

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

5200 Diamond Hts. Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website: stnicholas-sf.com

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

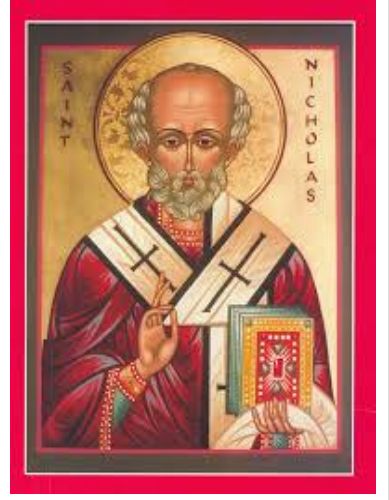
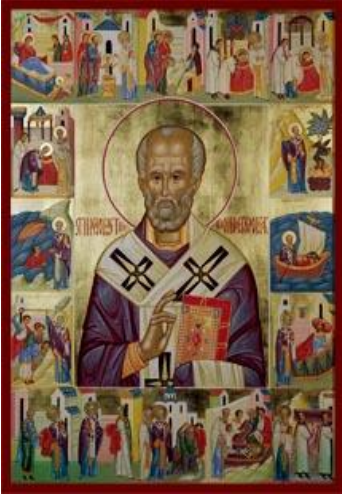
(586) 214-4428- revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Rev. Deacon Niphon Sweiss

Sub-Dn. Michel Houry

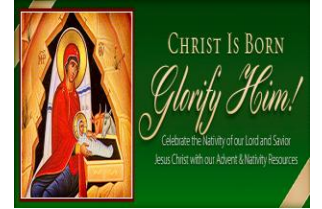
Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, Dec 20th, 2015

The Genealogy Of Christ/ (الأحد قبل عيد الميلاد)

الْمَجْرُؤَةُ فِي اللَّهِ عَالِي وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ
السَّلَامُ وَبِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ الْمَسْرُورَةِ!



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 Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40) 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 إبراهيم في أرض الميعاد نزوله في أرض غريبة، وسكن في خيام مع اسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه للموعود بعينه، لأنه انتظر المدينة ذات الأسس التي الله صانعها وبارئها. وماذا أقول أيضاً؟ إنه 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 حد السيف وتقوا 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 أيضاً والسجن، ورجموا ونشروا وامتحنوا وماتوا بحد السيف وساحوا في جلود غنم ومعرز وهم معوزون مضايقون مجهودون (ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم)، وكانوا تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم، مشهودا لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا المواعد، لأن الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئاً 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.

الإِنْجِيل: 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 تamar، وفارص ولد حصرون وحصرور ولد آرام وأرام ولد عميناداب وعميناداب ولد نحشون ونحشون ولد سلمون وسلمون ولد بوغز من راحاب وبوغز ولد عوبيد وعوبيد ولد يسي ويسي ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأريّا وسليمان ولد رحبعام ورحبعام ولد أبيّا وأبيّا ولد آسا وآسا ولد يوشافاط ويوشافاط ولد يورام ويورام ولد عزّيا وعزّيا ولد يوتام ويوتام ولد آحاز وآحاز ولد حزقيّا وحزقيّا ولد منسى ومنسى ولد آمون وآمون ولد يوشيا ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شالنتيل وشالنتيل ولد زربابل وزربابل ولد أبيهود وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم وألياقيم ولد عازور وعازور ولد صادوق وصادوق ولد أخيم وأخيم ولد أليهود وأليهود ولد ألعازر وألعازر ولد مئان ومئان ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي وُلد منها يسوع الذي يُدعى 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 حُطبت مريم امه ليوسف وُجدت من قبل ان يجتمعا حُبلى من الروح القدس. وإذ كان يوسف رجلها صديقا ولم يُرد ان يُشهرها، هم بتخليتها سرا. وفيما هو مفكر في ذلك اذا بملك 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 ان العذراء تحبل وتلد ابنا ويُدعى عمّانوئيل الذي تفسيره الله معنا). فلما نهض يوسف من النوم صنع كما أمره ملاك الرب، فأخذ امرأته ولم يعرفها حتى وُلدت ابنها البكر وسماه يسوع.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ Rose Habib and Sally Habeeb and family in loving memory of their dearest departed father Louis Habib, and brother Robert Habib on their Christmas birthdays, Dec 23rd, and Dec 25th. Also in memory of beloved mother Julia Habib, brother George and wife Barbara, and Elias Habeeb, and all their departed family and friends at this blessed Christmas season., May their beautiful memories be eternal!
- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Reem Jada, Nabela Khoury, Fadi Kakish, Joanne Saba, Shadi Rantisi, Nicole Bekhit, Chuck Hanhan, Nick Ofiesh. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ 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!

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!
- ❖ Nadim, Basma, Janan, Idette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell. Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Jim Howell** on the occasion of his birthday December 17th. Many Years!

Coffee Hour is offered by:

- ❖ **Nadia and Bishara Wahab** for the good health of their family. Many Years

Choir and Chanters Sunday: 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.

