

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](mailto:info@stnicholas-sf.com)--website: [stnicholas-sf.com](http://stnicholas-sf.com)

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

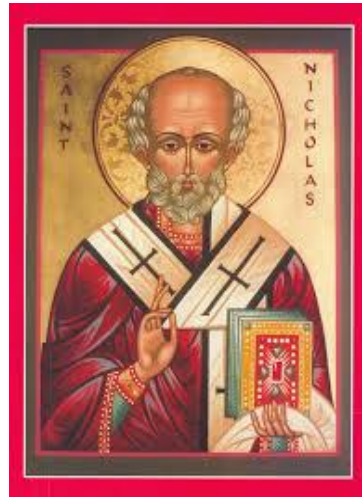
(586) 214-4428- [revbaalbaki@yahoo.com](mailto:revbaalbaki@yahoo.com)

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Rev. Deacon Niphon Sweiss

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

### House Blessing Starts on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. You will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you would like to reschedule to another date, please call the office.

#### THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

الرسالة: أفسس 4:7-13 يا إخوة لكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. فلذلك يقول: لما صعد الى العلى سبى سببها وأعطى الناس عطايا. فكونه صعد، هل هو إلا أنه نزل أولا الى أسافل الأرض؟ فذاك الذي نزل هو الذي صعد ايضا فوق السماوات كلها ليملا كل شيء، وهو قد أعطى أن يكون البعض رسلا والبعض أنبياء والبعض مبشرين والبعض رعاة ومعلمين لأجل تكميل القديسين ولعمل الخدمة وبنیان جسد المسيح الى أن ننتهي جميعنا الى وحدة الإيمان ومعرفة ابن الله، الى إنسان كامل، الى مقدار قامة ملء المسيح.

#### THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

الإنجيل: متى 4:12-17 في ذلك الزمان لما سمع يسوع أن يوحنا قد أسلم، انصرف الى الجليل وترك الناصرة وجاء فسكن في كفرناحوم التي على شاطئ البحر في تخوم زبولون ونفتاليم ليطم ما قيل باشعيا النبي القائل: أرض زبولون وأرض نفتاليم، طريق البحر، عبر الأردن، جليل الأمم. الشعب الجالس في الظلمة أبصر نورا عظيما والجالسون في بقعة الموت وظلاله أشرق عليهم نور. ومنذئذ ابتداء يسوع يكرز ويقول: توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السماوات.

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

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Zack Khoury, Tamer Hanhan, Rania Freij, Ramzi Jada, Huda Fashho, Joan Maayeh, Widad Husary, Jack Louh, Ghada Keishk, Issa Shnoudi, Salwa Shnoudi, Randa Rantisi, Georgette Bazouzi, Wesam Azar. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ Sally Habeeb's children for the good health of **Sally Habeeb** on the occasion of her birthday. Happy Birthday. Many years!
- ❖ Afaf Dudum in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum** on the occasion of his birthday Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. May his memory be eternal, and for the good health of his family Lana, Anthony, and Cassandra Dudum. Many Years!
- ❖ Lamis Malouf Bachir and Wafa Vassilakis and family in loving memory of mother **Souraya Baker**, Father **Melhim Malouf**, and Brother **Josef Milano Malouf**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health of all who are named; John, Hanna ...etc. after **Prophet, Forerunner John the Baptist (January 7)**, on the occasion of their Names Day! Many years!

### *Coffee Hour is offered by:*

- ❖ **Rodi and Janet Baqleh** for the good health of their children and Grandchildren. Many Years

## *Mark your Calendar*

- ❖ This Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> we will be having Awamat (Zalabieh زلابية) offered by **Rodi and Janet Baqleh**. God bless you and your family. كل عام وأنتم بخير



### **EVE OF EPIPHANY (Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh)**

Year after year, in brotherly love, in a search of a oneness deeper than all visible unity we meet here. And we meet here in the light of our salvation in Christ. The salvation of mankind, the salvation of the world created by the Word is not a one-sided act of God. The Incarnation would have been as impossible without the humble assent of the Virgin Mother as it would have been without the positive will of the Father. But also, in the Incarnation only a beginning is made to our salvation. Saint John Chrysostom in one of his Homilies says that Christmas is like a dawn, but Epiphany which for us means the baptism of Christ is

like a full light of day. Why? Because in the Incarnation, in the birth of Christ, the Son of God become the Son of Man in Bethlehem. God seizes upon the humanity which is offered Him by the faith of the Virgin Mother, which is the culminating point of all the faith of those who ever longed for the coming of their Saviour and believed in it, those whose names are written in Christ's genealogy, and the many, many, the millions whose names are unknown to us, but who are all known to their Lord and their God.

But in the Incarnation, in the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem, God takes hold of a frailty of a child, and, as a parable, gives Him to us. Love is always given; love is always defenseless, love is always ultimately vulnerable, and the more perfect the love, the more fulfilled, the more defenseless, the more given and vulnerable it is.

Divine Love is incarnate in Bethlehem; and the humanity of Christ there receives passively the gift of this union with God as the result of the perfect faith of the Mother, the Virgin Mother Who has offered Herself and Her Son to be God's own Son.

