

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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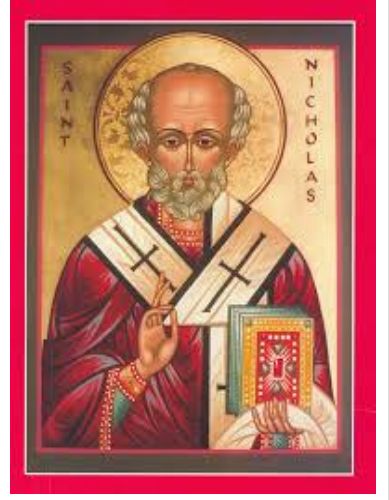
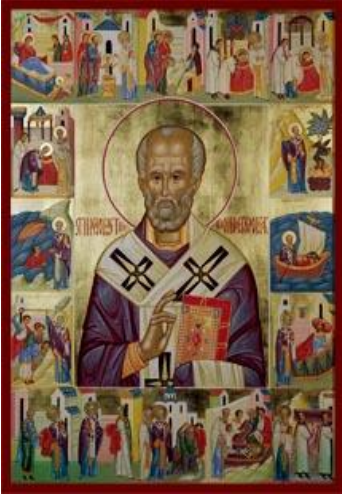
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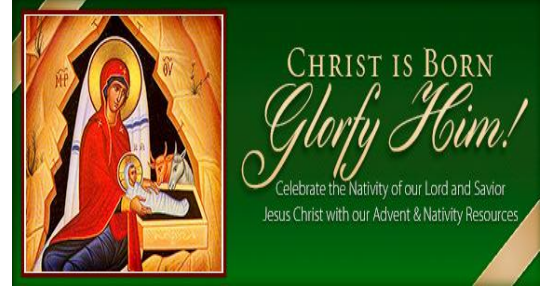


Sunday, Dec 13th, 2015

Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

NATIVITY FAST: November 15th - December 25th

Nativity Fast (Advent) is the period proceeding the Christmas season in which we abstain from meat and dairy products. Eating fish is allowed except Wednesdays and Fridays, and we can eat all the regular meals like breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The purpose of this fast is seeking the spirituality and the preparation for the feast of the advent of our Lord on December 25th.



بدء صوم الميلاد: يبدأ صوم الميلاد 11/15 وهو صوم يسمح فيه أكل السمك (عدا الأربعاء والجمع) لغاية نهار 12/20 هذا الصوم تهيئة للاحتفال بعيد ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح. نتمنى للجميع صوماً مباركاً وكل عام وأنتم بخير.

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

الرسالة: كولوسي 3:4-11 يا إخوة، متى ظهر المسيح الذي هو حياتنا فأنتم ايضاً تُظهرون حينئذ معه في المجد. فأَمَيّتوا أعضاءكم التي على الأرض: الزنى والنجاسة والهوى والشهوة الرديئة والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن، لأنه لأجل هذه يأتي غضبُ الله على أبناء العصيان، وفي هذه انتم ايضاً سلكتم حيناً إذ كنتم عائشين فيها. اما الآن فأنتم ايضاً اطرحووا الكل: الغضب والسخط والخبث والتجديف والكلام القبيح من أفواهكم. ولا يكذب بعضكم بعضاً بل اخلعوا الإنسان العتيق مع أعماله والبسوا الإنسان الجديد الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي، لا ختان ولا قلف، لا بربري ولا اسكيثي، لا عبد ولا حر، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

