

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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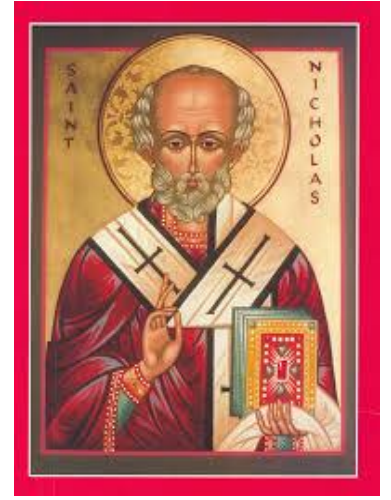
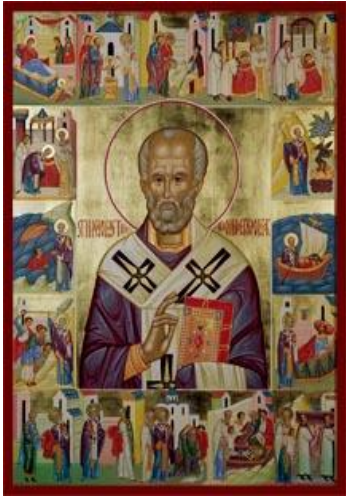
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Rev. Deacon Niphon Sweiss

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Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, September 6th , 2015



This Sunday (One- Week) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God

Rifka Martha Offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!

Next Sunday September 13th (40-Days) memorial service for the Handmaiden of God

Najla Jarjura offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1:21-2:4) Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

الرسالة: 2 كورنثوس 1: 21- 2: 4

يا إخوة، ان الذي يثبتنا معكم في المسيح وقد مسحنا هو الله، الذي ختمنا أيضا وأعطى عربون الروح في قلوبنا. واني أستشهد الله على نفسي اني لإشفاقي عليكم لم أت أيضا إلى كورنثوس، لا لأنا نسود على إيمانكم بل نحن أعوان سروركم لأنكم ثابتون على الإيمان. وقد جزمْتُ بهذا في نفسي أن لا أتاكم أيضا في غمٍّ، لأنني إن كنتُ أغمكم فمن الذي يسرني غير من أسبب له الغم؟ وانما كتبتُ لكم هذا بعينه لئلا ينالني عند قدومي غمٌّ ممَّن كان ينبغي أن افرح بهم. واني لواتق بجميعكم أن فرحي هو فرح جميعكم. فاني من شدة كآبة وكرب قلب كتبتُ اليكم بدموع كثيرة لا لتغتموا بل لتعرفوا ما عندي من المحبة بالأكثر لكم.

THE GOSPEL (The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (22:2-14) The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

الإنجيل: متى 22: 1-14 قال الرب هذا المثل: يُشبه ملكوت السماوات إنسانا ملكا صنع عرسا لابنه. فأرسل عبيده ليدعوا المدعوين إلى العرس، فلم يريدوا أن يأتوا. فأرسل أيضا عبيداً آخرين وقال: قولوا للمدعوين هوذا غدائي قد أعددتُ، ثيراني ومسمّناتي قد دُبّحت، وكل شيء مُهيأ، فاهلموا إلى العرس. ولكنهم تهاونوا، فذهب بعضهم إلى حقله وبعضهم إلى تجارته، والباقيون قبضوا على عبيده وشتموهم وقتلوه. فلما سمع الملك غضب وأرسل جنوده فأهلك أولئك القتلّة وأحرق مدينتهم. حينئذ قال لعبيده: اما العرس فمُعَدّ واما المدعوون فلم يكونوا مستحقّين. فاذهبوا إلى مفارق الطرق وكل من وجدتموه فادعوه إلى العرس. فخرج أولئك العبيد إلى الطرق فجمعوا كل من وجدوا من أشرار وصالحين، فدخل العرس بالمتّكئين. فلما دخل الملك لينظر المتّكئين، رأى هناك إنسانا لم يكن لابسا لباس العرس. فقال له: يا صاح كيف دخلت إلى ههنا وليس عليك لباس العرس. فصمت. حينئذ قال الملك للخُدام: أوثّقوا يديه ورجليه وخذوه واطرحوه في الظلمة البرانية، هناك يكون البكاء وصريف الأسنان، لأن المدعوين كثيرين والمختارين قليلين.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week of September: [Sana Jada](#), [Rimon Jada](#), [Samer Bouri](#), [Jack Hanhan](#), [Rafat J. Haddad](#), [Sandra Sahourieh Elgelda](#), [Saba James Sahouria](#), [Juliet Saba Katout](#), [Sherine Chatouhy Nakad](#), [Christine Tannous-Jekelian](#), [Oscar Moran](#) Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ Nadia Shatara and family in loving memory of **Elias Shatara**. May his memory be eternal!

