

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الارثوذكسية St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

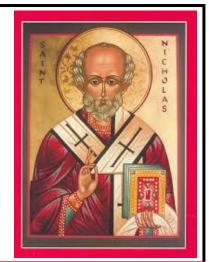
Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Antiochian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West 5200 Diamond Hts. Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131 Tel: (415) 648-5200

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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh** Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, March 13th 2016 Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)) أحد الدينونة (أحد مرفع الجبن

† Condolences **†**

We would like to offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to the Kishek family on the passing of **Eissa Kishek**. May his soul rest in peace! Memory eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

الرسالة يا إخوة ان خلاصنا الآن أقرب مما كان حين آمنًا. قد تناهى الليل واقترب النهار فلنَدَعُ عنا اعمال الظلمة ونلبس أسلحة النور لنسلكَنَّ سلوكا لائقا كما في النهار، لا بالقصوف والسكر ولا بالمَضاجع والعهر ولا بالخصام والحسد، بل البسوا الرب يسوع المسيح ولا تهتموا بأجسادكم لقضاء شهواتها. من كان ضعيفا في الإيمان فاتخذوه بغير مباحثة في الآراء من الناس من يعتقد ان له أن يأكل كل شيء، الضعيف فيأكل بقولا. فلا يزدر الذي يأكل من لا يأكل، ولا يَدِنِ الذي لا يأكل من يأكل فإن الله قد اتخذه. من أنت يا من تدين عبدا أجنبيا؟ انه لمولاه يثبت او يسقط، لكنه سيئبت لأن الله قادر ان يثبته.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

الإنجيل: متى 14:6-21 قال الرب: إن غفرتم للناس زلاتهم يغفر لكم أبوكم السماوي أيضًا، وإن لم تغفروا للناس زلاتهم فأبوكم أيضًا لا يغفر لكم زلاتكم. ومتى صمتم فلا تكونوا معبّسين كالمرائين فإنهم ينكترون وجوههم ليظهروا للناس صائمين. الحق أقول لكم إنهم قد استوفوا أجرهم. أما أنت فإذا صُمْتَ فادهن رأسك واغسل وجهك لئلا تظهر للناس صائما بل لأبيك الذي في الخفية، وأبوك الذي يرى في الخفية يجازيك علانية. لا تكنزوا لكم كنوزًا على الأرض حيث يُفسد السوس والآكلة وينقب السارقون ويسرقون، لكن اكنزوا لكم كنوزًا في السماء حيث لا يُفسد سوس ولا آكلة ولا ينقب السارقون ولا يسرقون، لأنّه حيث تكون كنوزكم هناك تكون قلوبكم.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Stephanei Azar, Manel Sousou, Issa Husary, Farah Farah, Eliana Husary, Rasha Hanhan, Majwa Baba, Gladys Malouf. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!
- ❖ Khoury family in loving memory of **Jabra Khoury**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health and speed recovery of **Chris Atwan**. Many Years!



Announcements:

Daylight Saving Time Starts on Sunday 13th Forward your clocks one hour

MARCH IS LADIES' MONTH

In keeping with the tradition in our Archdiocese, ladies will show their involvement in the life of the church in the most visible way during the month of March.

They will usher, collect trays, read the Epistle and deliver sermonette...

Our ladies Auxiliary usually prepare a Lenten Luncheon on Sundays. This year they are asking of your help by Donating or preparing food for that purpose.

Sunday, March 13th: Sermonette: Khoureih Eman Baalbaki **Epistle Readers Arabic: Nina Azar**

eese Fare Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Cheese-fare Luncheon offered by:

Fayek Rantisi and family

Many Thanks. God Bless you and your family

2016 Great Lent Period						
(March 14 th – May 1 st , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish)						
Sunday March 13 th	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)					
Monday March 14 th	First Monday of Great Lent					
Sunday March 20 th	Sunday of Orthodoxy					
Friday March 25 th	Annunciation of the Theotokos (Only Fish Allowed)					
Sunday April 3 rd	Sunday of the Holy Cross					
Sunday April 24 th	Palm Sunday (Only Fish Allowed)					
Friday April 29 th	Great and Holy Friday					
Sunday May 1 st	Great and Holy Pascha					

Fasting Discipline

During the Great Fast, the traditional fasting discipline is vegetarian - no eating until midday, after which we abstain from consuming meat, poultry, cheese, milk, eggs, fish with backbones, and wine Monday thru Fridays. On Saturdays and Sundays, we follow the same discipline, except we can eat breakfast and we may have wine.

علون التموم. -الأمساك عن أكل اللحم والبياض والسمك طيلة ايام الصيام. مبام حتى الظهر بو مُباً

The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2016			برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام 2016		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm	۷ مساءً	صلاة النوم الكبرى " يا رب القوات"	الأربعاء
Fridays	Akathist Service	7 pm	۷ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	10 am	۱۰ صباحاً	القداس الإلهي للقديس باسيليوس الكبير	الأحد

Bouquets To Icon Event:

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon where floral designers will present an array of arrangements inspired by beautiful icons.

