

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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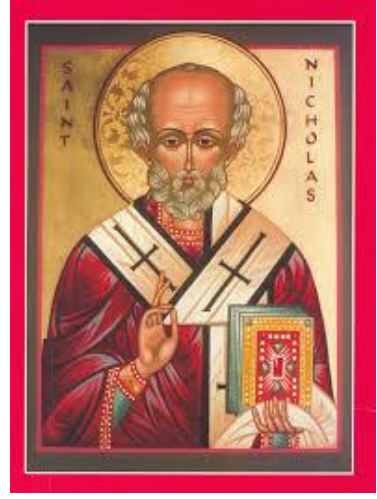
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Sunday, August 7th, 2016

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل رومية (7-1: 15)

يا إخوة يجب علينا نحن الأقوياء أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء ولا نرضي أنفسنا* فليرض كل واحد منا قريبه للخير لأجل البنيان* فإن المسيح لم يرض نفسه ولكن كما كتب تعبيرات معبريك وقعت علي* لأن كل ما كتب من قبل إنما كتب لتعليمنا ليكون لنا الرجاء بالصبر وبتعزية الكتب* وليعطكم إله الصبر والتعزية أن تكونوا متفقي الآراء فيما بينكم بحسب المسيح يسوع* حتى إنكم بنفس واحدة وفم واحد تمجدون الله أبنا ربنا يسوع المسيح* من أجل ذلك فليتخذ بعضكم بعضاً كما اتخذكم المسيح لمجد الله.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي (35-9: 27)

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع مجتاز تبعه أعميان يصيحان ويقولان ارحمنا يا ابن داود* فلما دخل البيت دنا إليه الأعميان فقال لهما يسوع هل تؤمنان أنني أقدر أن أفعل ذلك. فقالا له نعم يارب* حينئذ لمس أعينهما قائلاً كليمانكم فليكن لكم فانفتحت أعينهما، فانتهرهما يسوع قائلاً انظرا لا يعلم أحد* فلما خرجا شهراهما في تلك الأرض كلها* وبعد خروجهما قدما إلى أخرس به شيطان* فلما أخرج الشيطان تكلم الأخرس، فتعجب الجموع قائلين لم يظهر قط مثل هذا في إسرائيل* أما الفريسيون فقالوا إنه برئيس الشياطين يخرج الشياطين* وكان يسوع يطوف المدن كلها والقرى يعلم في مجاميعهم ويكرز ببشارة الملكوت ويشفي كل مريض وكل ضعيف في الشعب.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Hala Khoury, Marwan Al-Jada, Spiro Wael Hanhan and Suzan Rantisi. Happy Birthday. Many Years!
- ❖ Sue Wais for the good health of mother **Janette Tannous** on the occasion of her Birthday (Aug 7th) and her husband on the occasion of his B-Day (Aug 5th) and daughter Jeanette and her husband Jason on the occasion of their anniversary (Aug 7th) - Many years.
- ❖ Sahouria family commemorating the 8 year anniversary of the passing of **Saba Kalil Sahouria**, beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather. May his memory be eternal!

Alter Candle offered by:

- ❖ Nadim and Basma Howell, Oscar and Jane Moran in loving memory of **Judy Isabelle De Caminos**. May her memory be eternal!

Upcoming Events:

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 التجلي (Friday August 5th @ 7:00 P.M.)
- Dormition service for the Feast of the Dormition of our Lady Sunday August 14th.

اعلان: صوم السيدة العذراء

يوم الاول من اب يبدأ صوم السيدة الذي ينتهي في ١٥ اب الذي نعيد فيه لذكرى رقاد السيدة العذراء. خلال هذا العيد نمتنع عن اكل اللحم والسمك والحليب ومشتقاته. في عيد التجلي مسموح تناول السمك، الزيت والنبيد.



Blessing of the Grapes:

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 **Dudum, Imprescia, and Strickland** families! May God grant them many years!