Alter Candles offered by:

- ❖ Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jimmie, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell, and Jane Moran for the continued good health of **Oscar Moran** on the occasion of his birthday Sep 7th. Happy Birthday! Many Years!
- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health and speed recovery of Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**. May God grant him many years!
- ❖ Daoud and Farida Srouji for the good health of their family **Ramzi & Tamara, Dina & Eric, Lina & Joseph**. May God grant all of them many years!

Announcements:

Annual Festival

ST. Nichols Annual Middle- Eastern Food Festival will take place on October 3^h, 4th

*We are selling a raffle ticket at for a brand new
2015 Honda Civic, ticket is \$50.*



Saint Nicholas is pleased to present the opportunity to win a brand new 2015 Honda Civic!

Raffle Tickets are only \$50. First prize is a Honda Civic LC or \$17,000 credit toward any Honda. Drawing will take place at our Annual Food Festival on October 4th. You do not need to be present to win. High chance to win! Only 600 tickets sold!



These Items Are Needed for Our Festival. Please Donate to purchase these items. Thanks
يرجى التبرع لشراء هذه الحاجيات شكرا

100 foil trays with cover	10 kinds of spices
2 cases of lamb	10 cases of "to go" containers
4-10 cases of garbanzo beans	1-25 lbs salt
4 lighting fluid	200 pieces of ½ chicken
100 lbs of chicken breast	5 cases of paper plates
1 case of plastic knives	2 large foil 18"
5 cases of napkins	2 cases of 4oz containers
50 large foil trays	12 gallons olive oil
50 lbs bulgur	5 cases of lemon juice
3 cases of plastic forks	2 large saran wrap
1-75 lbs sugar	100 dozens of pita bread
15 large bags of charcoal	3 cases of plastic spoons
30 lbs of Tahini sauce	2 cases of vermicelli
5 cases of lettuce	5 cases/ yellow onion
2 jars of peeled garlic	500 pieces of Knafee
4 cases of parsley	1 case of lemon
1 case of green onion	500 pieces of Hilbeh
5 cases of cucumber	500 pieces Ghribeh
500 pieces of Baklava	500 pieces "Ka'ek"
500 pieces Maamool	500 pieces of Namura
500 pieces Barazik	

Fashion Show

: *Save the date: November 1st our annual fashion show at St. Nicholas Banquet hall @ 1:30 p.m. Donation: \$50.*

Models are needed for the fashion show. If you are interested, Please call Sue Rantisi @ [650-823-2949](tel:650-823-2949). Thank you



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (September 8th)

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

I should like to say a few words about the greatness of this feast. When a man surveys this world in which we live, which is so vast, seemingly boundless, and looks at himself in it, he feels very small and insignificant. And if he adds to this the hardness and coldness of men, he may sometimes feel extremely vulnerable, helpless and unprotected both before people and before the terrifying vastness of the world. Yet at the same time if a man looks at himself not in relation to his surroundings, but goes deep into himself, he will there discover such an expanse, such depths, that the whole created world is too small to fill it. Man sees the beauty of the world - and the vision does not completely satisfy him; he learns an enormous amount about God's creation - and the knowledge does not fill him to the brim. Neither human joy nor even human sorrow can completely fill a man, because in him is a depth that exceeds everything created; because God made man so vast, so deep, so limitless in his spiritual being, that nothing in the world can finally satisfy him except God Himself.

Today's feast of the Mother of God demonstrates this fact with particular beauty and splendour. She so believed in God, She gave herself to Him with such a pure mind and pure heart, with an unwavering will, with the purity of Her virginity and life, such that She was granted to say the Name of God perfectly, with such love that the Word became flesh and God was made man in Her.

Through this we are shown that not only is the soul, the inner being and spirit of man, so created by God that it can contain the mystery of a meeting with the living God, but that even the body is so made that in an unfathomable way it can be united with the living God. Indeed, according to St. Peter we are called to become partakers of the divine nature; according to St. Paul our vocation is to become temples of the Holy Spirit. The whole of the New Testament teaches us that we are the Body, the living tremulous Body of Christ, through baptism and through Holy Communion. How wonderful this is, and therefore with what reverence must we regard not only our immortal soul, but this body of ours which is called to rise again, to enter the Kingdom of God and be glorified, like the body of Christ. In the XI century St. Simeon the New Theologian wrote one day when he had returned to his humble cell after

receiving Holy Communion, words to this effect, "I look upon this corruptible body, upon this frail flesh, and I tremble, because by partaking of the Holy Mysteries it has been permeated by God, it has been united with Christ, it is overflowing with the Holy Spirit... these powerless hands have become the hands of God, this body has become a body that God has taken possession of."