Mark your Calender

Guest Speaker:

This Sunday Dec 20th we will be having Father **Antony Gabriel**, the **Chairman of Antiochian Heritage Foundation**, as a special guest. Fr. Gabriel 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.

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 CLAUS 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!

SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Experience the joy of Christmas
"One Voice" presents
Born in the Middle-East
Christmas Carols in Arabic & English

Sunday December 27, 2015
from 5:00 to 6:30 PM

Sponsored by Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church
5200 Diamond Heights Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94131
FREE ADMISSION - PARKING AVAILABLE

The Christmas of hope and love celebrated in the Middle-East

Syria Egypt Jordan Lebanon Holy Land

أحد النسبة

تُهيّئنا الكنيسة لعيد ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح بتلاوة نسب السيّد المنحدر من إبراهيم ومن داود إلى السحابة من الشهود المشهود لهم بالإيمان كما نقرأ في رسالة اليوم وصولاً إلى يوسف والعذراء مريم الأمّ البتول.

عند قراءة هذا النص، تتساءل العقول عن موضوع يُشكك البعض وهو علاقة البتول بيوسف. مريم كانت مُعدّة حسب الشرع لكي تصبح زوجة ليوسف. كانت مخطوبة له، والخطبة زواج قانوني بلا مساكنة. وكان الرجل يأخذ الفتاة إلى بيته يوم الزفاف. إذن كانت مريم منفصلة عن يوسف ولكنها معيّنة زوجة له حسب القانون.

لما حبّلت مريم بالطفل يسوع كان يحقّ ليوسف أن يشكّ في أمرها لأنها لم تكن متزوجة فعلياً. لهذا جاءه قول الملاك ليُزيل كل شك. لذلك أيضاً أخذها يوسف إلى بيته حتى يحميها من القضاء لأن الشريعة كانت تحكم على امرأة حبلى وهي بعد مخطوبة أن تُرجم بالحجارة. وكما يروي الإنجيل، أخذ يوسف امرأته، أي استدعاها إلى بيته، وأقامها فيه ولم يعرفها إطلاقاً، لم يتصل بها.

العقبة الأولى في هذه الآية هي عبارة «حتى». الكلمة اليونانية المستعملة هنا، مثل الكلمة العبرية، تُحدّد ما جرى إلى انتهاء فترة زمنية محددة ولا تعني بالضرورة أن ما حدث بعد تلك الفترة نقيض ما كان. العبارة لا تحمل معنى المضارع بل الماضي. نجد أمثلة كثيرة في الكتاب المقدّس عن استعمال «حتى» مثلاً نقرأ أن نوحاً فتح طاقة في الفلك بعد أن هدأ الطوفان وأرسل الغراب «فخرج الغراب متردداً حتى نشفت المياه على الأرض» (تكوين ٨: ٧). أما العقبة الثانية في الآية فتكمن في العبارة «ابنها البكر». هذا لا يعني ما يزعمه البعض أنّ ليسوع إخوة وهو البكر. المعنى واضح في النص الأساسي انه «الأول والوحيد».

الابن البكر يُسمّى كذلك لأنه المولود الأول ولو لم يولد أحد سواه.

وبناء عليه فإن التساؤلات حول هذا النص ليس لها موضع وهي ليست شرعية لأن الكتاب المقدّس لم يتكلّم إطلاقاً عن أولاد كانوا لمريم بعد ميلاد يسوع. الكتاب يتحدث عن ميلاد يسوع ولم يتحدث عن شيء آخر. لفظة إخوة يسوع لا ينحصر مدلولها بإخوة له من أمّه لأن كلمة إخوة كانت تشمل عندهم الأنساب الأقرباء. والكنيسة المقدسة اعتبرت دائماً في ما تسلّمته من الرسل أن مريم بقيت عذراء في ولادتها وبعد ولادتها.

ما علينا أن نقبل به من ناحية العقيدة هو أن مريم بقيت عذراء قبل الولادة وفي الولادة وبعد الولادة. ليس في الكتاب المقدّس شيء ضد هذا. هذه هي الحقيقة الواضحة، وهذه هي عقيدتنا. وما يهمّنا من الأمر اليوم هو أن مريم الفتاة العذراء كانت ذروة القداسة واستوعبت السيد وكانت له أمّاً، وكانت بواسطته أمّاً لنا جميعاً. جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون وما يليهما (جبيل لبنان)



CHRISTMAS Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

In one of the texts of the Holy Scriptures we are told that the world had waxed old, had decayed in the course of centuries since man had lost touch with God, since communion between God and man had become dimmed. And Saint Paul says that the whole creation is waiting with longing for the revelation of the children of God, for the moment when man will have become Man again in the fullness, in all the beauty of the glory

of his vocation.

