

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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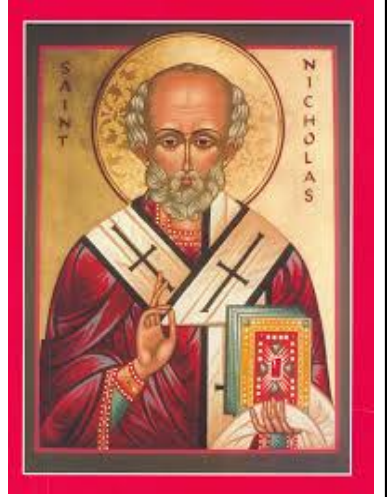
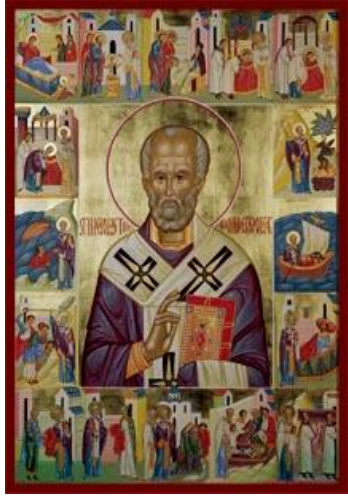
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Condolences

✝ We would like to offer our sympathy to Mrs. Ghada Maalouf and all the Maalouf family and to Najat Nicholas and the Nicholas family on the passing of their father **Nasif Saliba** (brother of his Eminence late Metropolitan Philip Saliba) in Lebanon. May his memory be eternal!

✝ We would like to offer our sympathy to Samir Hinn and his family on the passing of his brother **Najib Awad Hinn** in Palestine. May his memory be eternal!

This Sunday (6- Month) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Georgette Baba** offered by her family  
May her memory be eternal!

Next Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> (One-Year) Memorial Service for our beloved **Suzanne Malek** offered by her

Hhusband: John, Daughters: Julia, Sabrina

Parents: Ebrahim & Suhad

Brother Fadi & family

Sister: Nancly and family

May her memory be eternal!



### THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

### الرسالة: عبرانيين 6:13-20

يا إخوة، ان الله لما وعد إبراهيم، اذ لم يمكن أن يُقسم بما هو أعظم منه، أقسم بنفسه قائلاً: لأبَارِكَنَّكَ بركة وأكثرتك تكثيراً. وذلك إذ تَأَنَّى نال الموعد. وإنما الناس يُقْسِمُونَ بما هو أعظم منهم، وتنقضي كل مشاجرة بينهم بالقَسَمِ للتثبيت. فلذلك لما شاء الله أن يزيد وَرَثَةَ الموعد بياناً، لعدم تحوّل عزمه، توسط بالقَسَمِ، حتى نحصل بأمرين لا يتحوّلان ولا يمكن أن يُخلف الله فيهما، على تعزية قوية نحن الذين التجأنا الى التمسك بالرجاء الموضوع أماناً، الذي هو لنا كمرساة للنفس أمانة راسخة تدخل الى داخل الحجاب حيث دخل يسوع كسابق لنا، وقد صار على رتبة ملكيصادق رئيس كهنة الى الأبد.

**THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (9:16-30)** At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

**الإنجيل: مرقس 9:17-31** في ذلك الزمان دنا الى يسوع إنسان وسجد له قائلاً: يا معلّم، قد أتيتك بابني به روح أبكم، وحيثما أخذه يصصره فيزبد ويصرف بأسنانه وبييس. وقد سألت تلاميذك أن يخرجوه فلم يقدروا. فأجابه قائلاً: ايها الجيل غير المؤمن، الى متى أكون عندكم؟ حتى متى أحتملكم؟ هلّم به إليّ. فأتوه به. فلما رآه للوقت صرعه الروح فسقط على الأرض يتمرّغ ويزبد. فسأل أباه: منذ كم من الزمان أصابه هذا؟ فقال: منذ صباه، وكثيراً ما ألقاه في النار وفي المياه ليهلكه. ولكن إن استطعت شيئاً فتحنّن علينا وأغثنا. فقال له يسوع: إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن. فصاح أبو الصبي من ساعته بدموع وقال: اني أومن يا سيد، فأغث عدم إيماني. فلما رأى يسوع أن الجمع يتبادرون اليه، انتهر الروح النجس قائلاً له: ايها الروح الأبكم الأصمّ أنا أمرك أن اخرج منه ولا تعدّ تدخل فيه. فصرخ وخبطه كثيراً وخرج منه، فصار كالميمت حتى قال كثيرون انه قد مات. فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضه فقام. ولما دخل بيتاً سأله تلاميذه على انفراد: لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نخرجه؟ فقال لهم: إن هذا الجنس لا يمكن أن يخرج الا بالصلاة والصوم. ولما خرجوا من هناك اجتازوا في الجليل ولم يرد أن يدري أحد، فإنه كان يُعلم تلاميذه ويقول لهم: إن ابن البشر يُسلم الى أيدي الناس فيقتلونه، وبعد أن يُقتل يقوم في اليوم الثالث

