

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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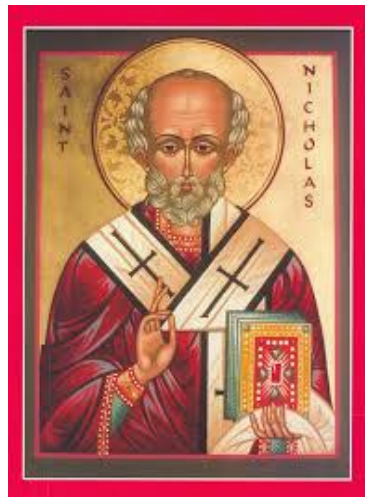
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Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, September 11th , 2016

This Sunday: 3rd & 9th –Day Memorial service for the servant of God **Khaled Milad Alami** (who passed away in Ramallah-Palestine). Offered by Salim Batshon and Nader Hanhan.

May his memory be eternal!

Next Sunday September 18th: **(6-Month) Memorial Service** for the handmaiden of God

Nawal Modawar.

Offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

الرسالة: غلاطية ٦: ١١-١٨

يا إخوة، انظروا ما أعظم الكتابات التي كتبتها اليكم بيدي. ان كل الذين يريدون ان يُرضُوا بحسب الجسد يُلزمونكم ان تَخْتَنُوا، وانما ذلك لئلا يُضطهدوا من أجل صليب المسيح، لأن الذين يختتنون هم أنفسهم لا يحفظون الناموس بل انما يريدون ان تختتنوا ليفتخروا بأجسادكم. اما أنا فحاشى لي ان أفتخر الا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح الذي به صُلب العالم لي وأنا صُلبت للعالم؛ لأنه في المسيح يسوع ليس الختان بشيء ولا القلف بل الخليقة الجديدة. وكل الذين يسلكون بحسب هذا القانون فعليهم سلام ورحمة، وعلى اسرائيل الله. فلا يجلب عليّ أحد أتعابا في ما بعد فإنني حامل في جسدي سمات الرب يسوع. نعمة ربنا يسوع المسيح مع روحكم أيها الإخوة، آمين.

THE GOSPEL: St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

الإنجيل: يوحنا ٣: ١٣-١٧

قال الرب: لم يصعد أحد إلى السماء إلا الذي نزل من السماء، ابن البشر الذي هو في السماء. وكما رفع موسى الحية في البرية، هكذا ينبغي أن يُرفع ابن البشر لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به بل تكون له الحياة الأبدية، لأنه هكذا أَحَبَّ الله العالم حتى بذل ابنه الوحيد لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به بل تكون له الحياة الأبدية. فإنه لم يرسل الله ابنه الوحيد إلى العالم ليخلص به العالم.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Rimon Jada, Juleit Katout, John Wahbeh, Rita Martha and Sam Rantisi. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

Alter candle offered by:

- ❖ Jane Moran, Nadim and Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jenifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell for the good health of **Oscar Moran** on the occasion of his birthday September 7th. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

Upcoming Events:



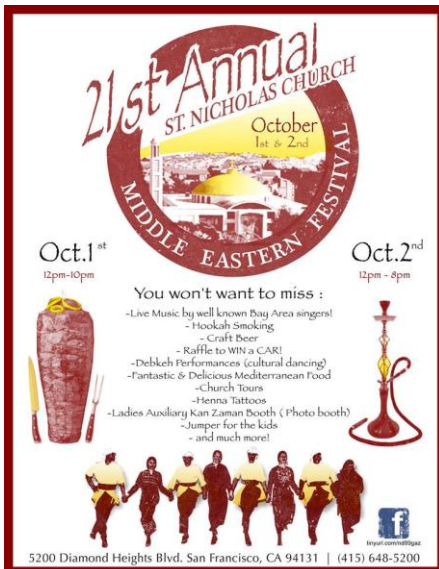
Sunday School Students & Parents

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



Upcoming Festivals:

- Church of the Redeemer Food Festival - **September 10th and 11th.**
- Holy Virgin Mary Church, Sacramento Food Festival - **September 17th & 18th**
- Archangel Michael & St. Mercurious Coptic Church (Egyptian) Festival / **September 10th and 11th**, Redwood City.
- Holy Virgin Mary Church Festival **September 17th & 18th** (3060 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento)
- Palestine Cultural Day 2016 - **September 18th** (Hall of Flowers, 9th and Lincoln, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco)
- St. John the Evangelist (Orinda) Food Festival - **September 24th & 25th.**
- St. Thomas More Catholic Church Food Festival - **September 24th & 25th**



St. Nicholas Church Annual Festival

St. Nicholas Church Annual Food Festival will be held on Saturday & Sunday, October 1st & 2nd. 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 6th at St. Nicholas Banquet Hall.

