

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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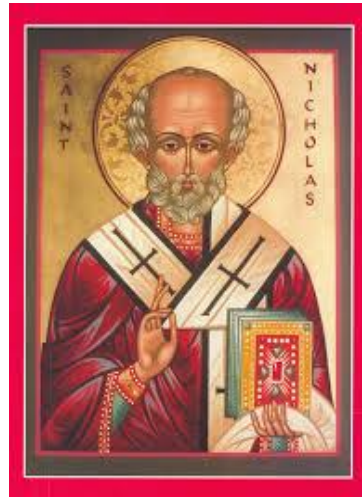
Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

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

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, January 31th 2016

House Blessing Started on Wednesday, January 6th :

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki started his visitation for home blessings on Wednesday, January 6th. If you still need to have your home blessed, you will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you need to reschedule or do not hear from us and would like to have your home blessed, please call the church office 415-648-5200.

THE EPISTLE: the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

الرسالة: ١٥-٩: ٤: ١٥-٩: ٤

يا إخوة، صادقة هي الكلمة وجديرة بكل قبول. فإننا لهذا نتعب ونُعَيِّر لأننا ألقينا رجاءنا على الله الحيّ الذي هو مخلص الناس أجمعين ولا سيّما المؤمنين. فوصّ بهذا وعلم به. لا يستهن أحد بفثوتك بل كن مثلاً للمؤمنين في الكلام والتصرّف والمحبة والإيمان والعفاف. واطب على القراءة إلى حين قدومي وعلى الوعظ والتعليم. ولا تهمل الموهبة التي فيك التي أوتيتها بنبوّة بوضع أيدي الكهنة. تأمل في ذلك وكن عليه عاكفاً ليكون تقدّمك ظاهراً في كلّ شيء.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٩: ١-١٠

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع مجتاز في أريحا إذا برجل اسمه زكّا كان رئيسًا على العشّارين وكان غنيا. وكان يلتمس أن يرى يسوع من هو، فلم يكن يستطيع من الجمع لأنه كان قصير القامة. فتقدّم مسرعًا وصعد إلى جُمَيْزَة لينظره لأنه كان مزمعا أن يجتاز بها. فلما انتهى يسوع إلى الموضع رفع طرّفه فرآه فقال له: يا زكّا أسرع انزل فاليوم ينبغي لي أن أمكث في بيتك. فأسرع ونزل وقبّله فرحا. فلما رأى الجميع ذلك تذرّوا قائلين: إنه دخل ليحلّ عند رجل خاطئ. فوقف زكّا وقال ليسوع: ها أنذا يا ربّ أعطي المساكين نصف أموالِي، وإن كنتُ قد غبنتُ أحدًا في شيء أرُدّ أربعة أضعاف. فقال له يسوع: اليوم قد حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت لأنه هو أيضا ابن إبراهيم، لأن ابن البشر إنّما أتى ليطلب ويُخلّص ما قد هلك.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those have birthdays this week: **Johnny Nabil Khoury, Lana Saoud, Shafy Dabit, Randa Shatara, John Madanat.** Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ V. Rev. Fr. father George Baalbaki and St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health of all who are named; Gregory/Greg, after **Saint Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople (January 25)** on the occasion of their Name's Day! Many years!!
And especially our beloved Pastor Emeritus, **V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh** on the occasion of His Name's Day. May God Grant Him Many Years fulfill with Health, Joy & Happiness!!

Announcements:

*St. Nicholas General Assembly meeting and the installation of the Parish Council members will take place on **Sunday, January 31st**. In order to have the right to vote, you must be spiritually qualified, also a member in good standing with your pledge for 2015. This is the meeting of the parish where the financial report for the last year is presented and the budget for the following year is approved. This is where we present the reports from the auxiliaries, Sunday School, etc. and any other business of the church. In other words, the state of the parish.*

Valentine Party

Save The Date: Saturday February 13th



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\$95 per ticket
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For Tickets, please contact:
Church Office @ 415-648-5200
Elias Batshon @ 650-580-7185
Sana Jada @ 650-255-1380

*Bouquets To Icon Event:
Saturday, March 19th, 2016*

*Save
the Date*

*Saturday,
March 19, 2016
11:00 am - 3:00pm*

*Holy Trinity Serbian
Orthodox Church in
Moraga*

Limited Space Available

Further information:

*Marilyn at 650-692-1966 or
mhabeeb692@gmail.com*

*PAOI Women's Board presents
Bouquets to Icons
Lenten Luncheon*



Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh: ZACCHAEUS

In these weeks of preparation for Lent, we were faced last Sunday with the story of Barthimaeus to attract our attention on our own blindness; our spiritual blindness of which we are not aware while physical blindness is so clearly perceived; but also on the fact that if we want to recover our sight, our spiritual vision, our understanding of self, of God, of our neighbour, of life, there is only one person to whom we can turn - it is God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bartimaeus have tried all means to recover his sight, but it is only when he turned to Christ that he did recover it.

Whether we have taken advantage of the past week to reflect deeply on our own blindness, and in the darkness to begin to see some light, I do not know; each of us will have to answer for his eagerness or his laziness.

