

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الارثوذكسية St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

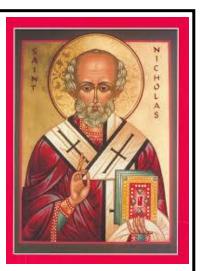
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, July 31st, 2016



This Sunday: 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. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

الرسالة: رومية 12: 6- 14

ياً إخوة ، إذ لنا مواهب مُختَلفة باختِلاف النِّعمة المُعطاة لنا، فَمَن وُهِبَ النُّبوءة فَليَتَنَبَّا وِفقًا لِلإيمان، وَمَن وُهِبَ الخِدمة فَليُلازِم الخِدمة، والمُعلِّمُ التَّعليم، والواعِظُ الوَعظَ الوَعظَ، والمُتَصدِّقُ البَساطَة، والمُدبِّرُ الاجتِهاد، والرّاحِمُ البَشَاشة. وَلتَكُن المَحَبَّةُ بِلا رِياءٍ. كونوا ماقتِينَ لِلشَّرِّ وَمُلتَصِقِينَ بِالخَير. مُحِبِّينَ بَعضُكُم بَعضًا حُبًّا أَخَويَّا، مُبَادِرينَ بَعضُكُم بَعضًا جُبًا أَخَويَّا، مُبَادِرينَ بَعضُكُم بَعضًا بِالإكرام، غَيرَ مُتكاسِلينَ في الاجتِهاد، حارينَ بِالرّوح، عابِدينَ لِلرَّب، فَرِجِينَ في الرَّجاء، صابِرينَ في الضيق، مُواظِبينَ عَلى الصَّلاة، مُؤاسينَ القِدِّيسِينَ في احتِياجاتِهم، عاكِفينَ عَلى ضِيافةِ الغُرباء. باركوا الذينَ يَضطَهدونَكُم، باركوا، وَلا تَلعنُوا.

THE GOSPEL: **St. Matthew.** (9:1-8)At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

الانجيل: متى 9: 1-8 في ذلك الزمان دخل يسوع السفينة واجتاز وجاء إلى مدينته فإذا بمُخّلع مُلقى على سرير قدَّموه إليه فلما رأى يسوع إيمانهم قال للمُخّلع ثق يا بُنيّ مغفورة لكَ خطاياك فقال قومٌ من الكتبة في أنفسهم هذا يُجدّف فعلم يسوع أفكار هم فقال لماذا تفكرون بالشر في قلوبكم ما الأيسر أن يُقال مغفورة لكَ خطاياك أم أن يُقال قُمّ فامش ولكن لكي تعلموا أن ابن البشر لهُ سلطانٌ على الأرض أن يغفر الخطايا (حينئذ قال للمخلع) قُم احمل سريرك واذهب إلى بيتك فقام ومضى إلى بيته فلمّا نظر الجموع تعجبُوا ومجدوا الله الذي أعطى الناس سلطاناً كهذا.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Sub-Dn.Michel Khoury, Neda Jada, Vicky Jada, Sameh Twal, Silvia Katout. Happy Birthday. Many Years!
- ❖ Pat Arango in loving memory of her mother **Anastasia Cosmos**. May her memory be eternal!

Alter Candle offered by:

- ❖ Judy, Zachary & Gregory Khoury for the good health of Sub-Dn. Michele Khoury on the occasion of his birthday July 28th. Many Years!
- ❖ Sana Jarjura and family in loving memory of **Najla Jarjura**. May her memory be eternal!

Upcoming Events:

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 @ 7:00pm. Entertainment by Rami Kaileh.

Donation: Adults \$20, Kids \$10.

Hope to see all of you!

DORMITION FAST (The fast of St. Mary)

On August 1st the fast of the feast of St. Mary starts, and it will be ended on August 15th, the feast of the Dormition of St. Mary. During this fast we abstain from eating: fish, Meat, Milk and dairy food. On Transfiguration we may eat fish, olive oil and wine.

- The Paraklesis Service to the Virgin Mary (Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 7:00 P.M.)
- Transfiguration Service عيد النجلي (Friday August 5th @ 7:00 P.M).
- Dormition service for the Feast of the Dormition of our Lady on Sunday August 14th.

<u>اعلان: صوم السيدة العذراء</u> يوم الاول من اب يبدا صوم السيدة الذي ينتهي في ١٥ اب الذي نعيد فيه لذكرى رقاد السيدة العذراء. خلال هذا العيد نمتنع عن اكلُ اللحم والسمك والحليب ومشتقاته . في عيد التجلي مسموح تناول السمك، الزيت والنبيذ.



Blessing of the Grape:

Friday August 5th offered by Andy Azar for the good health of his family. God bless you!

Sunday August 7th

We will be blessing the Grapes offered by Afaf Dudum in loving memory of her son **Thomas Dudum.** May his memory be eternal!

And for the good health of **Dudums**, **Emprescias**, and **Stricklands** families! May God grant them many years!

Save the Date: 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....

PARALYTIC MAN Sunday 14 July 1985

A man was brought to the Lord Jesus Christ, paralysed, by four of his friends. And Christ, seeing their faith, said to him that he could be healed.

There are two things in this story which I would like you to think about. The one is that this man was ill, he was in need; perhaps he was unable either to express his need, or to express the faith that he had in the possibility of healing; but his friends had faith: faith in Christ, faith in His power to heal, to make whole. And they took this man and brought him to the Lord.

But their faith would not have been sufficient; many were paralysed, many were sick who did not find friends who would bring them to the healer. It is not only their faith in Christ; it is also their love to their friend that prompted them to act. And again, it is because this man, in the years when he was whole, was able to call out love, friendship, devotion, faithfulness in their hearts that in the hour of need they came to his rescue.

