

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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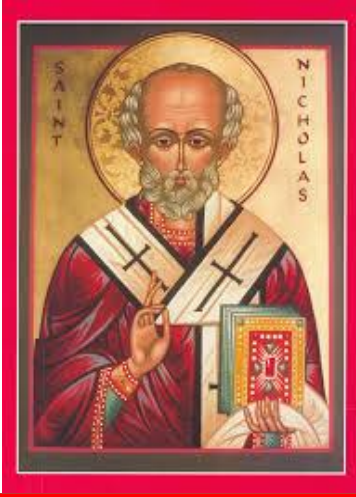
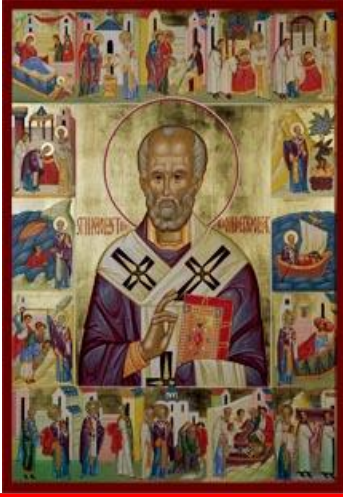
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, October 9th , 2016



This Sunday: (One-Year) Memorial Service for the handmaiden of God
Georgette Baba Offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:1-10)

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

الرسالة: ٢ كورنثوس ٦: ١-١٠

يا إخوة، بما أنا معاونون نطلب إليكم أن لا تقبلوا نعمة الله في الباطل لأنه يقول إنّي في وقت مقبول استجبت لك وفي يوم خلاصك اعتنك. فهذا الآن وقت مقبول، هوذا الآن يوم خلاص. ولسنا نأتي بمعثرة في شيء لئلا يلحق الخدمة عيب. بل نظهر في كل شيء أنفسنا كخدام الله في صبر كثير، في شدائد، في ضرورات، في ضيقات، في جلدات، في سجون، في اضطرابات، في أتعاب، في أسهار، في أصوام، في طهارة، في معرفة، في طول أناة، في رفق في الروح القدس، في محبة بلا رياء، في كلمة الحق، في قوة الله بأسلحة البر عن اليمين وعن اليسار. بمجد وهوان، بسوء صيت وحسنه كأننا مضيّلون ونحن صادقون، كأننا مجهولون ونحن معروفون، كأننا مائتون وها نحن أحياء، كأننا مؤدّبون ولا نقتل، كأننا حزانى ونحن دائماً فرحون، كأننا فقراء ونحن نغني كثيرين، كأننا لا شيء لنا ونحن نملك كل شيء.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (7:11-16) At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

الإنجيل: لوقا ٧: ١١-١٦

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع منطلقاً إلى مدينة اسمها نايين، وكان كثيرون من تلاميذه وجمع غفير منطلقين معه. فلما قرب من باب المدينة إذا ميتٌ محمول وهو ابنٌ وحيدٌ لأُمّه، وكانت أرملة، وكان معها جمع كثير من المدينة. فلما رآها الرب، تحنن عليها وقال لها: لا تبكي. ودنا ولمس النعش فوقف الحاملون. فقال: أيها الشاب لك أقول قم. فاستوى الميت وبدأ يتكلّم فسلمه إلى أمّه. فأخذ الجميع خوفاً ومجدوا الله قائلين: لقد قام فينا نبيّ عظيم، وافقد الله شعبه.

Holy Bread of Oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Jean Harb, Merna Katout, Salim Dabeet, Taghreed Asfour, Ghada Elhaj, Hala Asfour, and Wafa Wahbeh. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

Alter candle offered by:

- ❖ Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of Jennifer and Brandon Howell on the occasion of their birthday Oct 6th and 12th. Happy Birthday. Many Years!

Thank You

Thank you to all for making our Festival a success!

A big Thanks to all who worked hard to prepare and plan this year's festival.

Thank you to those who were very generous in donating money or items toward this event. Also, we wish to extend many thanks to our friends who supported us by attending this annual event. May God bless you all!

*Special thanks to the festival Co-chair's: **Salim Qaru, Sana Jada and Nabil Khoury** for the hard work, great job and for the time they invested towards the festival.*

God bless you and your families!

Upcoming Events:

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.

Donation: Adult \$50, Children (12 year and under) \$20.

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)



Mark your calendar:

Family Night: Friday, November 18th 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...*

The Miracle at Nain:

If this were happening in our time and we were looking down from an airplane, it would show a pathway between the villages. Two crowds of people are approaching on the pathway, one towards the town, the other leaving. The first are happy, active, milling around a figure ahead of them who is talking and gesturing with His hands. The other is not at all animated. They are trudging along in deep sadness, following half a dozen of men carrying their companion on a stretcher. Their young friend is dead. His mother is following, weeping, howling, bent over in grief. They are going outside the town to bury the young man.

We would see the two groups meet. Each crowd is blocked by the other. You would notice the leader of the active group raise His hand and touch the bier [they didn't use coffins, just a stretcher], the dead man would stir, wanting to sit up, his friends frightened would lower him to the ground, and his mother would throw herself first on her son, then on the man who brought him to life. And we would wonder along with everybody in both groups how it could possibly happen. Don't the dead stay dead when they die? Who can believe this tale? It's too good to be true. Most people who tell us not to cry cannot do anything to dry our tears. What they mean is either that tears won't help, or else they are uncomfortable when a loved one is crying. Either hopeless and helpless, or at least ill at ease.

