

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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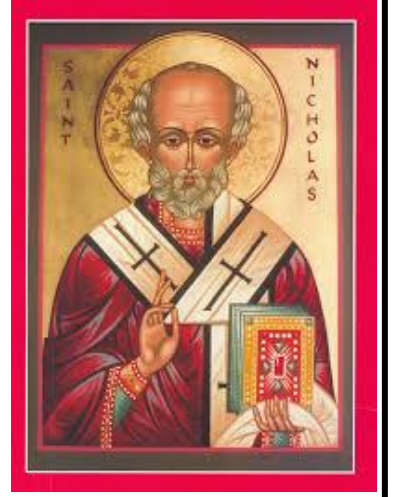
Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Parish Council Chairman: Suheil Azar



Sunday, January 8th 2017

This Sunday Memorial Services:

- 3rd & 9th –Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Ishaq Qaqish** offered by his family.
- 40-Day Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Fuad Hanhan** offered by his family.
- One-Year Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Sami Tannous** offered by his wife Georgette, Children: Farid, Nadia and Rami and Brother: Raja Tannous and family.
- Memorial Service for the Servant of God Metropolitan **Hilarion Cappucci** offered by St. Nicholas Church.
- We would like to offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to John Bassil on the passing into eternal life of his father **Gergi Bassil**. A Memorial Service will be held this Sunday offered by St. Nicholas Church.

May their memory be eternal!

House Blessing Starts on Monday, January 9th

As the tradition of our Orthodox Church, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki will start his visitation for house blessings on Monday, January 9th. You will receive a phone call from the Church Office for scheduling. If you would like to reschedule to another date, please call the church office.



Blessing of Water خدمة تقديس المياه

January 6th celebration the great Feast of Epiphany (الغطاس) عيد الظهور الالهي

Divine Liturgy will take place on Thursday January 5th at 6:00 pm

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

الرسالة: أفسس ٤ : ٧-١٣

يا إخوة لكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. فلذلك يقول: لَمَّا صعد إلى العلى سبى سبياً وأعطى الناس عطايا. فكونه صعد، هل هو إلا أنه نزل أولاً إلى أسافل الأرض؟ فذاك الذي نزل هو الذي صعد أيضاً فوق السماوات كلها ليملاً كل شيء، وهو قد أعطى أن يكون البعضُ رسلاً والبعضُ أنبياءً والبعضُ مبشّرين والبعضُ رعاة ومعلمين لأجل تكميل القديسين ولعمل الخدمة وبنيان جسد المسيح إلى أن ننتهي جميعنا إلى وحدة الإيمان ومعرفة ابن الله، إلى إنسان كامل، إلى مقدار قامته ملء المسيح.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

الإنجيل: متى ٤: ١٢-١٧

في ذلك الزمان لما سمع يسوع أن يوحنا قد أُسلم، انصرف إلى الجليل وترك الناصرة وجاء فسكن في كفرناحوم التي على شاطئ البحر في تخوم زبولون وفتاليم ليتم ما قيل بإشعيا النبي القائل: أرض زبولون وأرض نفتاليم، طريق البحر، عبر الأردن، جليل الأمم. الشعب الجالس في الظلمة أبصر نورا عظيما والجالسون في بقعة الموت وظلاله أشرق عليهم نور. ومنذئذ ابتداء يسوع يكرز ويقول: توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السماوات.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Jamal Haddad, Zack Khoury, Tamer Hanhan, Ramzi Jada, Huda Fashho, Issa Shnoudi, Salwa Shnoudi, Randa Rantisi, Georgette Bazouzi, Alex Husary. Happy Birthdays. Many Years!

Coffee Hour is offered by:

- ❖ **Rodi and Janet Baqleh** for the good health of their children and Grandchildren. Many Years
- ❖ Afaf Dudum in loving memory of **Thomas Dudum** on the occasion of his birthday Jan 14th. May his memory be eternal, and for the good health of his family Lana, Anthony, and Cassandra Dudum. Many Years!

Upcoming events:

- ❖ This Sunday January 8th we will have Awamat (Zalabieh زلابية) offered by Rodi and Janet Baqleh. God bless you and your family. كل عام وأنتم بخير



Young Adults SoCal WINTER RETREAT

Meet and hangout with Orthodox Christian Young Adults from all over North America in Big Bear Lake, CA at the 2017 Young Adult Winter Retreat - Hosted by the Young Adult Ministry within the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West. We've planned a weekend full of activities; including snow tubing, snowboarding, skiing and spiritual discussions lead by The Rev. Father Justin Havens and The V. Rev. Father David Sommer.

“Wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow” January 13-15, 2017

Guest Speakers:

The Rev. Father Justin Havens

The V. Rev. Father David Sommer

Big Bear Christian Retreat

If you interested to attend/further questions, please contact Tariq Rantisi @ (650)290-3492

St. Nicholas Parish General Assembly meeting will take place on ***Sunday, January 22nd***. In order to have the right for voting, you have to be spiritually qualified, also a member in good standing and paid your dues for 2016.

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

When a human enters into the world, he enters from nowhere, from total, radical absence enters through the gates of time in order to grow into eternity. He enters an ephemeral world in order to become citizen of God's Kingdom. When Christ was born, the Eternal entered into the narrow limits of time; He Who was immensity itself was limited by space and became a man in the flesh although the fullness of the Godhead abided, dwelt in this human frame. He entered into a world of sin in order to overcome sin, and in a world of suffering to endure it all together with us.

