

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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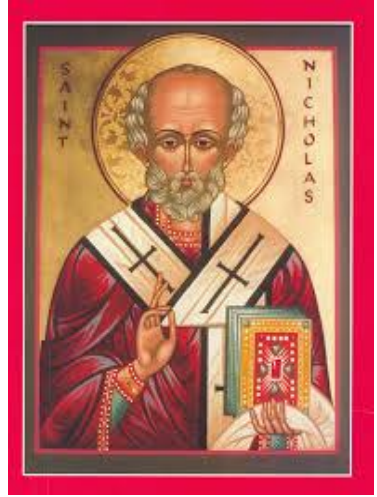
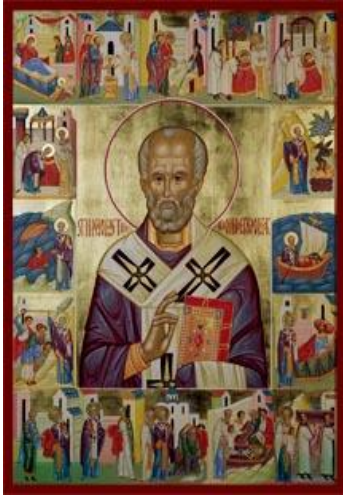
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Sunday, April 3rd, 2016

Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross/أحد السجود للصليب

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة: عبرانيين 4:14-5:6 يا إخوة اذ لنا رئيس كهنة عظيم قد اجتاز السماوات، يسوع ابن الله، فلنتمسك بالاعتراف، لأن ليس لنا رئيس كهنة غير قادر أن يرثي لأوهاننا بل مجرب في كل شيء مثلنا ما خلا الخطيئة. فلنقبل اذن بثقة الى عرش النعمة لننال رحمة ونجد ثقة للإغاثة في أوانها. فإن كل رئيس كهنة متخذ من الناس يقام لأجل الناس فيما هو الله ليقرّب تقادم وذبايح عن الخطايا في إمكانه أن يشفق على الذين يجهلون ويضلّون لكونه هو أيضاً متلبساً بالضعف، ولهذا يجب عليه أن يقرّب عن الخطايا لأجل نفسه كما يقرّب لأجل الشعب. وليس أحد يأخذ لنفسه الكرامة بل من دعاه الله كما دعا هرون. كذلك المسيح لم يمجد نفسه ليصير رئيس كهنة بل الذي قال له: "أنت ابني وأنا اليوم ولدتك"، كما يقول في موضع آخر: "أنت كاهن الى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق".

THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

الإنجيل: مرقس 8:34-9:1

قال الرب: من أراد أن يتبعني فليتكفر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني، لأن من أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها، ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يخلصها. فإنه ماذا ينفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟ لأن من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطئ يستحي بي ابن البشر متى أتى في مجد أبية مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم ان قوما من القائمين ههنا لا يدوقون الموت حتى يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Mona Rantisi, Hanady Batshon, Salwa Hashwa, Amel Jada, Rula Madback, Ramzi Issied, Dina Rantisi, Luay Bouri, Suha Rantisi, Imad Canavati, Fr. Paul Baba. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!

Announcements:

Friday Dinner:

We will have a dinner this Friday after the Akathist service @ 8:00pm offered by the **JADA families**. Many thanks. May God bless you!

Sunday Lenten Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by:

Sue Wais and Mary Ababseh in Memory of their Father Khalil F. Tannous and for the Good Health of their Mother Janette Tannous and for the Good Health of the Wais, Tannous, Ababseh and Yoshida families.

Many Thanks. God Bless you and your family

- ❖ Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held this **Sunday, April 3rd** after the Liturgy and luncheon.

2016 Great Lent Period	
(March 14th – May 1st , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish)	
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

The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2016			برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام 2016		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7:00 PM	٧ مساءً	صلاة النوم الكبرى	الأربعاء
Fridays	Akathist Service	7:00 PM	٧ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	Matins	10:00 AM	١٠ صباحاً	صلاة السحرية	الأحد
	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	10:55 AM	١٠:٥٥ صباحاً	القداس الإلهي	

To all ladies: Save the date: April 16th ladies Auxiliary workshop event at St. Nicholas Hall @ 11:00 am. Everyone is invited. More info to follow....

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, April 3rd - Holy Cross Procession

THE CROSS (OrthodoxEurope.org)



The Holy Cross has particular significance for the Church. An instrument of death, it has become the instrument of salvation. St Basil the Great identifies the 'sign of the Son of man' mentioned by Christ in connection with His Second Coming (Matt.24:30) with the arms of the Cross pointing towards the four ends of the universe. The Cross is a symbol of Christ Himself and is infused with miraculous power. The Orthodox Church believes that Christ's energy is present in the Cross. Therefore Christians not only make crosses and place them on the same level as icons in churches; they also wear crosses on their chests, make the sign of the Cross over themselves and bless each other with the sign of the Cross. They even address the Cross as something capable of hearing them: 'Rejoice, life-bearing Cross', 'O most honorable and life-creating Cross of the Lord'.

