

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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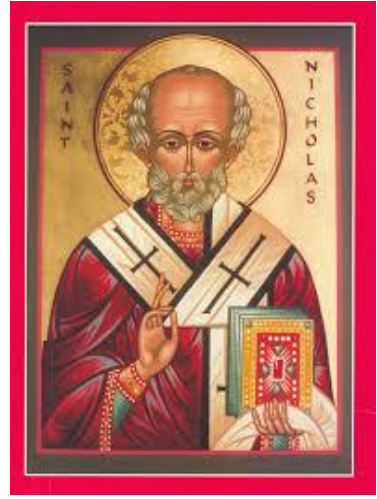
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Sunday, July 24th, 2016

This Sunday **July 24th: 40 –Days Memorial Service for the servant of God Hanna Thome**

Offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

6-Months Memorial Service for the servant of God Elias Louh

Offered by his family. May his memory be eternal!

Next Sunday July 31st : One-Year Memorial Service for the handmaiden of God Najla Jarjura.

Offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

الرسالة: رومية 10:1-10 يا إخوة ان بغية قلبي وابتهالي الى الله هما لأجل اسرائيل لخلاصه، فإني أشهد لهم أنّ فيهم غيرة لله ألا انها ليست عن معرفة، لأنهم اذ كانوا يجهلون برّ الله ويطلبون ان يقيموا برّ أنفسهم لم يخضعوا لبرّ الله. إنّما غاية الناموس هي المسيح للبرّ لكلّ من يؤمن. فإنّ موسى يصف البرّ الذي من الناموس بأنّ الإنسان الذي يعمل هذه الأشياء سيحيا فيها. أمّا البرّ الذي من الإيمان فهكذا يقول فيه: لا تقلّ في قلبك من يصعد الى السماء؟ اي لينزل المسيح؛ او من يهبط الى الهاوية؟ اي ليصعد المسيح من بين الأموات. لكن ماذا يقول؟ ان الكلمة قريبة منك في فمك وفي قلبك، اي كلمة الإيمان التي نبشّر بها. لأنك إن اعترفت بفمك بالربّ يسوع وآمنت بقلبك ان الله قد أقامه من بين الأموات فإنك تخلص لأنه بالقلب يؤمن للبرّ وبالفم يُعترف للخلاص.

الإنجيل: متى 1:9-28:8 في ذلك الزمان لما أتى يسوع الى كورة الجرجسيين استقبله مجنونان خارجان من القبور، شرسان جدا، حتى انه لم يكن احد يقدر أن يجتاز من تلك الطريق. فصاحا قائلين: ما لنا ولك يا يسوع ابن الله؟ أجيئت الى ههنا قبل الزمان لتعذبنا؟ وكان بعيداً عنهم قطيع خنازير كثيرة ترعى. فأخذ الشياطين يطلبون اليه قائلين: ان كنت تُخرجنا فأذن لنا أن نذهب الى قطع الخنازير. فقال لهم: اذهبوا. فخرجوا وذهبوا الى قطع الخنازير. فإذا بالقطيع كله قد وثب عن الجرف الى البحر ومات في المياه. اما الرعاة فهربوا ومضوا الى المدينة، وأخبروا بكلّ شيء وبأمر المجنونين. فخرجت المدينة كلّها للقاء يسوع. ولما رأوه طلبوا اليه ان يتحوّل عن تخومهم. فدخل السفينة واجتاز وأتى الى مدينته

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Judy Koury, Randa Jaghab Hanani, Hind Bouri, Yousef Elhaj, Musa Nijmah, Asmahan Maayeh, Nina Azar and Evana Dabit. Happy Birthday. Many Years!
- ❖ Laila Louh in loving memory of **Elias Louh**. May his memory be eternal!
- ❖ Saida Jaghab and family for the good health of **Randa Hanani** on the occasion of her birthday on July 24th! Many years!
- ❖ Saida Jaghab and family for the good health of **Jayson and Tanya Veirya** on the occasion of their wedding anniversary in July 24th! Many years!
- ❖ St. Nicholas Parish family for the good health of all who are named; Elie, Elise, Elijah, and Elias after the **Prophet Elias (Elijah) the Tishbite (July 20)** on the occasion of their Names Day! Many years!
- ❖ Fr. George Baalbaki for the good health of all who are named Elias, especially: Dr. Elias Hanna, Elias Akram Nasser, Elias Batshon, Elie Hana, Elias Jadelrab, Elias hanhan, Elias Bazouzi, Elias Tannous and Elias Katout on the occasion of their Names Day! Many years! Also in loving memory of Elia Saoud , Elias Louh and Elias Shatara. May their memory be eternal!

Alter Candle offered by:

- ❖ Sub-Deacon Michel, Zachary & Gregory Khoury for the good health of **Judy Khoury** on the occasion of her birthday July 21st. Many Years!
- ❖ Emad, Rozana, Joann and Nouran Maayeh wishing **Sam and Asma Jildeh** best wishes for their marriage and Happy 24th birthday for Asma on July 19th. May your life be filled with happiness!
- ❖ Salameh Azar for the good health of **Nina Theodory Azar** on the occasion of her birthday July 23rd. Many Years.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday Luncheon: This Sunday July 24th we will have a luncheon for the benefits of the Charity.

Family Night:

St. Nicholas Church Ladies Auxiliary invites you to join us for a fun and entertainment Family Night on Saturday **July 30th** at St. Nicholas Banquet hall. Entertainment by Rami Kaileh
Donation: Adults \$20, Kids \$10.
Hope to see all of you!