Consider what has been given us not only by our faith, but by the sacraments of the Church; the immersion in the blessed waters of baptism makes us particles, living members of Christ's Body, the anointing with holy chrism is not only the visible seal of the Holy Spirit, but makes us the temples in which He dwells. When the bread and wine which are offered by our faith and love to God are consecrated, they become incomprehensibly and mysteriously the Body and Blood of Christ, and this created matter partakes of Christ and imparts to us, who are incapable of soaring to God in spirit, the divinity of Christ, which saves and transfigures us in soul and body.

This feast of Nativity of the Mother of God is the time when we remember the birth of the One who for the sake of us all, for the whole human race, was able to show such faith, to surrender so absolutely to God, that He could become Man through Her, and bring us these manifold, unfathomable gifts. Glory to Her humility, glory to Her faith, glory to Her love, glory to God Who was incarnate and to the Virgin Mother of God, the worthy vessel of the incarnation of the Son of God, Christ our God! Amen.

عرس الحمل

فيما كان السيد قريباً من آلامه، قال هذا المثل المأساة. تحدّث عن ملك يقيم عرساً لابنه. الملك هو الله الأب، وابنه هو يسوع المسيح، والعرس هو موت المسيح. هذا تمّ على ثلّة الجلجلة واكتمل الخلاص وبدأ فرح الانسان برّبه، وفرح الانسان بإمكان تطهّره من الخطيئة وبإمكان صعوده إلى الله. هذا هو العرس، ويؤيد هذا المعنى ما ورد في سفر الرؤيا: "طوبى للمدعوين إلى عشاء عرس الحمل" (١٩: ٩). الحمل هو المسيح المذبوح، والعشاء هو العشاء السري، القداس الإلهي. عرس المسيح معنا يتجدد بدمه الذي نشربه من الكأس المقدسة. لماذا قال يسوع هذا المثل؟ ليقول لنا ان أول المدعوين الذين كان من المفروض ان يكونوا حاضرين رفضوا الدعوة، وأعني بهم أمة اليهود التي لم يتحدّث الله الا اليها في القديم. وكان كلام الله دعوة لتتوب. أرسل إليهم نبياً وراء نبي، وجاء بكتاب من بعد كتاب، ولكنهم فضّلوا أنفسهم على الله. فإنهم كما قال الرسول بولس: "لم يخضعوا لبرّ الله، ولكنهم يطلبون أن يُقيموا برّ أنفسهم" (رومية 10: 3)، أي انهم ادّعوا أن رسالة الله إنما هي ملك لهم يستأثرون به.

الأمة العبرانية كانت أول أمة تُدعى لكونها مؤمنة بالله الواحد، ولكنها رفضت الله إذ رفضت مسيحه. عندئذ ذهبت الكلمة إلى الأمم، إلى الوثنيين، بالبشارة. لذلك قال الملك لعبيده: "اذهبوا إلى مفارق الطرق وكل من وجدتموه فادعوه إلى العرس". القضية ليست فقط قضية مدعوين رفضوا وآخرين قبلوا الدعوة، ولكنها قضية كل انسان. المسيحي أيضاً يعتذر عن الحضور لأنه يتعاطى تجارة أو اشترى أرضاً أو لكونه قد تزوج كما جاء في الإنجيل في موضع آخر.

هذا المثل موجّه إلى كل منا. كل واحد سمّى نفسه مسيحياً هو مدعو دائماً إلى عرس المسيح، كل نفس معمّدة هي عروس ليسوع. القضية ان نترك كل شيء وأن ندخل إلى غرفة العرس مع المسيح.

"كيف دخلت إلى ههنا وليس عليك لباس العرس؟". كل نفس عروس المسيح لأنه يدعوها. كيف تستقبله ولا تنهيها؟ هل لها ان تنسى أنها عروس؟ أليس هذا امتهاناً أو ازدراء بمن دعا؟ بلا هذا العريس ماذا لها؟ هل هي مهية بالحب أو بالشوق؟ أما كانت تعرف ان كل مصيرها يبدأ بهذا العرس؟

هل نحن مُدركون أن علاقتنا بالمسيح تبدأ بعرس أي بقبول الزواج به، وأن ليس لنا زوج آخر؟ كل علاقة دون الزواج أي الالتصاق الكامل بالآخر هي حُلْم. واذا كان الرب يسوع تزوّج النفس، فليس لها زوج آخر. والمعنى انه الزوج الذي يكفيك وليس عليه مزيد.

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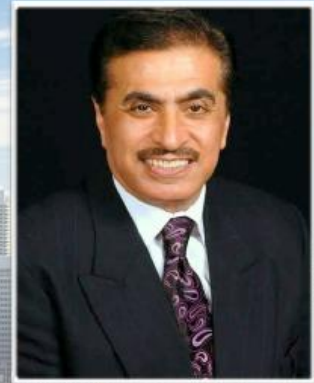


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