Youth meeting: Our next Youth meeting will take place on Thursday August 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Claudia Rantis's House. Address: (529 Acacia Ave San Bruno, CA 94066)

Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Topic discussion: Dormition feast and Virgin Mary
3. Planning a Youth Outing

Looking forward to seeing everyone! As always, all are welcome so if you're a first time attendee don't be shy. Also, please feel free to invite your friends.

Festival General meeting: We will have a general meeting on Friday August 12th after the night service with our Festival committee. Everyone who is going to help out and work at the festival is invited and welcome to the meeting! Dinner will be served during the meeting... Hope to see all of you there.

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....

We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak

In his Epistle to the Romans (15:1-7) St. Paul calls all Christians to be the strength and the support of those who are weak. St. Paul says to each of us and to all the Christian community: You who are strong support those who are weak.

This must make us ponder. Are we to be called strong as contrasted with anyone else? Don't we realise, each of us, how frail and how weak we are? Don't we feel that, whatever desire we have to be God's own people, we have no strength and no power to achieve our human and our Christian vocation? And at this point we must remember another saying of St. Paul; he too felt that he was weak, that he did not possess all the strength he needed to fulfil his apostolate, and he prayed the Lord to give him strength. The Lord answered him and said: My strength makes itself manifest in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). And St. Paul, having understood what that meant, exclaims: So I shall glory in nothing but my weakness, because then all will be an act of God.

But this weakness is not cowardice, timidity, sloth, laziness: everything that could be called inertia and that prevents us from doing those things which we believe to be right, which our heart longs for, which our mind understands to be the best, the holiest, and yet which our will is incapable of bringing into operation. It is a different weakness; rather the awareness that we cannot achieve the greatness to which we are called unless God helps us. Because we are all called to be the sons and the daughters of the Most High, to be God's own children; indeed, by adoption, but once adopted, to be as completely and perfectly God's children as the Only-begotten Son of God was the Son of God.

But what does it mean that we should support, help, uphold those who are weak? Perhaps we can find the beginning of an answer in today's Gospel (Matthew 9:27-35). Christ was confronted with the blind man. He gave him sight. We are surrounded by people who are blind *ἄνθρωποι* not physically, but in so many ways, people who need to acquire a vision and sight which would allow them to grow to the full measure of their stature and to be truly happy. Not in the superficial sense of enjoying the good things of life that leave us all hungry and full of longing, but with another happiness.

What are the things to which we can open the eyes of others? First of all, make people around us see how great they are, how important they are to God. Each of us was not only willed, but loved into existence by God. Each of us means so much to God that He gave His Only-begotten Son for our salvation: all His Life, His Passion and His Death. This is what each of us, all human beings in the world, mean to God. This is what so few realise *ἄνθρωποι* that they are infinitely precious, with the infinity of God. Also, that there is in them this hunger, and the hunger is too great for the things of this created world to satisfy. Only God can fill them; but in order to see God, have we not heard, Sunday after Sunday, read time and again, the words of Christ *ἄνθρωποι* Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God *ἄνθρωποι*? So we must call every person around us to venerate, to reverence his own purity and to fight for the purity of his mind, the purity of his heart, the purity of his life, so that becoming gradually less opaque, then translucent, then perfectly transparent, the mind and the heart of man can perceive God.

At this point, everyone can turn to us and say "Physician, heal thyself." And indeed we can help others only if we ourselves struggle and strive to be great with the purity that allows us to set God, with the greatness of God, of the Only-begotten Son become the Son of men. There are many other things which we may discover which are forms of blindness in us and in others. Whenever we discover them, we must help others to discern them, because even if we ourselves are not truly capable of being what we should be, at our words others may achieve what we are too slack or too weak, to do.

And so it is also with the man who was deprived of speech. How many, how many are speechless before the greatness of God and the beauty of their own selves?

There is no way of discovering who and what God is unless we discover holiness and beauty in us. A Russian preacher said once "When God looks at us He does not see the virtues or the achievements which are not there; He sees the eternal beauty which He has implanted in each of us."

