

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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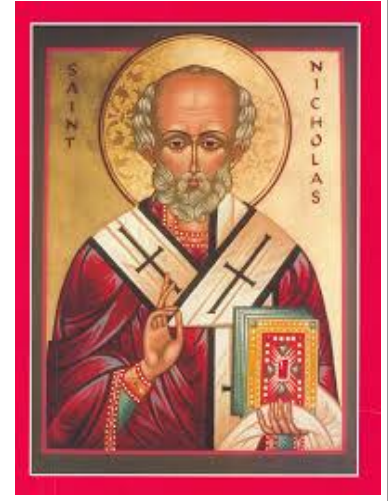
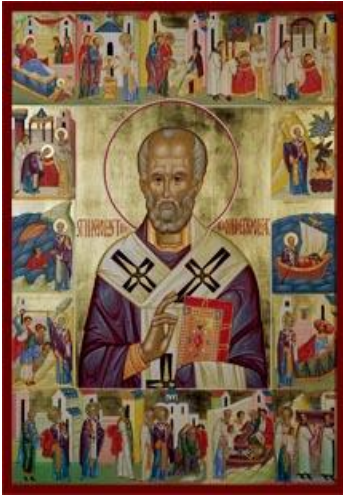
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

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**Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> , 2016**

Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>: (6-Month) Memorial Service for the handmaiden of God

**Nawal Modawar.**

Offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!



**THE EPISTLE:** the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12) Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel of Christ.

رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس

يا إخوة إن خاتم رسالتي هو أنتم في الرب، وهذا هو احتجاجي عند الذين يفحصوني. أعلنا لا سلطان لنا أن نأكل ونشرب؟ أعلنا لا سلطان لنا أن لا نشغل؟ من يتجند قط والنفقة على نفسه؟ من يغرس كرمًا ولا يأكل من ثمره؟ أو من يرعى قطيعًا ولا يأكل من لبن القطيع؟ أعلني أتكلم بهذا بحسب البشرية أم ليس الناموس أيضاً يقول هذا؟ فإنه قد كتبت في ناموس موسى لا تكلم ثوراً دارساً. أعل الله تهمة الثيران؟ أم قال ذلك من أجلنا لا محالة؟ بل إنما كتبت من أجلنا. لأنه ينبغي أن يحرق على الرجاء أن يكون شريكاً في الرجاء، إن كنا نحن قد زرنا لكم الروحانيات، أفيكون عظيماً أن نحصد منكم الجسديات؟ إن كان آخرون يشتركون في السلطان عليكم، أفلسنا نحن أولى؟ لكننا لم نستعمل هذا السلطان بل نحتمل كل شيء لئلا نسبب تعويقاً ما لبشارة المسيح.

**القديس متى البشير:** قال الرب هذا المثل يشبه ملكوت السماوات إنساناً ملكاً أراد أن يحاسب عبيده، فلما بدأ بالمحاسبة. أحضر إليه واحد عليه عشرة آلاف وزنة، وإذ لم يكن له ما يوفي أمر سيده أن يباع هو وامراته وأولاده وكل ماله ويوفي الدين، فخر ذلك العبد ساجداً له قائلاً تمهل علي فأوفيك كل ما لك، فرق سيد ذلك العبد وأطلقه وترك له الدين، وبعد ما خرج ذلك العبد وجد واحداً عبداً من رفقائه كان مديوناً له بمائة دينار فأمسكه وأخذ بعنقه قائلاً أوفني مالي عليك، فخر ذلك العبد على قدميه وطلب إليه قائلاً تمهل علي فأوفيك كل ما لك. فأبى ومضى وطرحه في سجن حتى يوفي الدين، فلما رأى رفقائه ما كان حزنوا جداً وجاءوا فأعلموا على سيدهم بكل ما كان، حينئذ دعاه سيده وقال له أيها العبد الشرير كل ما كان عليك تركته لك لأنك طلبت إلي. أفما كان ينبغي لك أن ترحم أنت أيضاً رفيقك كما رحمتك أنا، وغضب سيده ودفعه إلى المذبذبين حتى يوفي جميع ما له عليه، فهكذا أباي السماوي يصنع بكم إن لم تتركوا من قلوبكم كل واحد لأخيه زلاته.

## **THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (18:23-35)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Sana Jada, Samer Bouri and Rana Bouri Rantisi. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

### ***Alter candle offered by:***

- ❖ Laila Louh in loving memory of **Yacoub and Elias Louh**. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Gloria Lama for the good health and peaceful life of her family. Many Years!