2016 Annual Festival:

St. Nicholas Church Annual Food Festival will be held on Saturday & Sunday, October 1st & 2nd. More info to follow...

Car Raffle: This year we will have a raffle for 2016 Honda Accord LX. Hurry up and buy your ticket for \$50 to win the car.



Fashion Show:

St. Nicholas Annual Fashion Show will be held on November 5th at St. Nicholas Banquet Hall. More info to follow....

A SIMPLE WAY OF SALVATION.

St. Paul's words concerning salvation in today's Epistle (Romans 10:1-10) are most assuring: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved". There is such certainty in these words! The demands are very clear and the blessed result of meeting these demands is equally so. Christians have held firmly to this assurance from earliest times. This was why, for example, they chose to die rather than proclaim: "Caesar is lord", as Roman authorities required of them. Others could do it, perhaps holding on to the mental reservation that this profession of faith in Caesar which Roman authorities required was mere bureaucratic nonsense, which was best got over with as quickly as possible, so that one could get on with one's life. For them, it was, to use a colloquial expression, "no big deal". But for Christians such a matter was very big deal indeed. They simply could not do it. They could not confess two Lords. Words meant something. So did loyalty. One confessed only one Lord because one believed in only One – One Who had been raised from the dead! Having required this loyalty to Christ, St. Paul shows us that salvation of humans ought not to be seen as something impossibly difficult to attain. Heretics, such as the Gnostics who were active in the time of the Apostles, made salvation, or, as they preferred to call it, "enlightenment", a matter available only to the elite few who would be diligent in their study of the esoteric knowledge and disciplines taught by certain teachers. This was not how Christians viewed the matter. Salvation depended upon one's confessing and believing, not upon the memorization of complicated formulas and formulations, nor upon unusual disciplines. In fact the way of salvation in Christ was so simple that even people with little education and few means could confess and believe – and spread the news of salvation in the Lord throughout the world. That was just what they did. Note that the vast majority of people who followed Christ from the very beginning were simple shepherds and fishermen. These were the ones who believed and confessed and who won the world to the Gospel. If it is indeed so simple, you might ask, then why does not the whole world believe? We, Christians, are partly to blame. We are too lazy to do our work of confessing Christ before others. Perhaps we are afraid of being rejected and, perhaps, persecuted. Yet faith is a universal matter. People believe in all sorts of things. The Orthodox Christian faith holds up very well among world religions and philosophies. As we begin to understand and live it, we find that it is a most precious treasure. This treasure is one which grows the more it is shared. Let us be diligent and consistent: let us confess and believe.

Fr. Ihor Kutash

الاعتراف بالإيمان

ليس الإيمان فقط في القلب، انه ايضاً على اللسان. “فكل من يعترف بي قدام الناس أعترف انا ايضاً به قدام ابي الذي في السموات” (متى 10: 32). يقابلها ايضاً قول السيد: “من يُنكرني قدام الناس أنكره انا ايضاً قدام ابي الذي في السموات” (متى 10: 33). أطلقت الكنيسة صفة المعترف على من يُقرّ بانتمائه الى المسيح تحت التعذيب. واذا مات يُسمّى شهيداً. هذا التطابق بين الباطن والظاهر يُعبّر عنه بولس في رسالة اليوم: “إن اعترفتَ بفمك بالرب يسوع وآمنت بقلبك أن الله قد أقامه من بين الأموات فإنك تخلص”.

شهادة الدم عندنا إلزامية فلا حق لك بالكفر. أنت تشهد حتى يُراق دمك. لذلك تؤمن الكنيسة أن الشهداء لا يدعوهم الله الى الدينونة لكونهم اتحدوا بالمسيح اتحاداً كاملاً. قد يظنّ بعض الناس أن عدد المسيحيين يقلّ بموت الكثيرين عن طريق استشهادهم. العكس هو الذي حصل إذ الكثيرون من الذين اهدتوا ليس بالبشارة ولكن برويتهم قتل السلطات الرومانية وغير الرومانية للمسيحيين. مَنْ أحبّ المسيح حتى الموت كان يوحى للوثنيين انه يؤمن بالله حيّ وأنه ينضمّ اليه بالموت. الذين كانوا يموتون في الشهادة انما جاؤوا اليها بالتعليم، بالبشارة. آمنوا حتى ماتوا. جيلاً بعد جيل كنا نموت وفي كل البلدان. الاتحاد السوفياتي قتل الألوف المؤلفه من الشهداء بدءاً بـ 250 مطراناً وستة آلاف كاهن. كذلك هتلى قتل عددا من المسيحيين. إذا ألقى القبض على المسيحيّ بسبب من إيمانه لا يهرب من الاعتراف. ولكن يحق له أن يختفي. هذا ليس بنكران. اما اذا سأله المحقق إن كان مسيحياً فلا بد له أن يعترف والرب وعد بتقويته في حالة الضعف او الشك.

طبيعيّ أن يُقتل المطران والكاهن اولاً ظناً من الظالمين أنهم يُبيدون الرعية هكذا. ولكن هذا الحساب لا يصحّ. تنتعش الرعية بموت القادة ويُدبّر الله كنيسته. استعداداً للشهادة اذا طُلبت نتمسك بكل كلمة من كلمات يسوع لنتغذى بها وتثبتنا حتى اذا برز مَنْ يضطهدنا نجدنا أقوىاء، متأهبين للاعتراف بيسوع ربّاً ومخلصاً. “سحابة الشهود” كما يُسمّيه الكتاب هم أساسنا في السماء وهم يشجعوننا على الاقتداء بهم. انهم الأعظمون بيننا وإخوتنا الكبار الذين يُثبّتوننا بمحبة المسيح.

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