Ladies Auxiliary is looking for "Kids" to Model in our annual fashion show
Ages: 5 till 15 years

If you are interested in registering your kid, Please call this number

Juliana @ [415-760-9177](tel:415-760-9177) or Samantha @ [415-710-6805](tel:415-710-6805)

The registration is open till September 23rd

Event date: Sunday November 6th

Event Location: St. Nicholas Banquet Hall



NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

I should like to say a few words about the greatness of this feast. When a man surveys this world in which we live, which is so vast, seemingly boundless, and looks at himself in it, he feels very small and insignificant. And if he adds to this the hardness and coldness of men, he may sometimes feel extremely vulnerable, helpless and unprotected both before people and before the terrifying vastness of the world. Yet at the same time if a man looks at himself not in relation to his surroundings, but goes deep into himself, he will there discover such an expanse, such depths, that the whole created world is too small to fill it. Man sees the beauty of the world - and the vision does not completely satisfy him; he learns an enormous amount about God's creation - and the knowledge does not fill him to the brim. Neither human joy nor even human sorrow can completely fill a man, because in him is a depth that exceeds everything created; because God made man so vast, so deep, so limitless in his spiritual being, that nothing in the world can finally satisfy him except God Himself.

Today's feast of the Mother of God demonstrates this fact with particular beauty and splendour. She so believed in God, She gave herself to Him with such a pure mind and pure heart, with an unwavering will, with the purity of Her virginity and life, such that She was granted to say the Name of God perfectly, with such love that the Word became flesh and God was made man in Her.

Through this we are shown that not only is the soul, the inner being and spirit of man, so created by God that it can contain the mystery of a meeting with the living God, but that even the body is so made that in an unfathomable way it can be united with the living God. Indeed, according to St. Peter we are called to become partakers of the divine nature; according to St. Paul our vocation is to become temples of the Holy Spirit. The whole of the New Testament teaches us that we are the Body, the living tremulous Body of Christ, through baptism and through Holy Communion. How wonderful this is, and therefore with what reverence must we regard not only our immortal soul, but this body of ours which is called to rise again, to enter the Kingdom of God and be glorified, like the body of Christ.

In the XI century St. Simeon the New Theologian wrote one day when he had returned to his humble cell after receiving Holy Communion, words to this effect, "I look upon this corruptible body, upon this frail flesh, and I tremble, because by partaking of the Holy Mysteries it has been permeated by God, it has been united with Christ, it is overflowing with the Holy Spirit... these powerless hands have become the hands of God, this body has become a body that God has taken possession of."

Consider what has been given us not only by our faith, but by the sacraments of the Church; the immersion in the blessed waters of baptism makes us particles, living members of Christ's Body, the anointing with holy chrism is not only the visible seal of the Holy Spirit, but makes us the temples in which He dwells.

When the bread and wine which are offered by our faith and love to God are consecrated, they become incomprehensibly and mysteriously the Body and Blood of Christ, and this created matter partakes of Christ and imparts to us, who are incapable of soaring to God in spirit, the divinity of Christ, which saves and transfigures us in soul and body.

This feast of Nativity of the Mother of God is the time when we remember the birth of the One who for the sake of us all, for the whole human race, was able to show such faith, to surrender so absolutely to God, that He could become Man through Her, and bring us these manifold, unfathomable gifts. Glory to Her humility, glory to Her faith, glory to Her love, glory to God Who was incarnate and to the Virgin Mother of God, the worthy vessel of the incarnation of the Son of God, Christ our God!

