 Passion Gospels 7:00 PM

Holy and Great Good Friday, April 10th

The Royal Hours & Vespers Service

At 11:00 AM

Matins with the Lamentations at the Tomb at 7:00 PM

Holy and Great Saturday, April 11th

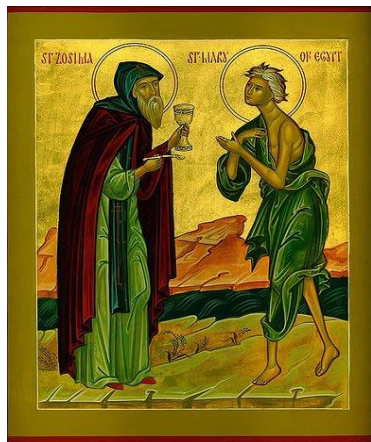
Starting Service 10:30 PM

Rush Hour 11:00 PM

Divine Liturgy 12:00 AM Followed by breakfast

Holy and Great Sunday, April 12th

Vespers 12:00 PM



Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

Week after week we feel that we are coming closer and closer to the glorious Resurrection of Christ. And it seems to us that we are moving fast, from Sunday to Sunday as it were, to the day when all horrors, all terrors, will have disappeared.

And yet so easily do we forget that before we reach the day of the Resurrection we must, together with Christ, together with His apostles, tread the road of the Crucifixion. 'So we are ascending to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they

shall crucify Him, and the third day He will rise'. All we notice is that He will rise. But do we ever think of the way in which the disciples went to Jerusalem, knowing that the Crucifixion was at hand? They were moving in fear. They were not yet mature enough to be those who would give their lives for the message to be spread. They were moving in fear. When Christ told them that they would go now to Jerusalem, return to the city which had then renounced Christ, put Him into danger of His life, they said to Him, 'Let us not go.' And only one disciple, Thomas, said, 'No. Let us go with Him, and die with Him.'

This disciple is the one whom, foolishly I believe, we call the Doubter: the one who was not prepared to give his trust to God, his faith, his life, his blood, without certainty. But his heart was unreservedly given to Christ. How wonderful to be such a man! But the other disciples would not desert Christ. They walked towards Jerusalem.

And we have today another example of one who went through a tragedy before they met Christ. It is Mary of Egypt. She was a sinner. She was a harlot. She was unfaithful to God in her soul and in her body. She had no reverence for this body which God had created and this soul. And yet she was tragically confronted with the fact that there was no way for her into the temple of God unless she rejected evil and chose purity, repentance, newness of life.

Let us reflect on the disciples who almost begged Christ not to return to Jerusalem, because Jerusalem was a city where all prophets had died; and they did not want Christ to die, and they were afraid. Let us ask ourselves how much we resemble them. And let us ask ourselves freely today how do we resemble, or not, Mary of Egypt - Mary who had lived her life according to her own ways and desires, followed all temptations of her body and soul; and one day realised that as she was, she could not enter the temple of God. So easily do we enter the divine temple, forgetting so easily that the church into which we come is a small part of a world that has chosen to be alien to God, that has rejected God, lost interest in Him; and that the few believers have created for God a place of refuge - yes, the church is the fullness of Heaven, and at the same time a tragic place of refuge, the only place where God has a right to be because He is wanted. And when we come here, we enter into the divine realm. We should come into it with a sense of

awe, not just walk into it as into a space but walk into it as a space which is already the divine Kingdom. If we were in that mood we would, when we come to the doors of the church, be, however little, like Mary of Egypt. We would stop and say, 'How can I come in?' And if we did that with our whole heart, broken-heartedly, with a sense of horror of the fact that we are so distant from God, so alien, so unfaithful to Him, then the doors would open and we would see that we are not simply in a big space surrounded with walls but we are in a space which is God's Heaven come to earth.

Let us therefore learn from this experience what it means to go step by step towards the Resurrection, because in order to reach the Resurrection we must go through Calvary, we must go through the tragedy of Holy Week and make it our own, partaking with Christ and His disciples and the crowds around in the horror, the terror of it; and also experience it as a scorching fire that will burn in us all that is unworthy of God and make us clean. And perhaps one day, when the fire will have burnt everything which is not worthy of God, each of us may become an image of the burning bush, aflame with divine fire and not consumed, because only that which could survive the fire of God would have remained is us.

