

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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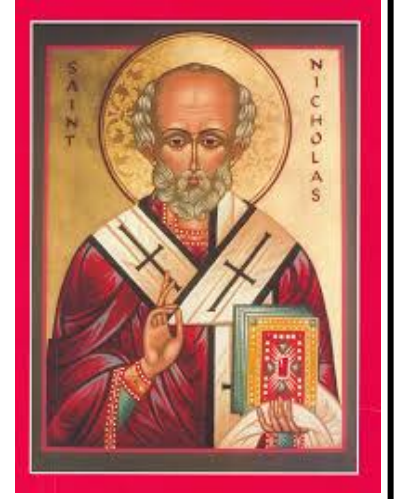
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**Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

### THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (2:10-16)

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law. For it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the Law do by nature what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

**الرسالة: رومية 2:10-16** يا إخوة، المجد والكرامة والسلام لكل من يفعل الخير من اليهود أولاً ثم من اليونانيين، لأن ليس عند الله محاباة للوجوه. فكل الذين أخطأوا بدون الناموس فبدون الناموس يهلكون، وكل الذين أخطأوا في الناموس فبالناموس يُدانون، لأنه ليس السامعون للناموس هم أبراراً عند الله بل العاملون بالناموس هم يُبرَّرون. فإن الأمم الذين ليس عندهم الناموس اذا عملوا بالطبيعة بما هو في الناموس فهو لاء وان لم يكن عندهم الناموس فهم ناموس لأنفسهم، الذين يُظهرون عمل الناموس مكتوباً في قلوبهم وضميرهم شاهد وافكارهم تشكو او تحتجّ فيما بينها يوم يدين الله سرائر الناس بحسب إنجيلي بيسوع المسيح.

### THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (4:18-23)

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

### **الإنجيل: متى 4:18-23**

في ذلك الزمان فيما كان يسوع ماشياً على شاطئ بحر الجليل رأى أخوين وهما سمعان المدعو بطرس وأندراوس أخوه يلقيان شبكة في البحر (لأنهما كانا صيادين). فقال لهما: هلمّ ورائي فأجعلكما صيادي الناس. فللوقت تركا الشباك وتبعاه. وجاز من هناك فرأى أخوين آخرين وهما يعقوب بن زبدي ويوحنا أخوه في سفينة مع أبيهما زبدي يُصلحان شباكهما فدعاهما. وللوقت تركا السفينة وأباهما وتبعاه. وكان يسوع يطوف الجليل كله يعلم في مجامعهم ويكرز ببشارة الملكوت ويشفي كل مرض وكل ضعف في الشعب.

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

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Abeer Khoury, Fr. Michael habib, Mira Hussary, Yousef Rantisi, Issam Dabit, Muna Husary, Khader Hanhan. Happy Birthday. Many Years!
- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who are named; Peter and Paul after **the Apostles Peter and Paul: Blessed Feast of the Holy See of Antioch (June 29)**, on the occasion of their Names Day! Many years!

*Sponsors for Sunday's are needed. Please make checks payable St. Nicholas Church in the amount of \$25.00 or more. Thank you!*



**Fr. George Baalbaki** would like to thank all those who supported, labored and helped out to make our Father's Day Picnic such wonderful and fun. May God bless you all!

***2016 CAMP – Suheil Azar, Director, reporting.***

I am happy to report that this year's camp program was very successful and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the following – we could not have done it without them.

- To: Father George for his guidance and support
- Shibli Azar and Sons for transportation providing 4 vans.
- Father Gregory and the Ofiesh Family for the use of a cargo van and bread
- Kitchen crew: Jeries and Josephine Tannous, Peter and Basima Tannous, John and Joanne Saba, Khouria Eman Baalbaki, Hiba Azar, Gihan Saadeh
- Staff: Illyan Baalbaki, Tariq Rantisi, Leila Kreitem, Frank Bouri, Fadi Rantisi.

Thanks to all the parents for allowing us to take their children for a five days of religious education and fun. We look forward to doing the same thing next year – June 11 – 17, 2017.

**2016 Pledge Statements:**

The second quarter Pledge Statements have been mailed out for your review. If you have any question, or if you didn't receive your statement, please call the church office, we will be happy to discuss it with you. Thank you all for your donations. May God bless you and your family!



## Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul

On June 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious, all-laudable and foremost of the Apostles, Peter and Paul.

Together, they are the patrons and protectors of the Patriarchate of Antioch. Peter was the son of Jonah and the brother of Andrew, the First-called. He was of the Tribe of Simeon from the town of Bethsaida. He was a fisherman and, at first, was called Simon but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas or Peter: “And when Jesus beheld him, He said, ‘Thou art Simon the son of Jonah; thou shalt be called Cephas,’ which is by interpretation, a rock” (John 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to clearly express faith in the Lord Jesus saying: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew

16:16). His love for the Lord was great and his faith in the Lord gradually strengthened. When the Lord was brought to trial, Peter denied Him three times but after only one glance into the face of the Lord, Peter’s soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel.

Peter worked many powerful miracles; he healed the sick, resurrected the dead; the sick were healed even from his shadow.