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

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Danny Rantisi, Salim Qare, Issa Wahab, Haytham Madanat, Tony Karam, Jennifer Zeidan, Ibrahim Elhaj. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!

## *Announcements:*

### **Friday Dinner:**

We will have a dinner this Friday after the Akathist service @ 8:00pm offered by **Basma Tannous, Salwa Shnoudi and Janet Baqleh.**  
Many thanks. May God bless you!

### **Sunday Lenten Luncheon**

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by: **Sue Rantisi, Sana Jada, Salwa Shnoudi, Ghadeer hanhan.** Many Thanks. God Bless you and your family

**To all ladies:** St. Nicholas Ladies Auxiliary invites all the ladies to celebrate the Spirit of Easter and Palm Sunday (شعنية) by joining our Workshop event which will include coloring, Baking Cookies and Sweets, Children's Craft, and much more... On **April 16th at St. Nicholas Hall @ 11:00 a.m.** followed by Lenten Luncheon. Everyone is invited.



| 2016 Great Lent Period  |   |                                 |   |                       |          |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------|
| (March 14 <sup>th</sup> – May 1 <sup>st</sup> , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, Cheese, Eggs, and Fish) |   |                                 |   |                       |          |
| Sunday April 24 <sup>th</sup>   |   | Palm Sunday (Only Fish Allowed) |   |                       |          |
| Friday April 29 <sup>th</sup>   |   | Great and Holy Friday           |   |                       |          |
| Sunday May 1 <sup>st</sup>  |   | 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         |          |

### 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:

#### 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.

### **PASCHA (EASTER) BREAKFAST ITEMS NEEDED**

As our custom, the Family of St. Nicholas Parish enjoys breaking the Fast together on the dawn of the Resurrection day. All the parishioners of St. Nicholas will have their breakfast together in celebration of the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Call church office if you would like to donate these items or money toward purchasing these items:

|              |         |         |           |           |
|--------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Feta Cheese  | Cheese  | Labneh  | Olives    | Ham       |
| Orange Juice | Turkey  | Pickles | Fruits    | Napkins   |
| Pita Bread   | Tahini  | Milk    | Foam Cups | Olive Oil |
| Eggs         | Sausage | Bacon   | Potato    | Coffee    |
| Pancakes     | Knives  | Forks   |           |           |

**Driving Out the Unclean Spirit! Very Reverend Ihor Kutash**  
**(Fourth Sunday of Lent - Commemoration of St. John of the Ladder)**



Today's Gospel (Mark 9:17-31) tells of a young man who was in the power of an unclean spirit, which strove with all its might to destroy him. Jesus cast it out and told His disciples: "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer". It appears that there are many unclean spirits out in the world. We hear of so many people giving way to various kinds of negative influences and lifestyles.

Sometimes it seems as though they are unaware of the consequences of their choices and actions - or else they do not seem to care. They may be unaware that there is an alternative to this kind of defeated life.

This may not be so strange to us: we, too, may feel that we are powerless to deal with passions and obsessions in our own lives. We can see what ought to be done, but we seem to be unable to do it. It is as though some foreign power were acting through us - we do and say things that we do not want or like to say. Is it an unclean spirit that holds us? Or someone that we love?

Jesus says that the remedy for this **is prayer**: His prayer, the prayer of the Saints, and our own prayers. What a privilege it is to know that God hears our prayers! How good to know that we can always turn to Him and tell Him all of our problems and temptations and find a sympathetic Listener who can help! Yet sometimes we forget Him, or try to forget Him so that we can do the things that we find ourselves driven to do. But He never forgets us. He longs to save us and make us safe in His love.

