

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

5200 Diamond Hts. Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131

Tel: (415) 648-5200

Email: info@stnicholas-sf.com--website: stnicholas-sf.com

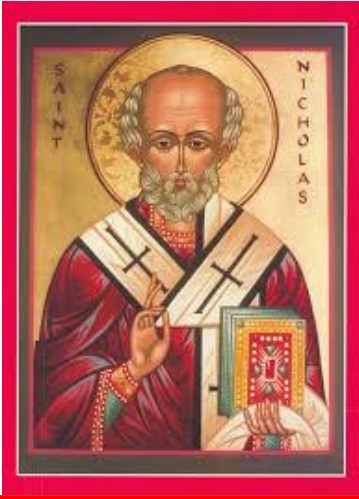
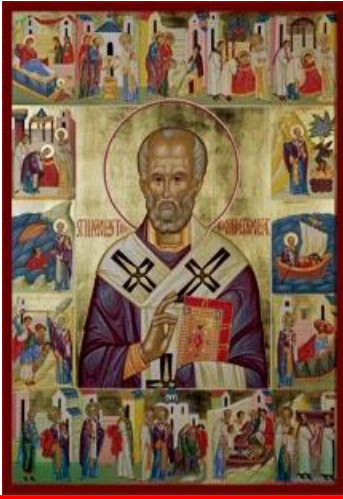
Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

(586) 214-4428- revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, September 25th , 2016

THE EPISTLE: the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1:21-2:4)

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

الرسالة: يا اخوة ان الذي يثبتنا معكم في المسيح وقد مسحنا هو الله الذي ختمنا ايضا واعطى عربون الروح في قلوبنا* واني استشهد الله على نفسي اني لاشفاقي عليكم لم ات ايضا الى كورنثوس. لا لاني نسود على ايمانكم بل لنجني اعدوان سروركم لانكم ثابتون على الايمان وقد جزمتم بهذا في نفسي ان لا اتيكم ايضا في غم* لاني ان كنت اغمكم فمن الذي يسرنني غير من اسبب له الغم* وانما كتبت اليكم هذا بعينه لئلا ينالني عند قدومي غم ممن كان ينبغي ان افرح بهم* واني لواتق بجميعةكم ان فرحي هو فرح جميعكم* فاني من شدة كآبة وكرب قلب كتبت اليكم بدموع كثيرة لا لتغتموا بل لتعرفوا ما عندي من المحبة بالاكثركم.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

الإنجيل: لوقا 5

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع واقف عند بحيرة جنيسارت رأى سفينتين واقفتين عند شاطئ البحيرة وقد انحدر منهما الصيادون يغسلون الشباك* فدخل إحدى السفينتين وكانت لسمعان وسأله أن يتباعد قليلاً عن البرّ وجلس يعلم الجموع من السفينة* ولما فرغ من الكلام قال لسمعان تقدّم إلى العمق وألقوا شباككم للصيد* فأجاب سمعان وقال له يا معلم إنا قد تعبنا الليل كله ولم نصب شيئاً ولكن بكلمتك ألقى الشبكة* فلما فعلوا ذلك احتازوا من السمك شيئاً كثيراً حتى تحرقت شبكتهم* فأشاروا إلى شركائهم في السفينة الأخرى أن يأتوا ويعاونوهم. فأتوا وملاوا السفينتين حتى كادتتا تغرقان* فلما رأى ذلك سمعان بطرس خرّ عند ركبتي يسوع قائلاً اخرج عني يا رب فإني رجل خاطئ* لأنّ الإندهال اعتراه هو وكلّ من معه لصيد السمك الذي أصابوه* وكذلك يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي اللذان كانا رفيقين لسمعان. فقال يسوع لسمعان لا تخف فإنك من الآن تكون صياداً للناس* فلما بلغوا بالسفينتين إلى البرّ تركوا كلّ شيء وتبعوه.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Juliette Najjar, Ghadeer Hanhan, Mona Rantisi and Jenin Kari. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

Alter candle offered by:

- ❖ Nadia Shatara and family in loving memory of **Elias Shatara**. May his memory be eternal!

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Festivals:

- 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



21st Annual ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL

October 1st & 2nd

Oct. 1st
12pm-10pm

Oct. 2nd
12pm - 8pm

You won't want to miss :

- Live Music by well known Bay Area singers!
- Hookah Smoking
- Craft Beer
- Raffle to WIN a CAR!
- Debkeh Performances (cultural dancing)
- Fantastic & Delicious Mediterranean Food
- Church Tours
- Henna Tattoos
- Ladies Auxiliary Kan Zaman Booth (Photo booth)
- Jumper for the kids
- and much more!

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd. San Francisco, CA 94131 | (415) 648-5200

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.



Young Adult Retreat:

ORTHODOXY IN THE VINEYARD - YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Meet and hangout with Orthodox Christian Young Adults from all over in Napa, CA at a Young Adult Fall Retreat - Hosted by the Young Adult Ministry within the Antiochian Diocese of Los Angeles and the West. We've planned a day of spiritual discussion lead by Jacob Saylor - Youth Directory at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. The day will include time at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA (just outside of Napa), lunch, wine tasting at the local vineyard and dinner. Our topic will be focused on "In the world, but not of the world - How to be an Orthodox Christian in a materialistic and sometimes superficial world."