Here are two lessons for us. The one is that we can bring forth the needs of people - physical, spiritual and other needs; we can bring forth their needs to God if we have faith in His healing power, and our faith can open the gates of salvation for those who perhaps have not enough faith, who might not even be able to say,I believe, Lord, help my unbelief - those who doubt, those who hesitate, those who are uncertain that we can bring them to the Lord. But this is possible only if the person in need has created in us, called out in us love; a love so personal, so faithful that we prove capable of acting. Or perhaps, if our life in Christ is deep enough that God has sawn into our hearts so much of His own compassion, of His own love that we can turn to the unknown, turn to whom we have never heard of, prompted by nothing but by his or her need, and bring him or her to God unto salvation, unto healing.

We must remember both the necessity for us to become capable of love and capable of calling out love around us. And also we must learn to have the daring of faith when we see need around us, and bring it to the Only One Who can resolve it, Who can heal, Who can make whole not only bodies, and minds, and souls, but the complex relationship between people.

Here is a calling, here is a vocation for us; let us pay attention to what God says to us in this Gospel, in this Good News of the power of love, divine and human, and the power of faith to which God's love and mercy responds.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

كلمة الراعي

لتكن المحبة بلارياء

رسالة اليوم جزء من تعليم أخلاقي وضعه الرسول بولس في كتابه الى أهل رومية، وهو في غاية البساطة يوجزه بعبارة واحدة حيث يقول: «لتكن المحبة بلا رياء». المحبة الصادرة عن قلب بسيط نيّر نقي وليس فيها تمثيل ولا تبرّج، المحبة التي تعتبر الانسان الآخر اعتبارًا كليًا، التي تعرفه محبوبًا وتعرفه موضوع الافتقاد الإلهي والرحمة الإلهية. ولذلك أنت تُلاصق الانسان الآخر من أجل الرب. هذه المحبة للقريب إنما هي نابعة من إخلاص لله، من إيمان به يجعلنا ماقتين للشر وملتصقين بالخير.

مشكلتنا الأخلاقية هي أننا نتحيّر بين الخير والشر، ولذلك نضيف الشر أحيانًا، وإذا ما أقلعنا عنه فكثيرًا ما نوده. لا نرتكبه ولكننا نحبّه بعض الحب. وهذا التردّد بين الله والشر يجعلنا متقلّبين غير مصمّمين على الخير، ولذلك قال الرسول: «كونوا ماقتين للشر». كونوا ماقتين له كما تمقتون مرضًا يتآكل خلايا الجسم شيئًا فشيئًا، فإذا ما ماتت الخلايا يفنى الإنسان. الخطيئة تُميت الإنسان هكذا، وتجعله غير قادر على العمل، غير قادر على المحبّة، تجعله مكبّلًا، عبدًا لها سجينًا.

مشكلتنا مع أنفسنا أننا لا نريد أن نتروّض على الخير. الإنسان يقبل نفسه كما هو. يعرف نفسه سكّيرًا ويريد ذلك. يعرف نفسه غضوبًا ويرتضي ذلك. كما نرى أنفسنا نرتضيها، ونظن أنفسنا عظماء خيّرين. الرسول يعقوب يقول لنا اننا بذلك نخدع أنفسنا إذ نشبه «رجلًا ناظرًا خلقته في مرآة، فإنه نظر ذاته ومضى وللوقت نسي ما هو» (يعقوب ٢: ٢٢-٢٤).

مرضنا الأساسي هو الكسل، اللامبالاة بحيث يأتي الإنسان الى الكنيسة متى يحلو له، ينام متى يحلو له، يصوم متى يعلو له، يصوم متى يشتهي الصوم. كل أمورنا متعلقة بالنزوات العابرة. ليس عندنا شيء يُسمّى المواظبة. يقول لنا بولس ان المسيحية الحق هي أن نكون «غير متكاسلين في الاجتهاد» لأن الشرخبيث. متى تسرّب إلى النفس وبقي هناك بلا مقاومة فإنه يتمكّن منها ويُميتها.

لذلك ينبغي أن نكافح الشر باستمر آر، أن نخنق الشر نهائيًا، أن نضربه ضربة واحدة قاضية قبل أن يتمكّن منّا. كيف نكافحه؟ الرسول بولس يجيب بقوله بأن نكون دائمًا «حارّين بالروح» وما تبقّى يتبع، أي أن نكون دائمًا بقظين

في المسيحية الإنسان لا يقبل نفسه، لا يستريح إلى خطيئته، لا يجد أعذارًا لهفواته، لا يساوم، لا يساير. المسيحي حارّ بالروح أي انه في جهاد مستمر، ثائر على نفسه لأنه محبّ لله، لأنه يجعل وجه المسيح دائمًا نُصب عينيه، ولا يستريح إلى غيره. وجه السيّد ينير ظلماتنا، يكشف لنا هفواتنا، يدخل إلى ثنايا نفسنا فنرى المعتمة التي فينا، نرى بشاعتنا. فإنْ تناسَينا ما يكشفه لنا، إن اختلقنا أعذارًا، إن تقاعسنا وتكاسلنا، تتمكّن العتمة منّا وتنمو نفسنا في بشاعتها فتستفيق ذات يوم في ظلام دامس بنفس مسخة.

دعوة الرسول لنا اليوم أن نحيا بلا رياء، في محبَّة معطاء، ناظرين إلى الكمال الذي في المسيح يسوع مثالاً لنا. هكذا نتغيّر إلى صورته، وهكذا نُغيّر العالم بأسره.

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