Metropolitan Anthony Sourozh

الفداء

في هذا الأحد السابق لعيد رفع الصليب نقرأ في الرسالة والإنجيل ما يُنبئنا عن معاني الفداء. الصليب كان أداة إعدام لمن ارتكب أعمالاً مشينة حتى قال الكتاب المقدس في العهد القديم: «ملعون كل من رُفِعَ على خشبة». وفي الواقع اتخذ يسوع على نفسه لعنة حالة على كل الجنس البشري، لعنة الخطيئة. ولما حمل خطايانا رُفِعَ على هذه الخشبة. ونحن نكرم الصليب إشارة وأيقونة، ونفتخر به لأنه بعد أن كان رمز الدّل صار رمزاً للقيامة وطريق انتصارنا وموضع فداننا.

لذلك لما كتب الرسول بولس رسالته إلى أهل غلاطية، فيما كان أسيراً في رومية، بشأن الخلاف القائم بين المتنصرين من أصل يهودي والمنتصرين من أصل وثني، قال لهم: «حاشي لي أن أفتخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح». فإنكم لا تستطيعون بعد الآن أيها المتحدرون من أصل يهودي أن تفتخروا بهيكل سليمان فقد بطل الهيكل، ولا تقدرون أن تفتخروا بالذبائح فقد بطلت الذبائح الدموية، ولا بالختان الذي كان علامة الميثاق بين الله وإبراهيم في الجسد.

«حاشي لي أن أفتخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح الذي به صُلِبَ العالم لي وأنا للعالم». يعني الرسول بولس بذلك: اني، بآلامي وطاعتي للسيد، أكون كالمُعَلَّق على الصليب، ويكون العالم بعيداً عني وأكون غير غارق في شهوات العالم. صُلِبْتُ عن العالم أي انفصلت عن العالم. ويتابع الرسول: «ليس الختان شيئاً ولا القَلْف»، أي لا فرق الآن بين يهودي ووثني. بعد أن عُمِدتم بالماء والروح، لا فرق بين الختان والقلف، فإنكم بالصليب تصبحون خليفة جديدة. الله نفسه يجددكم وينصركم ويرفعكم إلى المجد لأنكم مَفْدِيُونَ فقد اشترى بتمن وانكم مصلوبون.

هذا قدر المسيحيين أن يكونوا مصلوبين فليس العبد أفضل من سيده. والمسيحيون لا ينبغي أن يكونوا صالبيين ولا أن يكونوا صليبيين، فإنهم لا يقتلون الناس، ويسير كل منا حسب أخلاقه، وإذا قُتل الشهيد فلا يكون قد استثار الغضب عند الآخرين ولا يكون هو سبب الموت.

لماذا كان الصليب؟ أجاب على هذا السؤال يوحنا الحبيب في إنجيل اليوم بقوله: «هكذا أَحَبَّ الله العالم حتى بذل ابنه الوحيد لكي لا يهلك كل من يؤمن به». لماذا نزل ابن الله إلى العالم؟ الله ما كان معروفاً على حقيقته قبل مجيئه إلى العالم. كان يقول كلمات بواسطة الأنبياء، ولكن الناس لا يسمعون ولا يتقيدون بها، وكانوا يخطئون باستمرار وما كانوا يحبون الله. أراد الله أن يُبين ذاته بنزوله في ما بينهم بالجسد.

لما مات المسيح على الخشبة، عُرِفَ الله مُحَبّاً وكان يُعَرَفَ بطائفاً جباراً. عُرِفَ الله صديق الإنسان وكان يُعَرَفَ بعيداً عنه في سماوات لا يطالها إنسان، وكانوا يفرقون بين أمة وأمة، بين الذكر والأنثى، بين اليوناني المثقف والبربري. وجاء السيد وسَفَكَ دمه فاستطاع رسوله بولس أن يقول: «ليس يهودي ولا يوناني، ليس عبد ولا حر، ليس ذكر وأنثى، لأنكم كلكم واحد في المسيح يسوع» (غلاطية ٣: ٢٨).

عَرَفَتِ الإنسانية أنها محبوبة. وإذا عَرَفَ الإنسان أنه محبوب في بيته لا يبقى مغموراً ومعقداً، فكم بالحري إذا عرف الإنسان ان الله يحبه وأنه يبحث عنه ويعتني به ويشفيه ويغفر له.

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