## **Upcoming Events:**



### **ATTENTION Sunday School Students & Parents**

Sunday school starts on Sunday, September 11th, 2016. Regular attendance is very important.



### ***Save the Date: 2016 Annual Festival:***

St. Nicholas Church Annual Food Festival will be held on Saturday & Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. More info to follow...  
*A lot of items needed for our festival. We would appreciate your generosity to donate and help us to purchase it. Thank you for your continuous support.*

***Car Raffle: This year we will have a raffle for 2016 Honda Accord LX.***

***Hurry up and buy your ticket for \$50 to win this car.***



## ***Fashion Show:***

St. Nicholas Annual Fashion Show will be held on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas Banquet Hall. More info to follow....

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## **Remission of sins**

Very often people come to confession and repeat sins which they have confessed time and again. The priest does not know what to do with it, neither does the one who comes to confession; it seems that he simply is in the power of these sins.

I would like to remind you — not to remind you, because for most of you it is not a reminder, it is as warning — that when old age comes upon us, a moment comes when we cannot repulse, reject the thoughts that arise in us, and then we are confronted with memories that are for us a terror and a horror.

I remember an old woman who came to me and said: "I don't know what to do. I can't sleep any more, when the night comes, memories of the past surge up in me, it is always memories of evil, memories of sin, memories of ugliness, and I don't know what to do. I asked for help from the doctor; he gave me sleeping pills, but instead of curing me, they transformed the memories into delirium against which I can do nothing". I said to her: "Thank God for this". God grants us to re-live our lives time and again, not in the sense that we come back to life after death in re-incarnation, but time and again memories of the past surge up in us and claim our attention. As though God was saying to us: "This has happened in your life; this sin you have committed; these words, cruel, harsh, you have spoken to someone; you have wounded the soul of so and so. What is your attitude now? When you sinned twenty, thirty, forty years ago, you probably did not understand about life most of what you understand now. But now, enriched by years of experience, what would you do if you were transported again to that moment which comes like a delirious dream to you? What would you do?

Would you say the same words? Would you do the same thing? Would you sin again in the same manner? Instead of trying to escape the memory, go back to that moment and ask yourself: "Now, enriched by the experience of many years, would I do the same? Would I speak the same words? Would I wound a person the way I did?" And if you can say with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, all your determination "No, this would be impossible now" then the sin which has come to your memory, will drop into non-existence.

But until you can confess it to God and to yourself, until you can recognise it as evil and reject it with all your being, it is not a sin of the past, it has remained a sin of your present, your present day sinfulness, nothing else.

Another example comes to my mind, that of an old woman who was dying. She made a confession and I felt there was something lacking in it and I said to her: "Before I give you absolution, tell me, are you at peace with everyone?" And she said: "With everyone but one person, and that person I shall never forgive" "In that case," I said, "I cannot give you absolution and I refuse to give you Communion". "But I cannot die into eternal death". "You shall, until you put right your life now, before death has come to you. I give you an hour; in an hour I will come back and you have to answer my question".

I came back an hour later; she received me with shining eyes and said: "Thank you for not being merciful to me. I rang this person whom I hated for years and we have made our peace; he is coming presently, and now I can say I have forgiven him from the bottom of my heart, with all my being". Then I gave her absolution and Communion, and having met this person, she died in peace.

I give you these thoughts and these examples because I think we ought not to wait for the hour of death, we ought not to wait until old age makes us victims of these atrocious memories, of this delirium of sin which we thought belonged to the past and which has remained to the present. Let us reflect on this, and when we think that we will come to confession and say: "Father, I have done this and that", let us stop before we come to the confession and ask ourselves: "How is it that I have not repented? How is it that this sin is still my present condition?", ask ourselves: "Why, how has it become so powerful over me?" And then act; act passionately; act daringly to free ourselves from things small or big.

If we do not do that every time, sin emerges from the depths of our memory, of our soul, and a day will come when we are confronted with it in old age in the way in which this woman was. She got rid of it all, because she understood, but how many do not.

Let us, therefore, with all our energy, all our courage, face our past, everything in it, and cleanse it, because as long as this past is not cleansed it is our present.

May God's mercy be on us; may His light shine upon us, may His grace lead us into true repentance and into newness of life.

***Metropolitan Anthony Surozh***

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