This is our message to every person, and this is the message of every person to us: reverence, love, fulfil this beauty, become great! And then we will have done what St. Paul calls us to do in today's Epistle: we will have supported those who are frail and weak, not with our strength, but with the strength of God, because all things are possible in the Spirit of God that upholds us.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

كلمة الراعي

أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء

«يجب علينا نحن الأقوياء أن نحتمل وهن الضعفاء ولا نُرضي أنفسنا». ما أراد الرسول بولس أن يُبيّنه في رسالة اليوم هو أن في الكنيسة أناساً أقوياء بالمسيح وأناساً ضعفاء، فضيلتهم قليلة. كلنا معاً نؤلف جسد المسيح كالأعضاء في الجسم. في الجسم عضو ضعيف وعضو قوي، ولكن أعضاء الجسم تقبل بعضها بعضاً، فلا تتفخر العين على اليد ولا اليد على الرجل، ولكن الأعضاء تتأزر معاً. هكذا بيننا نحن، يقول الرسول، لا يردل فينا أحد. وإذا وُجد بيننا ضعيف فلا نُبعده من الجماعة ولا نرتكب النسيمة بحقه لأن «مَنْ افْتَخَرَ فليفتخر بالرب» (٢كورنثوس ١٠: ١٧).

ثم يضيف الرسول أننا في الجماعة المسيحية لا يُرضي أي منا نفسه ولكنه يُرضي قريبه للخير ولا يُرضيه للشر. ومعنى ذلك أنه أيّاً كان وضع المرء الاجتماعي أو الثقافي فلا يحسب نفسه أقلّ من غيره أو لا يستزلم لغيره. كل إنسان مساوٍ للإنسان الآخر، فلا تحتقر أنت نفسك، ولا تجعل نفسك تابعاً للآخرين. كل إنسان ابن نفسه وابن جهاده وابن استمراره في الخير. أنت حرٌّ لأنك ابن الله. الله وحده فوقك فلا تتبع أحدًا من البشر ولا فكر أحد.

ناقش كل فكر، كل رأي، واتبع الحق. ولا تتمسك برأيك إن ثبت لك أن رأيك مغلوطن. تراجع عن رأيك أمام الناس، هذه فضيلة كبيرة لأن الحقيقة أفضل منك وأفضل من رأيك.

«بنفس واحدة وفم واحد تمجدون الله»، أي لتكن بينكم الآراء الإلهية الواحدة. الآراء الصالحة فلتجمعكم. انتموا الى فكر المسيح. وليكن أخوكم هذا الذي يقول قول المسيح.

و«ليتخذ بعضكم بعضاً كما اتخذكم المسيح»، أي فليتبني كلّ منكم الإنسان الآخر وليعتبر نفسه مدافعاً عن الضعيف، يلوذ بالضعيف ولا يلوذ بالقوي، الضعيف المتروك وحده الذي ليس بوجيه ولا بقادر. الضعيف هو الذي يجب أن نتنبّاه وأن نحمله على أكتافنا كما حمل المسيح خرافه جميعاً على كتفيه.

فلنسرّ هكذا برضى الله، غير خائفين من أحد. لنمتنع عن الشر وعن شبه كل شر. لتكن نفوسنا حلوة أمام المسيح. لنستمر بالصبر والفرح في تواضع، في لطف بسبب الاحتضان الذي كلّفنا به، مؤازرين الانتباه الدؤوب للآخر أيّاً كان لأن الإخوة وجوه تلفتنا إلى وجه الله.

سرّ الخفاء والخدمة المتواصلة هو سرّ إيماننا. هكذا نكشف للآخر جانباً من جوانب الله. هكذا نتدرّب معاً على أن نكون مجتمع أناس راجين، مجتمعاً مطلاً على الآخر، بإشراف المسيح، بضياته، عارفين أن قيم الإنجيل أبدية، موقنين بأن الإنجيل منتصر في أرواحنا، وأنه هو الذي يحملنا، بلا قوة، بلا عنف، في وداعة وحنان ولطف في المسيح يسوع.

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