Metropolitan Anthony Surozh

ها نحن صاعدون إلى اورشليم

في الأسبوع المقبل سوف يبدأ صعودنا مع ابن الانسان إلى سرّ آلامه ثم إلى جمال قيامته. ولكن ماذا سيكون شعورنا؟ أياكون شعور يوحنا ويعقوب ابني زبدي اللذين أرادا أن يجلسا معه في مجده؟ انهما سمعا شطراً من النبوءة فحسب. لم يسمعا ان ابن الانسان سوف يُسلم إلى رؤساء الكهنة والكتبة ويقتلونه، ولكنهما سمعا فقط انه سيقوم فأرادا ان يتمتعا بهذه القيامة دون أن يعبروا بالآلام، وتصوّرا ان انتصار السيد سوف يُعيد المُلك لإسرائيل، وأنهما قادران أن يصبحا وزيرين في المملكة الجديدة التي سيكون الرب مليكها.

أراد السيد ان يُفهم تلاميذه أن من أراد أن يصل إلى المجد في الكنيسة لن يصل إلى المجد الذي يعرفه أهل العالم. ولهذا سأل يسوع تلاميذه: "أتستطيعان أن تشربا الكأس التي أشربها أنا وأن تصطبغا بالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها أنا؟"، أي أقادران أنتما على الموت؟ وإذا كنتما مؤهلين للموت بالشهادة، شهادة الدم، فتستطيعان أن تشاركا في القيامة أي أن تتالا فرحاً روحياً لا علاقة له بالملوك ولا بالأغنياء ولا بالمتقنين. كل هؤلاء ينالون مجدا عابراً في أجسادهم، في دنياهم، في عقولهم، ولكن تلاميذي وُعدوا بالموت، ومن بعد موت الشهادة ينالون الظفر.

نحن نعلم من سفر الأعمال أن يعقوب مات موت الشهادة في أيام هيرودوس، ونعلم من تراث الكنيسة أن يوحنا الحبيب عُدب في جزيرة بطمس ولم ينل موت الشهادة ولكنه تألم بالزيت المغلي ونجا منه. في كل حال أراد يسوع، قبل أن يصعد إلى اورشليم، أن يعلم تلاميذه جميعاً أن الموت هو هذا: ان يكون الإنسان منسحق القلب متواضعاً لا يؤمن أن له شيئاً في ذاته، ان يكون منسحقاً أمام الرب وأمام الإخوة. ولذلك لفت تلاميذه إلى أن "رؤساء الأمم يسودونهم وعظماءهم يتسلطون عليهم. واما أنتم فلا يكن فيكم هذا. ولكن من أراد ان يكون فيكم كبيراً فليكن لكم خادماً، ومن أراد ان يكون فيكم أول فليكن للجميع عبداً".

الناس دائماً في مسعى إلى الظهور. الكل يفتش عن أن يكون ذا سلطة، ويريد أن يعترف الناس به، وأن له تأثيراً. من يقبل ان يكون لا شيء، ألا يتكلموا عنه، ألا يظهر في المجالس؟ من يحزن اذا مدحوه؟ باسيليوس الكبير يقول: "اذا مدحك أحد فأسكتة". من أراد ان يكون بينكم كبيراً فليكن صامداً، صافياً، لا أمجاد له. هذا هو النموذج. ولهذا في العشاء الأخير جمع يسوع تلاميذه وغسل أرجلهم واحداً واحداً، أي ان الإله العليّ تنازل ليس فقط إلى الإنسان ولكن إلى أسفل ما في الانسان، إلى قدميه وإلى وسخ قدميه. جاء ليخدم ويبذل نفسه فداء عن كثيرين.

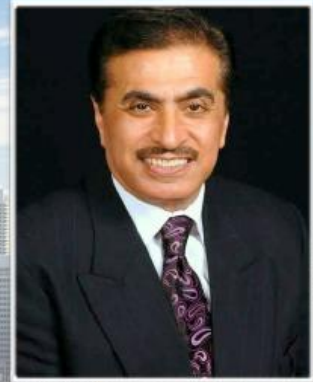
يوحنا ويعقوب أرادا أن يكونا سيّدين، وزيرين في مملكة المسيح. أسكتهما المسيح. من أراد ان يكون وزيراً يجب أن يصطبغ بصبغة الموت. "اننا صاعدون إلى اورشليم"، إلى الموت، لا إلى المطالبة بالحقوق، إلى الموت، إلى ان نفنى خدمةً وانسحقاً وتواضعاً.

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