And on the day when we remember the Nativity of Christ, the Incarnation of the Son of God, we can see that the beginning of a new time has come, that this world that had gone old because God was, as it were, far away from it - great, awe-inspiring but distant, had come to an end. GOD IS IN OUR MIDST: this is the meaning of the word 'Emmanuel'; God with us - and the world is no longer the same. We live in a world into which God has come, in which He is the living power, the inspiration, Life itself, Eternity itself already come. And this is why Saint John the Divine in the Book of the Revelation, speaking of Christ as the End, uses in Greek not the neuter which would be right, but the masculine: because 'The End' is not a moment in time, the End is not something that happens, but Someone that comes.

Yes, we are waiting for the day when God will come in glory, when all history will be up, when all things will be summed up, when God shall be all in all; but already now God is in our midst; already now we have a vision of what man is by vocation and can be by participation. But this is an offer; God gives His love, God gives Himself - not only in the Holy Gifts of Communion, but in all possible ways He is ready to enter into our lives, to fill our hearts, to be enthroned in our minds, to be the will of our will, but to do that, to allow Him to do that we must give ourselves to Him, we must respond to love by love, to faith - the faith which God has in us - by faith that is trust and faithfulness to Him. And then - then, we, each of us singly and all of us in our togetherness, will become God's Kingdom come with power, the beginning of the fullness of time, the beginning of the glorious victory!

Isn't that something which is worth struggling for? Isn't it worth turning away from everything that separates us from our own integrity, from one another, from God, and allow ourselves to become new creatures?

Let us now, now that the beginning has come, and in a way the end is already in our midst, let us do it: overcome all that is unworthy of ourselves and allow God victoriously to transfigure our lives! Glory be to God for His love! Glory be to God for the faith He has in us, and for the hope He has put into us!

THE MICHAEL LAW FIRM

ISSA J. MICHAEL, Esq.

Trial Attorney since 1996

(415) 447-2833

issa@michaellawsf.com

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
5200 Diamond Heights Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94131

REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY/WRONGFUL DEATH

- › Auto Accidents
 - › Pedestrians
 - › Bicycles
 - › Motorcycles
 - › Taxi
 - › Buses
 - › Trucking
 - › Airplane & Train Crashes
 - › Construction Site Accidents
 - › Explosions, Fires & Burns
 - › Product Defects
 - › Defective Medical Devices & Drugs
 - › Medical Malpractice
 - › Elderly Abuse
 - › Falls (Slip & Trip)
 - › Dog Attacks
 - › Assault/Battery & Homicides
- Millions of dollars recovered for clients.
 - No fees unless recovery.
 - San Francisco Bay Area, the State & Across the Nation.
 - Members of the State Bar of California, Consumer Attorneys of California, & San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association.



**PASSION, SENSITIVITY &
ZEALOUS ADVOCACY**

www.MichaelLawSF.com

THE MICHAEL LAW FIRM

PERSONAL
INJURY

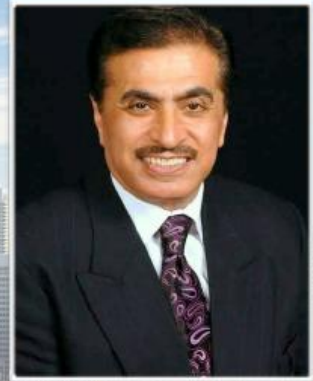


WRONGFUL
DEATH

TRIAL LAWYERS

REXSI
REAL ESTATE

ONE MARKET STREET, 36TH FLOOR | San Francisco CA
433 Airport Blvd, Suite 126 | Burlingame CA
2901 West Coast Highway | Newport Beach CA



JERIES TANNOUS
Commercial and Residential Real Estate
BRE # 00550532
Cell: (650)740-9263

Looking to...

- **Purchase a home?**
- **Sell your business?**
- **Purchase a new business?**
- **Purchase commercial property?**
- **Lease a location for your business?**

We are here to help you!
CALL ON US

Specializing in:
Business Brokerage
Commercial Real Estate
Sales & Leasing
Residential Real Estate

St. John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy

Christian Hearts • Classical Minds • Community Spirits



ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN FOR
2014-2015



We Are:

Pan-Orthodox
K-12 and Fully Accredited

We Provide:

A Loving Orthodox Environment
College Preparatory Classical Curriculum
5:1 Student to Teacher Ratio
Dedicated and Qualified Teaching Staff
Hot Lunch Program
Convenient San Francisco Location

CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TODAY!

Offering a Quality K-12
Education in a Loving
Orthodox Environment

The mission of St. John's Academy is to bring the light of Christ to our community through providing an education that unites intellectual, spiritual, and cultural growth.

The Academy is a pan-Orthodox institution which represents the diversity of Orthodoxy in America. We welcome students from all ethnic backgrounds.

St. John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy
6210 Geary Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94121
Administration (415) 221-3484
information@stjohnsacademysf.org - www.stjohnsacademysf.org

The Saint John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy
Christian Heart • Classical Mind • Community Spirit

St. Nicholas Banquet Room

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94131



Come visit us for Weddings, Baptisms,
Birthdays, Anniversaries & All Other Occasions
We are located in the heart of San Francisco
Please call us to make an appointment at (415) 648-5200.

Maher Aljada Hair Salon
753-Kains Ave. Mills Park Shopping Center
San Bruno CA 94066
(415) 424-5353