الإنجيل: لوقا 14:16-24 قال الرب هذا المثل: انسان صنع عشاء عظيما ودعا كثيرين فأرسل عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين: تعالوا فإن كل شيء قد أُعدّ. فطفق كلهم، واحد فواحد، يستعفون. فقال له الأول: قد اشتريت حقلا ولا بد لي ان أخرج وأنظره، فأسألك ان تعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد اشتريت خمسة فدادين بقر وانا ماض لأجرّيها، فأسألك ان تعفيني. وقال الآخر: قد تزوجت امرأة فلذلك لا أستطيع ان أجيء. فأتى العبد وأخبر سيده بذلك. فحينئذ غضب رب البيت وقال لعبده: اخرج سريعا الى شوارع المدينة وأزقتها، وأدخل المساكين والجدع والعميان والعرج الى ههنا. فقال العبد: يا سيد قد قضي ما أمرت به، ويبقى ايضا محلّ. فقال السيد للعبد: اخرج الى الطرق والأسيجة واضطررهم الى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي. فإني اقول لكم انه لا يدوق عشاءي احد من اولئك الرجال المدعوين، لأن المدعوين كثيرين والمختارين قليلون.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Fatina Batshon, Maha Kishek, Emad Maayeh, Adel Saoud, Fadi Jada, Reem Jada, Nabela Khoury, Fadi Kakish. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!

Alter Candles is offered by:

- ❖ Maha, Alex, Christopher, and Alexis Dabit in loving memory of beloved husband and father **Rimon Dabit**, Also in memory of Father and Grandfather **Nakhleh Aho**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Angel Salfeti in loving memory of **Elias, Ellen ad Costandi Salfiti, and Lana Arabia**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Hanneh Fashho and family in loving memory of husband and father **Abd Fashho**, and Jamelih, Malakeh, Osta, Nadia and Samira Tannous, and Hilda Sayegh. May their memory be eternal!

Mark your Calender

Guest Speaker:

Next Sunday Dec 20th we will be having Father **Antony Gabrial**, the **Chairman of Antiochian Heritage Foundation**, as a special guest. Fr. Gabrial will give a presentation about his department, also will join us the Christmas Party on Saturday Dec 19th, and celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday 20th

Christmas Services:

Thursday, December 24th Matins 8:00 pm Divine Liturgy 9:00 pm.

Friday, December 25th Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m.

Parish Council Election December 13th after the Divine Liturgy

On Sunday, December 13th, there will be a parish council election meeting for the sole purpose of electing some members of the Parish Council for the coming term. Three are to be elected and one to be appointed by the Pastor.



Anyone interested in serving or nominating someone to serve on the Parish Council must be fully pledged and spiritually qualified. Please submit your candidate's name to the pastor by **Dec 7th**. In order to vote in the elections, members must be in spiritual and financial good standing with the church.

Christmas Party

St. Nicholas Annual Christmas Party is on December 19th with the musically talented JABOUR BAKLA and Maestro RADWAN SHAKHASHIR and Ensemble. Donation: \$85.

For reservation, please contact:

Jeries Azar : [415-710-0456](tel:415-710-0456)

Elias Batshon: [650-580-7185](tel:650-580-7185)

Sana Jada: [650-255-1380](tel:650-255-1380)

Salwa Shnoudi: [650-580-8561](tel:650-580-8561)



Saint Nicholas Christmas Party

Proudly Presents

The musically talented: JABOUR BAKLA
With Maestro: RADWAN SHAKASHIR
And Ensemble

December 19th, 2015
Appetizer 6:30- 7:30 pm Dinner: 8:00 pm
Donation \$85



Christmas Play

Sunday School Christmas Play will take place on Sunday Dec 20th after Divine Liturgy

Followed by SANTA CLAUSE Coming to town to give out Christmas Presents.

Bring your camera and take a picture with Santa! And don't forget to bring your parents with you!!!

Pledge Commitments & Archdiocese Fees

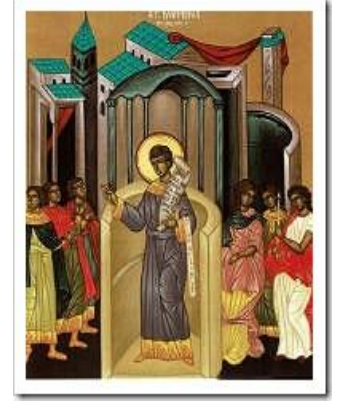
Before the end of this year, we would like you to honor your pledge commitments and archdiocese fees. God bless you!