But today we are confronted with a new parable, or rather, a new story of the life of Christ: the story of Zacchaeus. This story speaks to us again directly and the question which is been asked from us is this: What matters to me more? The good opinion of people around me, that people should not jeer at you, laugh at you because you are seeking to see God, to meet Him, or the necessity, the inner call to discover everything provided you can see Christ face to face? Is vanity stronger in us or the hunger for God? And Saint John of the Ladder says clearly that vanity is contempt of God and cowardice before men. What is our attitude: are we prepared to discard everything, provided we can meet God - or not? And in our circumstances it is not so much people who will prevent us, people will not jeer at us, they will not laugh at us: they will be totally indifferent; but this does not mean that we like beggars not turn to them, hoping for their approval, and in order to receive this approval, turn away from our search, from the only thing that can heal us and give us new life.

Also, we will find within ourselves conflicting voices, saying, Don't! Don't make yourself ridiculous! Don't single yourself out by a search which is not necessary; you have got everything... Zacchaeus was rich, Zacchaeus was known as an honorable citizen - so are we! We possess so much, we are respected - are we going to start on a road that will make us into what Paul calls 'the scum of the earth', debase us? This is the question which today's story of Zacchaeus says to us: is vanity, that is the search of things which are vain, empty, and the fear of other people's opinion that will prevail, or the hunger each of us has, at times, acute for a meeting with the living God?

زكا العشار

قبل ان يقرب يسوع من اورشليم في مطافه الاخير اليها، دخل أريحا وأخذ يجتازها وحوله ألوف من الناس، وإذا رجل يدعى زكا وهو رئيس للعشارين غنيّ قد جاء يحاول ان يرى من هو يسوع، فلم يستطع لكثرة الزحام، لأنه كان قصير القامة. العشارون هم جبة الضريبة ويسرقون منها حتى ان كلمة عشار كانت دائما مقترنة بابتزاز المكلفين.

لماذا رغب زكا في رؤية يسوع؟ ربما كان هذا بدءًا من باب الفضول. ربما انجذب اليه لدافع آخر. لا يذكر الكتاب انه أراد حوارًا مع السيد. ولكن لكونه كان قصير القامة صعد على جميزة ليراه. أراد زكا ان يرفع الحاجز الذي كان يحول دون رؤيته المعلم. لا بد انه سمع ان يسوع انما كان يخالط العشارين والخطاة ما يعني انه كان يخالف توجيهات الفريسيين. وكان هؤلاء يعيرون التلاميذ ان سيدهم يؤاكل الجبة الخطائين.

فلما وصل يسوع الى ذلك المكان، رفع طرفه وقال للرجل: «يا زكا انزل على عجل، فيجب عليّ ان أقيم اليوم في بيتك». هذه هي المرة الوحيدة التي يتجاوز فيها يسوع الاختلاط في الشارع بالعشارين ليقوم مع هذا العشار بالذات صلة أوثق فينحطّ قوانين الفريسيين. «يجب أن أقيم في بيتك»: في هذا تصميم على الخلاص، مبادرة في الخلاص.

السيد يقول: «انزل على عجل»، يقول الإنجيل: «نزل على عجل وقبله فرحًا». لماذا لبّي بلا تردد؟ هل هي الضيافة الشرقية؟ هل أحسّ بأن ثمة ما كان أعظم من مجرد كلام لإنسان يدعو نفسه - اذا صح التعبير - عند رجل غريب؟ تذرّ الفريسيون من كون يسوع ذهب لبيت عند رجل خاطئ. يرفض يسوع ان يفهم البر على انه انفصال أو تمايز أو استعلاء. يعرف سببًا للاتصال حتى المعاشرة.

التقى الرجلان عند أسفل الجميزة، فقال زكا للرب: «يا رب، ها اني أعطي الفقراء نصف اموالي، وإذا كنت قد ظلمتُ أحدًا شيئًا، أردّ اليه أربعة اضعاف». حدث زلزال في نفس الجابي. اهتزت نفس زكا من المقابلة بين البر الكامل والخطيئة المستفحلة. انتهى فجأة زمان السقوط وامّحت السقطة وصار زكا خليفة جديدة. الرجعة رجعة الى وجه الله نفسه من خلال المعلم. عندنا تخطئة للماضي كله، شجاعة اعتراف. الرجل يبذل نصف امواله وكان قد عاش في البذخ. موقف لا يقيم حسابا للمستقبل، لمستوى إنفاق كان قد اعتاده وموقف اعتراف بأنه قد ظلم. يردّ على كل مظلوم ظلّمه أربعة اضعاف. ماذا يبقى من هذه الثروة؟ ماذا يضمن لزكا وعائلة زكا سنوات قد تكون طويلة.

لقد انتقل الرجل الى وجود آخر، الى حياة جديدة بالكلية لا تقيم حسابا لشيء من دنيانا، إذذاك قال يسوع فيه: «اليوم حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت»، فالنجاة ليس فيها مراحل، تنقضى على التائب كالصاعقة لكونها عملية خلق جديد الخالق هو فيها كل شيء.

وبعدما قيل هذا في الرجل، قال المخلص عنه: «هو ايضًا ابنُ إبراهيم» بمعنى انه صار الآن، بالإيمان المستعاد، ابنًا لأبي المؤمنين.

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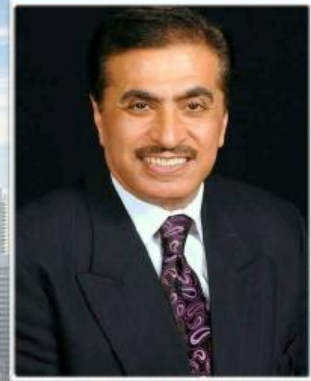


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