But on the day of His Incarnation God delivered unto us in the frailty of the child of Bethlehem the fullness of His love, and love is always defenseless and frail, abandoned and surrendered. It was an act of God by which He gave Himself to us and in which the humanity of the Incarnate Son of God was helplessly delivered into the history of mankind.

When we are baptised, we are plugged into waters that cleanse us from sin. When Christ came unto Jordan, He came sinless, but this time in the maturity of manhood, at a point at which His human will, identified with the will of God, made Him a self-offering; He brought Himself there to begin, to start the way to the Cross. Thousands were baptised in the Jordan, and each of them proclaimed his sins, and these waters of Jordan were heavy with the murderous sins of men. Christ had no sin to proclaim and to confess, and when He entered into these waters of Jordan, He entered, to use an image of a contemporary divine, as one plunges, walks into a dye — He was dyed with the darkness of our sins. He came out of it carrying all the sins of the world. He came out of the waters of Jordan loaded with the condemnations that lay upon the world. And there is the time when He begins His ascent to the Cross.

We are now keeping the feast of the Baptism of Christ, a dread event, an event that should keep us spellbound, in awe: Him Who is pure shares the impurity of sin universal so that He may save us. We will bless the waters, the natural waters that surround us and pray the Lord to send upon these waters grace and blessing for them to become pure and holy, endowed with the power to cleanse and to renew, to make us and all the objects and all the places where they will be sprinkled, partakers of this purity of the waters of Jordan who had touched the holy body of the Incarnation, which had taken upon Himself all the evil of world. So let us pray that the grace of the Spirit of God may come upon these waters and that they may be truly blessing and salvation by the power of Christ, by the power and dwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

أن نكون أبناء للنور

بعد أن عيدنا عيد الظهور الإلهي الذي أقمنا فيه ذكرى معمودية المخلص في نهر الأردن، تقرأ علينا الكنيسة اليوم من بشارة الإنجيلي متى فصلاً يتكلم فيه عن النور، يذكر فيه مقطعاً من إشعياء النبي يتكلم عن جليل الأمم: «أرض زبولون وأرض نفتاليم، طريق البحر، عبر الأردن، جليل الأمم. الشعب السالك في الظلمة أبصر نوراً عظيماً، والجالسون في بقعة الموت وظلاله أشرق عليهم نور» (إشعياء ٩: ١-٢). تُسمى المنطقة «جليل الأمم» لأن كثيرين من الأمم (أي غير اليهود) كانوا يقطنونها، وهي المقاطعة التي عاش فيها السيد في كفرناحوم على بحيرة طبريا. قد تدفق عليها النور بمجيء يسوع.

انتهى المقطع الإنجيلي بكلمات الرسول متى: «توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات». هذا لا يعني ان نهاية العالم قد حلت. لم يتكلم يسوع آنذاك عن نهاية العالم، ولكنه كان يتحدث عن مجيئه هو: توبوا فإنني سوف أكون ميناً عنكم إذا رُفعت على الصليب وخرجت من القبر. هذا هو ملكوت السموات أن يكون المسيح ملكاً على النفوس وأن ندخل نحن في ملكه، في سيادته، وأن نتيح له أن يسودنا، ويسودنا يسوع بالطاعة اذا نحن أطعناه. نحن عند ذلك «في ملكوت السموات».

الإنسان حيثما هو يكون في ملكوت الله إذا جعل نفسه عبداً لله، ومطيعاً لله وللإنجيل في كل شيء، ومحافظاً على كل فضيلة إنجيلية وراعياً في الفضيلة. ملكوت الله قائم وموجود وليس بعيداً عن أي منا، ولكن يجب مع ذلك أن ندخل إليه.

الإنسان يسحب نفسه من الملكوت أو يُدخل نفسه إلى الملكوت، يسحب نفسه من الفضيلة أو يُدخل نفسه إلى الفضيلة. ولهذا قال لنا الإنجيلي «توبوا»، أي توبوا حتى تشاهدوا ملكوت الله. الأعمى لا يشاهد النور ولكن النور موجود. هكذا نحن أيضاً لا نشاهد ملكوت الله إذا كنا في الخطيئة أو إذا كنا على عقيدة سيئة، لكن ملكوت الله موجود.

ولهذا يقول لنا الإنجيل: غيروا أذهانكم، غيروا أفكاركم فتحبوا في الملكوت الآن وهنا. التوبة لا تعني فقط أننا نأتي من وقت إلى آخر إلى الكاهن ونعترف ببعض الخطايا الكبيرة أو الصغيرة. هذا جيد لكنه لا يكفي لأنه ليس بالتوبة العميقة. التوبة العميقة هي أن يغير الإنسان أفكاره السيئة. هذا معنى كلمة توبة باليونانية: ان يغير الإنسان توجهه أفكاره.

يتحدانا إنجيل اليوم بقوله: «توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات». توبوا فإنكم في الملكوت الآن. إن سمعتم صوته فلا تُقسوا قلوبكم. افتحوا قلوبكم ليتدفق نور المسيح فيها فيصبح المسيح ملكاً عليكم وحده وأنتم في ملكه أبناء.

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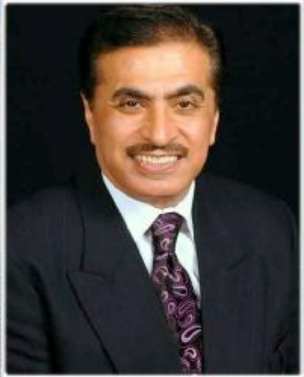


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