In creating these arrangements, the designers pay tribute and draw their inspiration from the selected icons.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016, 11:00 AM.

Donation \$55.00 per person

All proceeds benefit the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute. Complete details are on the attached flyer or contact Marilyn Habeeb, mhabeeb692@gmailcom,or 650-692-1966.

SAVE THE DATE:

2016 St. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP: From Monday, June 20th till Friday, June 24th at St. Sava Camp in Jackson, CA. More details to come in the following weeks!

Sunday school Announcements:

1. 2016 Creative Arts Festival

2016 Creative Arts Festival Theme: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Main Website: http://www.antiochian.org/festivals/cf

Due Date for Submission: Sunday, April 10th to the Sunday School teachers.

¥Attention Sunday School Students and Parents,

We've started preparing arts submissions for the Creative Arts Festival for the 2016 Parish Life Conference. It is important that ALL students be present in Sunday School every Sunday during the months of March and April to participate and complete their projects. Students may take their projects and work on them on their own time as well.

2. Sunday School students and staff participation in the Processions during Lent Season

Sunday school students and staff are asked to stay in church after communion to participate in the following processions. Classes would resume as normal after the procession.

Sunday, March 20th - Holy Icons Procession.

Sunday, April 3rd - Holy Cross Procession.

Forgiveness Sunday



To-day two themes dominate the readings of the Holy Scriptures. St Paul speaks to us about fasting and the Lord about forgiveness, and St Paul insists on the fact that fasting does not consist simply of depriving oneself of one form of food or another, neither does it, if it is kept strictly, obediently, worshipfully, give us any ground to be proud of ourselves, satisfied and secure, because the aim of fasting is not to deprive our body of the one form of food rather than the other, the aim of fasting is to acquire mastery over our body and make it a perfect instrument of the spirit. Most

of the time we are slaves of our bodies, we are attracted by all our senses to one form or another of enjoyment, but of an enjoyment which goes far beyond the purity which God expects of us. And so, the period of fasting offers us a time during which we can say not that I will torment my body, limit myself in things material, but a time when I will re-acquire mastery of my body, make it a perfect instrument. The comparison that comes to my mind is that of tuning a musical instrument; this is what fasting is, to acquire the power not only to command our body, but also to give our body the possibility to respond to all the promptings of the spirit.

Let us therefore go into fasting with this understanding, not measuring our fasting by what we eat and how much, but of the effect it has on us, whether our fasting makes us free or whether we become slaves of fasting itself.

If we fast let us not be proud of it, because it proves simply that we need more perhaps than another person to conquer something in our nature. And if around us other people are not fasting let us not judge them, because God has received the ones as He receives the others, because it is into the heart of men that He looks. And then there is the theme of forgiveness, of which I will say only one short thing. We think always of forgiveness as a way in which we would say to a person who has offended, hurt, humiliated us, that the past is past and that we do not any more hold a grudge against this person. But what forgiveness means more deeply than this is that if we can say to a person: let us no longer make the past into a destructive present, let me trust you, make an act of faith in you, if I forgive you it means in my eyes you are not lost, in my eyes there is a future of beauty and truth in you.

But this applies also to us. Perversely, we think very often of forgiving others, but we do not think sufficiently of the need in which we are, each of us personally, of being forgiven by others. We have a few hours left between the Liturgy and the Service of Forgiveness tonight, let us reflect and try to remember, not the offences which we have suffered, but the hurts which we have caused. And if we have hurt anyone in one way or another, in things small or great, let us make haste before we enter into Lent tomorrow morning, let us make haste to ask to be forgiven, to hear someone say to us: in spite of all that has happened I believe in you, I trust you, I hope for you and I will expect everything from you. And then we can go together through Lent helping one another to become what we are called to be - the disciples of Christ, following Him step by step to Calvary, and beyond Calvary to the Resurrection.

Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh

فدنا إليه تلاميذ يوحنا وقالوا له: لماذا نصوم نحن والفريسيون وتلاميذك لا يصومون؟ فقال لهم يسوع: أيستطيع أهل العرس " أن يحزنوا ما دام العريس بينهم؟ ولكن ستأتي أيام فيها يُرفع العريس من بينهم، فحينئذ يصومون (متى 9: 4 و 15). هنا أعطى السيد مبدأ الصوم إلى تلاميذه حتى يصوموا من بعد رفعه أي من بعد القيامة. ثم رأينا هذا المبدأ مطبقاً في الكنيسة الأولى: "فبينما هم (أي المسيحيون في أنطاكية) يقضون فريضة العبادة للرب ويصومون، قال لهم الروح القدس" (أعمال 13: 2). هنا نرى تلازم الصلاة والصوم بعد هذا نرى في القرن الثاني الميلادي المؤمنين في روما يمسكون عن الطعام لتوزيع ثمنه على المحتاجين فيما بينهم ثم نلحظ في هذا القرن نفسه أن المسيحيين يصومون الأربعاء والجمعة. ويقول لنا المؤرخون الكنسيون إن الفصح يسبقه صيام في كل الكنائس بضعة أيام في هذه وبضعة أيام في تلك حتى استقر على أربعين يوماً وكانوا يتناولون وجبة واحدة عند أربعين يوماً وكانوا يتناولون وجبة واحدة عند المساء من الحبوب المجففة بالامتناع عن اللحم كما يشهد بذلك القديس إبيفانيوس القبرصي في القرن الرابع حتى جاء المجمع الخامس السادس المعروف بـ"ترولو" في أواخر القرن السابع ونظم الصوم كما نعرفه اليوم