By order of the evil Emperor Nero, Peter was condemned to death in 64 A.D. Installing Linus as Bishop of Rome, counseling and comforting the flock of Christ, Peter proceeded joyfully to his death. Seeing the cross before him, he begged his executioners to crucify him upside down for he considered himself unworthy to die as did his Lord. Thus the great servant of the Great Lord reposed and received the wreath of eternal glory.

Paul was born in Tarsus of the tribe of Benjamin. At first, he was called Saul, studied under Gamaliel, was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christianity. He was miraculously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself Who appeared to him on the road to Damascus.

“Suddenly, a light from heaven flashed about him. And Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?’ And he said, ‘Who art Thou, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting’ (Acts 9:3-5). Saul was blinded, but regained his sight when he was baptized by the Apostle Ananias. Then he was called Paul and numbered in the service of the great apostles. With a fiery zeal, Paul preached the Gospel everywhere from the borders of Arabia to Spain, among the Jews and among the Gentiles. As horrible as his sufferings were, so much more was his super human patience. Throughout all the years of his preaching Paul, from day to day, hung as one on a weak thread between life and death. Since he fulfilled all days and nights with labor and suffering for Christ, since he organized the Church in many places and since he attained such a degree of perfection he was able to say: ‘It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me’ (Galatians 2:20). Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero at the same time as the Apostle Peter.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen

## كلمة الراعي

### كَرَمُ النَّفْسِ

الكريم مَنْ أَحَبَّ فَأَعْطَى وَجَادَ. أما إذا لم يحبَّ وأعطى فيكون عطاؤه من كبرياء أو حياء، وَمِنْ عَمَلٍ يَدُهُ لَا مِنْ انفتاح قلبه. يكون هذا قد استوفى أجره. لذلك يؤكد الكتاب أن اليد اليسرى لا ينبغي أن تعلم ما فعلته اليد اليمنى، ذلك أن الإحسان ليس بالدرجة الأولى علاقة بين الإنسان والإنسان بل بين الإنسان والله. الله هو من يأخذ من مخلوقه قرباناً عندما يستلم مخلوق ثاب هبة من الأول. ليس الثاني مديناً للأول لأن المعطي الحقيقي لا يطلب شيئاً لنفسه، وإذا كان معطيًا كبيرًا لا يلتبس من الله نفسه مكافأة. فقط تُسَرُّ نفسه بالله. الشخص الذي يأخذ منًا ظرفُ فرحنا.

إذا لم يكن في العطاء دين، إذا كان يتم في الأخوة، فمن يأخذ يجب أن يكون على الكرامة نفسها التي يكون عليها المعطي. إن قساوة الناس تجعلهم أحيانًا يعطون بكبرياء، يُذيعون ما يعملون، يُسجّلونه، أوجدوا للتبرعات لوائح. بنتيجة ذلك يتحلّق حولهم الفقراء ويشعرون أنهم أذلاء. بسبب هذا الذلّ المتراكم يُحسّون أن الأخذ تسوّل. ومن الناس من لهم روحية المتسوّلين ويسعون إلى الكسب بكل وسيلة. وكثيرًا ما يكون المتسوّل غير محتاج ويريد أن تساويه بالمحتاج. وهذا مؤذ لمن كان أشد حاجة.

أصلًا ليست كمية العطاء هي المهمة فقد تعطي القليل في تواضع ومحبة ولا تسأل عن شكر، وقد تعطي الكثير وأنت متبجّج. هناك من يقيم علاقة بين قلبه وقلب آخر، وهناك من أغلق قلبه ولو سخا. مَنْ أعطاك بمحبة خُذْ منه بمحبة، بلا شعور بالذل فإنه أخوك بالمسيح أو أخوك بالإنسانية الطيبة التي تُحسّن بها كلاكما. إذا كان الإنسان الصالح يعطي ببساطة، فالإنسان الصالح، إذا كان في عوز، يأخذ ببساطة أيضًا. لا تُقم حاجزًا بينك وبين من أعطاك. إنه لمأثرة طيبة أن تأخذ إن كنت في حاجة، لأنك عند ذاك تُتيح الفرصة لمن أعطاك أن يلتقي المسيح. إن من نُحسن إليه صار مجالًا لتقربنا من السيد.

خذ بكرامة كبيرة، في نبل. ولكن خذ في شكر أيضًا. العبارات المألوفة أنك تشكر من أعطاك. الحقيقة أنك تشكر الله الذي ألهم إنسانًا أن يُخلّص نفسه. أنت سيّد على من أعطاك إذا كان فاهمًا روحيًا. هو يحاول الدنو من الرب، وأنت إن استلمت إحسانه ترفعه. ولكن هذا ليس مدعاة تكبر عندك. الإحسان الذي تتقبّله يفرض عليك الشكر ولا سيّما أن من وهبك شيئًا يكون قد قام بجهد. المهم أن يكون عندنا حُبّ في العطاء مع جهد كثير، وأن يكون عندنا كرامة في الاستلام وحُبّ ونفس شكورة. نتمنى مردودًا روحيًا واحدًا، أن يكون الإخوة الباذلون والإخوة المبدول لهم جميعًا في فرح واحد.

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