On the day of the Baptism Christ has reached the fullness of His human maturity, and now, it is the humanity of the Word Incarnate that takes upon itself, in an act of perfect freedom, of entire faith, of unreserved obedience, of heroic surrender the task which Love Divine has laid upon Him. He comes to Jordan free of sin, and He is baptized. Why? A Western Presbyterian minister of France told me once that he sees it in the following way: the people came to John the Baptist soiled, polluted by sin in an act of repentance and of faith, of a return to God, washed their sins in the waters of Jordan; and these waters became heavy with human sin, became what the legend of so many nations call, the dead, the killing waters of sin. And Christ comes; and He, pure of stain, immerses Himself in these waters of death as one would immerse white wool into a dye, and comes out; comes out of these waters carrying upon Himself all the sin that has been washed in these waters.

Ancient thought, ancient intuition had already perceived something of this mystery in the story of Hercules which is mentioned by one or another of the spiritual writers of old. Hercules stands for the hero who saves; he kills with an arrow the Centaur, the creature which is both beast and man. But an image of what sin makes of us: beasts and men at the same time, because the image of God cannot be washed but it can be profaned; it cannot be destroyed but it can become monstrous as in the legend of Centaur. And on his dying moment the Centaur sends to Hercules his tunic asking him to wear it in memory of his victory, traitorously. And when Hercules puts it on it clings to his body and burns him like fire. And he tears it away together with his flesh and his life. Isn't this an adequate image, an intuition of genius of what happened in Christ? Yes, He merges Himself, He immerses Himself in these waters of death; He comes out of them wearing on His body, in His humanity all the consequences of human sin, as Hercules put on the tunic soaked with the blood of the beast-man. And Christ will die of it because it is the only way He could free, not Himself but mankind of its sin. We are Christ's own people; our vocation on earth is to be in history, in the course of our short-lived existence, what Christ has been: love divine incarnate; vulnerable unto death and unto torment; helpless because it is totally and freely given. And our vocation is to struggle within us against everything which is sin, everything which is evil, to free ourselves by faith and obedience, by love and ascetical endeavor of everything which is not worthy of God, of everything to which God cannot unite Himself. And then, give ourselves unto life and unto death for the salvation of every person, of every nation and of the world.

This is what this feast of Epiphany tells us. Let us follow into footsteps of our Master, from centaurs become truly human beings, and human, unite ourselves with God in Christ by the power of the Spirit, and lay down our lives, and offer if necessary our death for the salvation of all who need it.

---

لماذا إعتد السيد المسيح؟ للقديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم رئيس أساقفة القسطنطينية



"حينئذ أتى يسوع من الجليل إلى الأردن، إلى يوحنا، ليعتمد منه، فكان يوحنا يمانعه قائلاً: أنا المحتاج أنا أعتمد منك وأنت تأتي إليّ" (متى 14:13-3).

لقد جاء الرب يا إخوتي، يعتمد مع العبيد والقاضي مع المجرمين. غير أنّ إلتضاع الله هذا لا يجوز أن يُشغل بالكم، لأنه تعالى في تنازله العظيم يُظهر مجده العظيم. أتتعجبون من أن الذي شاء أن يمكث إشهرًا في أحشاء العذراء، وأن يخرج منها لأبسا طبيعتنا، والذي شاء فيما بعد أن يحتلّ اللطم وعذاب الصليب وغيره مما تحمل حباً لنا، أن يشاء أيضاً تقبل العمداد، والإلتضاع أمام عبده مختلطاً مع جمهور الخطاة؟ أما ما يجب أن يذهلنا فهو أن يكون الله قد تنازل وصار إنساناً، لأنه بعد هذا التنازل الأول لم يعد الباقي سوى نتيجة طبيعية. وهكذا لكي يبين لنا

يوحنا المعمدان مقدار ألتضاع ابن الله، كما سبق وقال: أنه لا يستحق أن يحل سير حذائه، وأنه الديان العادل الذي يُحاسب كلاً بحسب أعماله، وأن يفيض نِعَم الروح القدس على كل الناس، حتى إذا رأيتموه أتياً على العمداد لا ترون مهانة في هذا الإلتضاع. وهذا عندما شاهده يوحنا المعمدان أمامه، أخذ يمانعه قائلاً: "أنا المحتاج إلى أن أعتمد منك وأنت تأتي إليّ". وبما أن عماد السيد المسيح كان عماد التوبة، وكان يقضي على المعتمدين أن يعترفوا بخطاياهم، فلكي يستدرك يوحنا المعمدان ويبيّن لليهود أن السيد المسيح لم يأت إلى عماده على هذه النية دعاه أمام الشعب: "حمل الله" والمخلص الذي يمحو كل خطايا الجنس البشري، يقتضي بأول حجة أن يكون هو نفسه بريئاً من الخطأ. وبما أننا قد حُسبنا جديرين بتلك الأسرار العظيمة، فلنعش حياتنا أهلاً لها، حياة الكمال في المسيح يسوع ربنا الذي له المجد والعزة مع الأب والروح الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين. آمين .

# 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

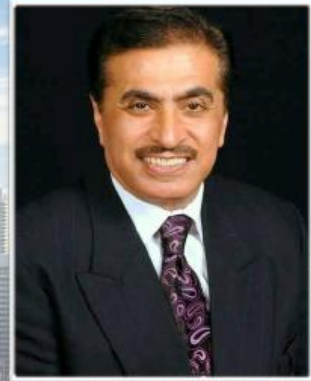


WRONGFUL  
DEATH

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!**

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

**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.

The Saint John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy  
Enrollment Office - 6210 Geary Boulevard - San Francisco, CA 94121

# 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