نرى أن الكنيسة لم تخترع الصوم اختراعاً ولكنها نظمته تنظيماً ونظامه كما بات معهوداً اليوم هو أن نمسك حتى الظهر أو بعد ذلك ونمتنع عن اللحم ومشتقاته. هذا الامتناع عن اللحم سبيل من سبل التقشف والسيطرة على جماح اللذات ومواكبة للفقراء وشهادة على مصالحة الكائنات الحية بعدم قتلها فتمرين على عدم العنف. والأهم من كل ذلك أننا إذا تمرسنا على الإمساك نكثر من الصلاة فإن التخمة تعطلها، فمن يسيطر على جسده _ وهذه طريقة من طرق السيطرة _ تتجنح روحه إلى الله. فمن لا يثقله جسده تتحرر نفسه للارتباط بالرب ارتباطاً أشد. تلك هي خبرة جميع من مارس الصوم. إن استعداده للفصح يكون أكثر جدية وتحسسه بشقاء الفقير يصبح حاداً وتنفتح له دروب العطاء. ذلك أن من لم يشارك المحتاجين يأتي صومه باطلاً

نحن لا نقصد بالصوم الحمية. هو ذو نتائج صحية نافعة إذا أحسنّاه ولم نبالغ بقهر الجسد ولم نعدد الأطعمة الصيامية فلم نبذّخ. فإن من أنفق كثيراً على الطعام الصيامي كالذي لم يصم. لا يكون قد تقشّف و لا يكون قد أحب المحتاجين. ذلك أن من أهم ما . في هذه الرياضة الروحية أن نتعلّم المشاركة وأن نذهب معاً إلى القيامة

ويستثنى بعض من هذه الفريضة: الطفل والمريض والمرأة النفساء وسواهم. هؤلاء يبقون إخوة لنا ولا ندينهم ومن لم يشأ أن التي ينتظرها من الله في الفصح فإذا كان يرتبط بهذا الانضباط الروحي فلا ندينه أيضاً. ولكن لا يتهاون أحد بسبب الرحمة الرب يفرح بالصائمين كما يفرح بغير الصائمين فليس هذا يعطي المتهاونين عذراً. إن جندي المسيح الصالح يتمرن تمرنا صعباً ويتخذ كل سلاح البر والصوم وجه من وجوه البر

وكثيراً ما نسمع من يعلل إحجامه عن الإمساك بقوله: أنا يصوم لساني وكفاني. جوابنا أن الصائمين يدخلون في أيام عفة. وهم أيضاً يراقبون لسانهم. إذا سقط من يمارس القانون الكنسي فلا يعني هذا أن القانون مغلوط. إن أخطاء الذين يُظهرون التقوى بعبادات وأصوام لا تزكّي الذين لا يعبّرون عن تقواهم بالإمساك. فالفضائل هي زينة الصائم وهو يمسك لتزاد فضيلته و تقوى.

فانكن معاً على طريق واحدة. نصلي معاً في الأمسيات وطوال أسبوع الآلام وننصرف إلى القراءة الروحية ونمسك عن المشاهد المخلّة والكلام البطال. نتابع حياتنا في العمق. ويجدر بنا أن ننقطع عن السهرات الصاخبة والحياة الدنيوية بما في ذلك . الابتعاد عما يبدد قوى النفس

. هذه الفترة نسكية. نحن في دير جماعي قائم في العالم. كلنا ر هبان روحياً

نحن في وقت الهدوء والسلام الداخلي. أجل لا بد من العمل والقيام بوظائفنا ولكن بلا تشتت ولا لهو. نحن في داخل النفس ناظرين إلى المسيح المستقر فينا ذائقين حلاوته ومشاركين آلامه. هذا الذي كان في صومه يصارع الشيطان ويبعده بكلمات الهية. كان السيد في صومه حسب إنجيل مرقس يروّض الوحوش "وكان الملائكة يخدمونه"، وكأنه يقول إن الصائم يسود الوحوش البشرية التي حوله أو وحش الخطيئة التي فيه وإن السماء كلها في خدمته.

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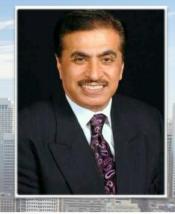


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