This is why He created us and the universe. Each time we fall away we can return to Him over and over again. We can always pray, and to our prayer we can add fasting. We can do this for ourselves and for others. Those of us who are moved by the death of Kurt Cobain and others like him - can pray for him and for them. Above all, let us be sure that we ourselves have turned to God. As we do this, we find the joy and peace promised by God to all who love Him.

**شفاء يسوع**

ولَدَ فيه روح أبكم، أي روح يجعله أخرس، طلب والده من يسوع شفاؤه. العوارض التي كان الفتى مصابا بها عوارض داء الصرع (épilepsie). ولما جيء به الى يسوع، ظهرت هذه العوارض عليه. أبوه أكد أن هذه العوارض كانت تُلَازِمُه، وسأل يسوع اذا كان يستطيع أن يقوم بشيء من أجل هذا الغلام وقال له: "تحننْ علينا". عند ذاك قال له الرب: "إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن". كثيرًا ما كان السيد يفتش عن الإيمان عند الذين يرافقون مريضًا. ولكن لم تكن هذه قاعدة عامة.

جواب الوالد ليسوع كان: "إني أؤمن يا سيد. فأعِثْ عدمَ إيماني". ربما كان المعنى الذي قصده أعني في ضعف إيماني. قد لا يعرف الإنسان أي مقدار عنده من الإيمان فيتضع ويقول إنني لست قويا في الإيمان ويسأل ربه أن يزيده إيمانًا.

عند تصريح الأب بإيمانه، أخرج يسوع الروح النجس بأمر منه، فصار الولد كالميت "حتى قال كثيرون إنه قد مات. فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضه فقام". بهذه الكلمات لمقرس الإنجيلي نتجاوز الحادثة الى وضعنا الروحي، فإذا كان أحدنا خاطئًا، غميق الخطيئة يكون كالمتيت أو هو ميت روحيا. بعد الحادثة دخل يسوع بيتًا لا بد أنه كان لأحد الأصدقاء، فسأله تلاميذه: "لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نخرجه". كان هذا الفتى قد قُدمَ لهم ولم ينفعوه بشيء. عند ذاك قال لهم السيد: "إن هذا الجنس لا يخرج الا بالصلاة والصوم".

ما معنى إذا كلام السيد؟ يبدو لي أن المعنى أن صلاتهم لم تكن عميقة ولا حارة، أي ان محبتهم لله كانت ضعيفة وما كان لهم سلطان على روح الشر الذي كان في بعض المرضى. كان السيد يريد أن الصلاة قادرة على كل شيء وحتى على طرد الشياطين فلا يبقى عند المصلّي أثر للشر. عندئذ يصبح مقتدرًا على كل شيء. ويكون هكذا في حالة الصوم أي ضابطًا نفسه، متكلاً فقط على الطعام الروحي الذي يعطيه إياه الرب بديلاً عن الطعام الجسدي. ولهذا نقرن في كنيستنا دائماً الصوم بالصلاة لئلا يكون مجرد نظام حماية. المؤمنون عندنا يُحسِنون أن صلوات الصوم الفصحى هي التي تقوِّهم على تحمّل الإمساك فيهن بالواقع ولا ينزعجون منه لأنهم يتقوون بالخدم الإلهية (صلاة النوم الكبرى عند كل الأتقياء، القداس السابق تقديسه، المدائح وغير ذلك عند القادرين).

بعد هذا تنبأ يسوع عن موته وقيامته. هذه الآية الأخيرة من هذه القراءة تُدنيننا من العيد، والصوم كله مشوار الى الفصح. ولا نقوم نحن بالصيام الا استعدادًا منه ليوم القيامة الذي هو "عيد الأعياد وموسم المواسم". هو وعدٌ بقيامتنا نحن في اليوم الأخير بعد أن كانت لنا قيامة أولى بالمعمودية وقيامه دائماً في التوبة.

وبعد أن سجدنا للصليب المقدس الأحد الماضي، وجَّهنا انتباهنا أكثر فأكثر الى القيامة التي هي حياتنا.

**جاورجيوس مطران جبل لبنان.**



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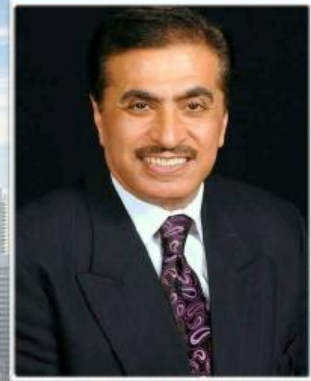
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