The Church knows about the miraculous, salvific and healing power of the Cross and of the sign of the Cross from her centuries-old experience. The Cross protects a person travelling, working, sleeping, praying. Indeed in all places, through the sign of the Cross, Christ's blessing comes down upon every good deed which we undertake: 'The Cross is the protector of the whole world, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the power of kings, the Cross is the foundation of the faithful, the Cross is the glory of the angels and the sore of the demons', sings the Church at festivals of the Cross.

The teaching on the Holy Cross as a symbol of divine dispensation and as an object of religious veneration is expounded by St Isaac the Syrian in one of his newly-discovered works. According to St Isaac, the power in the Cross does not differ from that through which the worlds came into being and which governs the whole creation in accordance with the will of God.

In the Cross, the very same power lives that lived in the Ark of the Covenant, itself surrounded by fearful veneration on the part of the people of Israel. The Ark was venerated, he answers, because in it the invisible Shekhina (Presence) of God dwelt. The very same Shekhina is now residing in the Cross: it has departed from the Old Testament Ark and entered the New Testament Cross. The material Cross, whose type was the Ark of the Covenant, is, in turn, the type of the eschatological Kingdom of Christ, states St Isaac. The Cross, as it were, links the Old Testament with the New, and the New Testament with the age to come, where all material symbols and types will be abolished.

الصليب

هذا الأحد رتّبته الكنيسة لنسجد للصليب، والمعنى أن نسجد للمصلوب اذ اختبرت ان بعضا من المؤمنين اذا أدركوا منتصف الصيام يتعبون من الجهاد او يملّونه ويتضجّرون. لهذا، يحمل الكاهن الصليب على صينية محاطاً بالرياحين إن وُجدت او بالزهور، ويضع حوله ثلاث شموع ترمز الى الثالوث المقدّس اذ ان فداء المسيح، وان قام به السيّد في جسده، الا انه مشيئة الآب والروح القدس ايضاً. واذا جاء المؤمن للتبرّك بعد الخدمة، يقبل الصليب، ويعطيه الكاهن زهرة ليوحي اليه انه بالصليب قد أتى الفرح لكلّ العالم.

وفي القداس نقرأ من مرقس القطعة التي نستهلّها بقول الرب: “من أراد أن يتبعني فليكفر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني”. المفروض ان كلّ من اقتبل المعمودية يريد ان يتبع السيّد، ولكنّه قد يملّ احياناً او يتراجع عن الجهاد ولا يعاشر المسيح ولا يضعه في قلبه. اذاً هناك ارادة متجدّدة لاتباع المعلّم تساعدنا في الصلاة وقراءة الكلمة والعمل الصالح.

السير وراء يسوع يتطلّب منا أن نكفر بالنفس اي أن نبتعد عن كبريائها وعن التصرّو أننا مركز الوجود. السير وراء المسيح يعني التخلّي عن الرذائل والتحرّر من العيوب، وهذا سمّاه يسوع صليباً لأنه مُتعب كالصليب. ثم يقول: “ويتبعني”. الى أين توصل طريق الجهاد؟ الى الجلجلة. حيث نتحدّ مع الرب المصلوب.

ثم يقول السيّد: “من أراد أن يخلّص نفسه يهلكها” بمعنى أنه يفرض على ذاته التعب في اكتساب الفضائل. أخيراً يقول السيّد هذا القول العظيم: “ماذا ينفع الانسان لو ربح العالم كلّه وخسر نفسه؟”. اذا جمع اموالا طائلة ومنازل فخمة او صار ذا نفوذ كبير ومعبود الجماهير، والمسيح ليس في قلبه، ماذا ينتفع؟ ويوضح السيّد هذا الكلام بقوله: “ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداءً عن نفسه؟”.

كل عظمة الأرض ومجدها لا تساوي ذرة من حياتك في المسيح. واذا خسرت كلّ مجد الدنيا ومالك، ومات ذووك وأصدقائك، وبقيت صديقاً للمسيح، فأنت ملك.

أن تكون مع المسيح هو الآ تستحي به وبكلامه، أن تتبنّى الإنجيل في كلّ ما يقوله، ان تحاول ان تستوحي كلّ سلوكك من الإنجيل، ان تلتصق بكنيسة المسيح. وقد أعطينا خصيصاً موسم الصيام ليقوى عندنا هذا الالتصاق بيسوع.

فاذا تشدّدنا اليوم بالصليب، نكمل المسيرة الى الأسبوع العظيم حيث نلتقي ببهاء المصلوب وقوّة قيامته.

جاورجيوس مطران (جبل لبنان).

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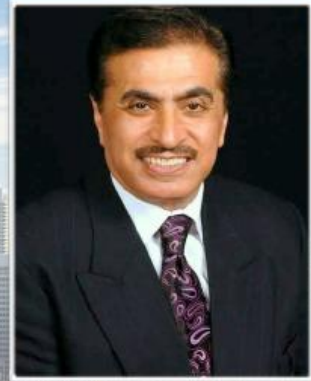


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