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

Choir and Chanters Sunday:

This Sunday, December 13th, we take a moment to honor and thank our choir directors, choir members, and chanters for their continued love and dedication to making the services of our Church as beautiful and moving as possible through their gift of singing and chanting. We realize that without them, much of what we do would not be possible, or at best, would be much more difficult and not as edifying to any of us. May God continue to bless all of our choir directors, choir members and chanters as they beautify our services with their voices of praise, and grant them many years!



ظهور المسيح

في هذه الرسالة الى اهل كولوسي يكلمنا بولس على مجيء المسيح الثاني ويسميه ظهوراً. هذا عند حدوثه "تظهرون انتم حينئذ معه في المجد". ظهوركم في المجد وليس في الظلام يفترض انكم قضيتكم على شهواتكم وبالفضائل حلّ عليكم النور. وهنا يعدد فئتين من الرذائل: الفئة الأولى تتضمن بخاصة ما يتركب في الجسد، بالإضافة الى الطمع الذي يقول عنه الرسول انه عبادة وثن لأنه عبادة المال الذي يعتبره الكاتب وثناً. ثم يهدد بنزول غضب الله على أبناء العصيان ومنهم مسيحيون اذا سقطوا فيها بعد المعمديتهم. ويفترض ان المهتدين الى الايمان لا يرتكبونها كما يعرف انهم سلكوا قديماً فيها. يؤمن بولس ان من اهتدى الى المسيح يهتدي ايضا الى فضائل المسيح.

بعد قوله هذا ينتقل الرسول الى فئة أخرى من الشهوات: الغضب والسخط والخبث والتجديف والكلام القبيح والكذب. هذه خطايا ترتكب خارج الجسد. بعضها باللسان كالتجديف والشتم والكذب، وغيرها بالفكر مثل الخبث. ليس ان هذه الشهوات هي كل الشهوات. أبأونا النساك قاموا بعد العصر الرسولي بتصنيفها وطرق مكافحتها. الانسان الغارق فيها يسميه بولس الانسان العتيق اي الذي لم ينل بعد نعمة المعمودية، واما الذي لبس المسيح فيسميه الانسان الجديد الذي يتجدد دائماً بالنعمة للمعرفة اي لمعرفة الله وذوقه ومحبه وطاعته فيصير بشكل ساطع على صورة خالقه، وعند هذا التجديد لا يبقى فرق في الكنيسة بين يوناني ولا يهودي. تزول العنصرية والانتماءات القديمة. وما يرادف هاتين الكلمتين لفظتا الختان (اليهود) والقف (الوثنيين). وكذلك يزول الفرق بين بربري (لا ينطق اليونانية) واسكيثي وهؤلاء كانوا قوما لهم حضارة كبيرة في جنوب روسيا بنوع خاص. ثم يزول الفرق بين العبد والحر الذي كان قائماً في الامبراطورية الرومانية، وانضم الى الكنيسة عبيد وأحرار وهم في الكنيسة إخوة ولو بقي التفريق القانوني بينهم. بعد ذلك بكثير زال نظام الرق، واليوم يعتبرون انه ضدّ حقوق الإنسان.

طبعاً ما بشر بولس لإلغاء نظام الرق. فقد كان قائماً. انما قال نحن لا نعتبره في الكنيسة، ونساوي بين العبد والحر. وبقي بعض المسيحيين عندهم عبيد ولكنهم كانوا يعاملونهم كإخوة.

لماذا تزول هذه الفوارق؟ لأنّ المسيح، يقول الرسول، هو كل شيء وفي الجميع. (المطران جورج خضر)

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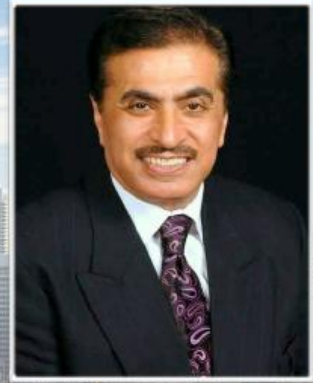


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