21+ Young Adult Event

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2016

Time: 8:30am - 7:30pm

Cost: \$50 Per Person (includes Lunch, Wine Tasting and Dinner)

More information and registration can be found on website www.dlawyoungadults.com.

Please if you have any questions or if you need any more information, contact:

Charlie John Kassaseya [858-761-1720](tel:858-761-1720)

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



Mark your calendar:

Family Night: Saturday, November 19th we will have a family night at St. Nicholas Banquet hall sponsored by **Rantisi families**. More info to follow...

Christmas Party: St. Nicholas Church Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 17th, 2016. More info to follow...

WEEKLY WE COME TO CHURCH

After a week which we spend in the twilight of the world, where the powers of good and the powers of evil are in contest, when we are called to be the light of the world, the salt that prevents its corruption, a living message that God has come, that victory over evil is won, and all hopes are possible, indeed all things are in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ who is our strength — after a whole week in this twilight we come to church, and it is a moment when two things should happen.

It is a moment when we re-dedicate ourselves to God, because we bring at the same time in the Holy Liturgy two kinds of gifts. On the one hand, the offering of our souls and bodies, the gift of ourselves which should be unreserved, which we give according to our strength, but a strength that should grow day after day by the exercise of loyalty and faithfulness to God. And we also bring to God a sacrifice, an offering so holy and so perfect, the life and the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Resurrection and His Ascension into Heaven, and the vision of what we are called to be — all of us together with all things created.

Because it is not only mankind whom God has assumed in Christ through the Incarnation — it is all things visible and invisible; the invisible through His Divinity in the human soul, and the visible by His Incarnation, by God taking flesh and becoming mysteriously and wonderfully akin to all that is material, visible, tangible. All creation, not only saints and sinners, but all things created can look at Christ's Body and rejoice because in Him they can see themselves in glory.

When we come to God we expect a gift of grace, the power of life to be poured into us so that we should become truly new creatures; not only creatures of flesh and blood, not only created beings standing face to face with their Creator but also creatures, pervaded by the power and the presence, the true communion with God which is given to us in the Sacraments.

It is only to the extent to which we bring ourselves as an offering (let it be earthen vessels open to receive things Holy) that we can receive these Holy things. In the prayer that precedes the consecration of the Holy Gifts the priest says: «Renew us who pray to Thee, and make this bread the Body of Christ, and this cup — the Blood of Christ». It is only to the extent to which we give ourselves to God to be filled, to the extent which we empty ourselves of all things contrary to Him, in intention, at least in the struggle which should be ours, that we can receive the gift.

But this gift is not given to us alone; it is not given to us that we should hug it, possess it, delight in it: it is given to us in the way in which a lamp is lit, in which a fire is lighted, in which the truth is given. Thanks be to God — we are not a body of people, prisoners of our buildings and our small frail Christian society! We are indeed sent into the world to be God's own witnesses, through Communion to the Body and Blood of Christ to be His incarnate presence. When we receive Communion we expect all things from God, but He also expects all things from us.

Let us ponder on this. Let us receive with an open heart and an open mind, with all our being, what God gives us, not in order to possess it but in order to give it, to give it as generously as God gives Himself: life and death, our joy and our sorrow, our broken-heartedness and our hopes — all to be given in God's Name to anyone who needs it. Then we shall have fulfilled the Apostle's call: «Carry one another's burdens, and so you shall have fulfilled the law of Christ».

لا تخف

نرى يسوع في إنجيل اليوم يدخل إلى حياة تلاميذه كما هي، حياة صيد سمك، ثم يأمر بطرس أن يعود للصيد، ويلقي الرسل الشباك ويصطادون سمكا كثيرا حتى كادت الشباك أن تتمزق والسفينتان أن تغرقا. الإنسان في مقاومة لله لأنه متمسك بمنطقه، بما كان يألفه من أمور الحياة. اما كلمة الله فخالقة فينا حياة جديدة نتجاوز بها كل منطق وكل مأمول.

"تعبنا الليل كله ولم نُصب شيئا". أي ان أحوالنا بقيت على ما كانت عليه من سقوط وانحدار وتأخر. تعبنا في الليل عندما تخرج منا النعمة، عندما نغض النظر عن نعمة الله ولا نتقبلها، عندما نُسكت صوت الضمير. هذا ما يرمز اليه الليل عندما يغيب عنه الضوء. ومع ذلك يقول الرسول: "بكلمتك ألقى الشبكة". أي ان كلمتك أفضل من الليل لأنها نهار. ومع أن خبرتنا تقول اننا سوف لا نلقى شيئا، سنتجاوز هذه الخبرة لأنك أنت قلت، لأنك تريدنا في السلام والاطمئنان. لأنك أنت تكلمت يستطيع العالم أن يتحول. لهذا أيها السيد نتكل عليك ونمشي فاعلّ الليل يصبح نورا، ولعل المتعبين جميعا يسيرون اليك. هذه هي البداية أن نسلك على الطريق التي يريد.