Notice they are "*near to the gate of the city.*" In John 10:9-16, Jesus said: "*I am the Gate.*" Jesus blocked the way to the cemetery because He is the entrance to another life. Like the young man, everyone approaches the gate of death, and then when we pass through, we enter another door that opens in front of us. It's time to leave the town and world we had been living in and the only life we had known, so that we may journey to the City of God.

He is the Gate [or Door], meaning that He is there at the entrance checking to find out who belongs and who doesn't deserve to enter. He has that authority because He is the unique person assigned to fulfill the mission of the Father to come and redeem those who were on their way to death. In the same chapter 10 of St. John's gospel, He said: "*I am the Good Shepherd,*" and then He tells us what that means. He cares for His sheep because like His heavenly Father, He loves them all. It's not the death of the young man that caused the Lord grief. Death happens. But grasping the entire scene, He saw the poor mother, a widow, in great agony, and He "*had compassion on her.*" In fact, He cares so much for His sheep that He gave His life so that they will also have life.

When the apostle Philip said naively: "*Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied,*" the Lord Jesus answered, "*Philip, have I been so long with you and you haven't seen that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father.*" Here at the Nain cemetery is evidence of that taking place. The great love in the form of compassion that the Lord had for the widow came from the Father, Who is able to love the whole world with such a great affection that He alone can be called the ultimate Shepherd of all humanity. By raising the young man on his way to the grave, Jesus gave a sign of His own resurrection, just as His Father would give Him life by the Holy Spirit. How much greater can He display His affection? "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

نرى في إنجيل اليوم يسوع يتجول وكان ذاهباً إلى مدينة تُدعى نابين ومعه تلاميذه وجمع غفير. لما صار قريباً، التقى قوماً يحملون ميثاً شاباً ابن أرملة. كانت المرأة في يأس كبير إذ انقطعت الصلة بينها وبين الوجود ولم يبقَ لها من مبرر في الحياة. كانت تُركّز آمالها كلها وحبّها كلّ على ابنها الشاب إلى أن خطفه الموت. يقول الإنجيل أن يسوع، عند هذا المنظر، تحنّ وقال لهذه المتفجّعة «لا تبكي».

المسيح يمرّ دائماً في حياة كلّ إنسان. على الإنسان فقط أن يراه، أن يلاحظ، أن ينتبه. المسيح عابر دائماً في ضمائرنا، وعابر في أحزاننا، في يأسنا، في كل شدّة وضيق، ويقول للإنسان: يا بني، لا تبك، فإنك ظننت أنك خسرت شيئاً بالموت أو بالمرض أو بالفقر أو بالأحزان الشديدة، ولكنني سأردّ لك ما يعوّض. ماذا يردّ لنا نحن إن خسرنا مالاً أو صحة أو فقداناً عزيزاً؟ لا يعوّض بالشيء نفسه، قد لا يردّ المال، وقد لا تعود الصحة، وقد نفقد عاطفة كثيرين، وقد نُضطهد.

ما يعطيه الله هو فوق كل معقول، فوق كل مرجوّ، يعطي النعمة كما قال للرسول بولس «تكفيك نعمتي، ان قوّتي بالضعف تكمل» (٢كورنثوس ١٢: ٩).

لما أشبع يسوع الجوع في القفر كان هذا صادراً عن الحنان. وبالتالي، إذا قرأنا الإنجيل، نجد أن المسيح في أي ظرف، أكان فرحاً أم مرضاً أم حزناً أم موتاً، يتحنّن على الناس. لهذا لمس النعش، ولمس الميت كان ممنوعاً في العهد القديم، إلا أن السيّد تخطّى هذا المنع ولمس الميت. فقام الشاب لأن حياة يسوع انتقلت إليه. يسوع ينقل حياة إلى من يحب، ونقلها إلى هذا الشاب بسبب من رحمته التي كانت الأم الأرملة محتاجة إليها. فاستوى الميت، قام وأخذ يتكلّم، فسلمه يسوع إلى أمه.

المسيح هو الذي ينتشل الناس من الموت ويُعيدهم إلى الحياة. أخذت المرأة الأرملة ابنها من السيّد عطاء حياة جديدة. نحن على هذه الحال تكون حياتنا مليئة بالانفعال، بتحركات اللحم والدم، لكن إذا أخذنا الله إليه لا يبقى لحم ودم. لكن الإنسان يتحرّر منها لأن الموت إنما يضع حدّاً للخطيئة، وعالم الموت هو بالحقيقة عالم الحياة لأن مصيرنا الانصياع إلى الله، متنوّرين بنوره لا سيما إذا كانت المحبة رفيقتنا إلى الموت.

الإنسان الذي يموت والحبّ يشعّ في قلبه، لأنه منذ أن أحبّ عاش قلبه - كل الناس يموتون، ولكن منهم من يموت ملفوفاً بالبغض، ومنهم من يموت مزيّناً بالمحبة - الذين يذهبون إلى ربهم مجملين بالمحبة هؤلاء يُعيدهم ربهم في الحياة الأبدية، يعيدهم بالقيامة ويعيدهم إلينا بالذكرى الطيبة ونحن معهم في صلة السلام.

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