ثم تأتي صرخة بطرس عند قدمي يسوع وقد اعتراه الذهول: "ابعد عني يا رب لأنني رجل خاطئ". أنا رجل خاطئ ومع هذا أنا مُعجب بالمسيح، ذاهل، منجذب العقل والشعور اليه لأنه أعطاني ما أعطى. اعترف بطرس بمعاصيه فجذبه الرب بقوته فذهل بما صنعه فيه من تحويل. "اني رجل خاطئ". ومع هذا أنا سائر وراء الرب، يسحرني فيه انه دائما أعظم مني وأعظم من قلبي الذي يُخطئ وأعظم من عقلي الذي يتردد. ذُهل بطرس والذين كانوا معه، ولأنه ذُهل جعله الرب صيدا للناس، أي انه، بعد الجلجلة وبعد قيامة المعلم، سوف يذهب إلى العالم ويخطف الناس للمسيح.

الله هو الذي يحولنا من أناس خائفين إلى أناس ذوي جرأة. لا جرأة لنا الا بالاستناد إلى الإيمان وبالاتطلاق منه. الانسان الذي يخاف ضعيف الإيمان. ولذلك يقول الرسول: "لا تخف فأنتك من الآن تكون صاندا للناس". اذا كنت جريئا تُجابه الناس لأن الناس معرقلون بخطاياهم كما أن السمكة معرقلة بالشبكة لا تستطيع الخروج منها من نفسها.

ويتابع الإنجيل: "تركوا كل شيء وتبعوه". ان صائد الأسماك يترك بيته وأهله، يترك البرّ إلى البحر غير المستقرّ، واحتمال العاصفة، يعرض نفسه للخطر لكي يأتي بسمك. وكذلك الانسان الذي اختاره الله ليصبح صائدا للناس، معرض للعواصف. جميع الذين يعيشون بالتقوى بالمسيح يسوع، بعد ان يتركوا كل شيء، يُعرضون لعواصف الحياة اليومية.

ماذا نترك في النهاية لكي نتبع المعلم ونقود الناس اليه؟ نترك هذا الحصن الأخير الذي لا يُترك بسهولة. نترك الأنا، نترك الأهواء كلها لكي نلتصق بصليب المسيح. اذا كان الفادي الذي ننشخص اليه في كل حين، واليه فقط، اذا كان هو الذي يهّمنا دون سواه، عند ذلك نكون قادرين على إصلاح الناس، على أن ننتشلهم من خطاياهم ومن الضلال. عند ذلك نكون شفافين للرب، ناقلين نوره للعالمين، متحولين من التعب في الليل، في ظلمات النفس، إلى ضوئه العظيم، ويكون الله وحده سيّدا في الكون.

جاورجيوس مطران جبل لبنان

THE MICHAEL LAW FIRM

ISSA J. MICHAEL, Esq.

Trial Attorney since 1996

(415) 447-2833
issa@michaellawsf.com
1648 Union St., Suite 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY/WRONGFUL DEATH

- › Auto Accidents
 - › Pedestrians
 - › Bicycles
 - › Motorcycles
 - › Taxi
 - › Buses
 - › Trucking
 - › Airplane & Train Crashes
 - › Construction Site Accidents
 - › Explosions, Fires & Burns
 - › Product Defects
 - › Defective Medical Devices & Drugs
 - › Medical Malpractice
 - › Elderly Abuse
 - › Falls (Slip & Trip)
 - › Dog Attacks
 - › Assault/Battery & Homicides
- Millions of dollars recovered for clients.
 - No fees unless recovery.
 - San Francisco Bay Area, the State & Across the Nation.
 - Members of the State Bar of California, Consumer Attorneys of California, & San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association.



**PASSION, SENSITIVITY &
ZEALOUS ADVOCACY**

www.MichaelLawSF.com

THE MICHAEL LAW FIRM

PERSONAL
INJURY



WRONGFUL
DEATH

TRIAL LAWYERS

REXSI
REAL ESTATE

ONE MARKET STREET, 36TH FLOOR | San Francisco CA
433 Airport Blvd, Suite 126 | Burlingame CA
2901 West Coast Highway | Newport Beach CA



Looking to...

- **Purchase a home?**
- **Sell your business?**
- **Purchase a new business?**
- **Purchase commercial property?**
- **Lease a location for your business?**

We are here to help you!
CALL ON US

JERIES TANNOUS
Commercial and Residential Real Estate
BRE # 00550532
Cell: (650)740-9263

Specializing in:
Business Brokerage
Commercial Real Estate
Sales & Leasing
Residential Real Estate

St. Nicholas Banquet Room

5200 Diamond Heights Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94131



Come visit us for Weddings, Baptisms,
Birthdays, Anniversaries & All Other Occasions
We are located in the heart of San Francisco
Please call us to make an appointment at (415) 648-5200.