

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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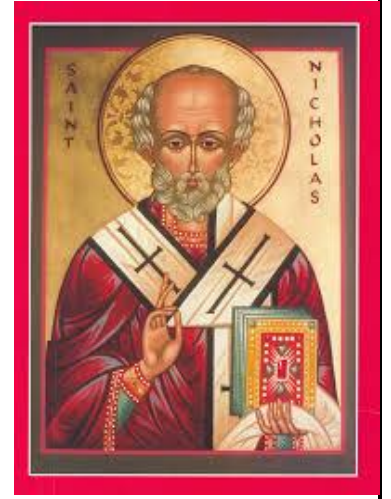
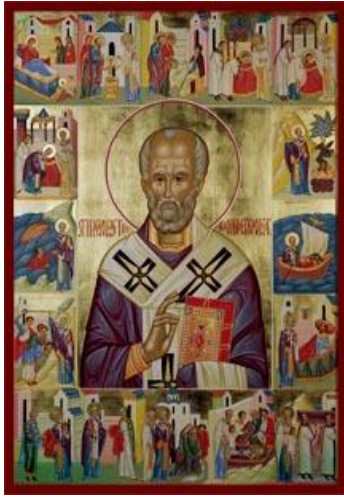
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Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, March 19th 2017

Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross/السجود للصليب المقدّس



This Sunday (One-Year) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God Nawal Modawar offered by her family. May her memory be eternal!



This Sunday The Elevation of the Holy Cross: It is customary in our Archdiocese for the procession to take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

THE EPISTLE St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٤: ١٤-١٦، ٥: ١-٦

يا إخوة إذ لنا رئيس كهنة عظيم قد اجتاز السماوات، يسوع ابن الله، فلنتمسك بالاعتراف، لأنّ ليس لنا رئيس كهنة غير قادر على أن يرثي لأوهاننا بل مجرب في كلّ شيء مثلنا ما خلا الخطيئة. فلنقبل إذا بثقة إلى عرش النعمة لننال رحمة ونجد ثقة للإغاثة في أوانها. فإنّ كلّ رئيس كهنة متّخذ من الناس يقام لأجل الناس فيما هو لله ليقرب تقادم وذبايح عن الخطايا في إمكانه أن يُشفق على الذين يجهلون ويضلّون لكونه هو أيضًا متلبسًا بالضعف، ولهذا يجب عليه أن يُقرب عن الخطايا لأجل نفسه كما يقرب لأجل الشعب. وليس أحد يأخذ لنفسه الكرامة بل من دعاه الله كما دعا هرون. كذلك المسيح لم يُمجد نفسه ليصير رئيس كهنة بل الذي قال له: «أنت ابني وأنا اليوم ولدتك»، كما يقول في موضع آخر: «أنت كاهن إلى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق».

THE GOSPEL St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

الإنجيل: مرقس ٨ : ٣٤-٣٨ ، ٩ : ١

قال الرب: من أراد أن يتبعني فليكرض بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني، لأن من أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها، ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يخلصها. فإنه ماذا ينفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟ لأن من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطئ يستحي بي به ابن البشر متى أتى في مجد أبيه مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم إن قوماً من القائمين ههنا لا يذوقون الموت حتى يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Gladys Maalouf, Laila Louh, Najwa Baba, Fairouz Qare, Rasha Hanhan, Tarek Halteh, Adla Tannous-Vosburgh, Hanna Alhaj and Sereena Kari . Many Years!

Alter candle offered by:

- ❖ Hayat Shiheiber in loving memory of **Emile & Antowanette Khoury and Michael & Georgette Khoury.** May their memory be eternal!

MARCH IS LADIES' MONTH

In keeping with the tradition in our Archdiocese, ladies will show their involvement in the life of the church in the most visible way during the month of March.

They will usher, collect trays, read the Epistle and deliver sermonette...

Our ladies Auxiliary usually prepare a Lenten Luncheon on Sundays. This year they are asking of your help by Donating or preparing food for that purpose.

Sunday, March 19th: Sermonette: **Janet Tannous**

Epistle Readers Arabic: **Rouaida Haddad**

Epistle Readers English: **Nadene Maslam**

Sunday Lenten Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by:

Mimi Hanhan, Ibtisam Hanhan, Hind Bouri, Nathalie Aho and families. Many Thanks! May God bless you and your families!



Congratulations: From Salim, Mona, Cynthia, and Claudia Rantisi and Azar families to Krystle, Steve, Christian, and Jasmine Azar for a New a bundle Baby Boy - DOMINIC- . May God grant him many years!

- ❖ **Mark your calendar: Bouquets To Icons/ Lenten Luncheon**

Saturday, March 18th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm @ Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga.
Donation \$55.00 per person. Further info: Marilyn Habeeb, [650-692-1966](tel:650-692-1966).

- ❖ **General meeting** will be held on April 2nd after the service for the approval of the Amended Church Constitution.

- ❖ **Three Holy Youths Camp: June 19th – June 23rd 2017**

Registration for camp begins.. February 16th- May 1st . Registration \$200.00

For online Registration Visit: norcaldeanerycamp.org > Registration> Media Consent Form.

Medical Forms must be completed at your parish in person.

For more info, please contact Ilyan Baalbaki : (586) 604-5331.

❖ **2017 PLC:** 2017 Parish Life Conference will be held on **July 5-9, 2017** hosted by St. Michael Church in Van Nuys, CA.

❖ **2017 Antiochian Archdiocese Convention** will be held on **July 23-30, 2017** hosted by St. George Cathedral. Florida.

Save the date: October 21st, 2017

Ball Dance Contest: We are having our first Ball Dance Contest in October 21st and we need young men and young women to participate. For further information please call **Gladys Maalouf** @ [4158320316](tel:4158320316)

2017 Great Lent Period	
(February 27th – April 16th , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, and Fish)	
Sunday March 19 th	Sunday of the Holy Cross
Saturday March 25 th	Annunciation of the Theotokos (Only Fish Allowed)
Sunday April 9 th	Palm Sunday (Only Fish Allowed)
Friday April 14 th	Great and Holy Friday
Sunday April 16 th	Great and Holy Pascha

The Services program during the period of Great Lent 2017			برنامج الصلوات خلال فترة الصوم الأربعيني المقدس لعام 2017		
Wednesdays	Great Compline Service	7 pm	٧ مساءً	صلاة النوم الكبرى " يا رب القوات "	الأربعاء
Fridays	Akathist Service Followed by a Potluck dinner	7 pm	٧ مساءً	خدمة مديح والدة الاله	الجمعة
Sundays	The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great	11 am	11 صباحاً	القداش الإلهي للقديس باسيليوس الكبير	الأحد

SUNDAY OF THE CROSS

As we progress deeper and deeper into the weeks of Lent, we can say with an ever-growing sense of gratitude and of joy, of a serene and exulting joy the words of a Psalm, 'My soul shall live, and with gratitude I will give glory to the Lord'.

In the first week of Lent we have seen all the promises of salvation given in the Old Testament fulfilled: God became man, salvation has come, and all hopes are possible. And then, in the second week of Lent, we had the glorious proclamation of all the Saints of Christendom that not only did God come and dwell in our midst, but He has poured out upon us, into the Church, and into every human soul ready to receive Him the presence, the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us gradually commune ever deeper to the Living God until one day we become partakers of the Divine nature.

And today, if we ask ourselves, 'But how that? How can we be forgiven, how can evil be undone?' - one step brings us deeper into gratitude, deeper into joy, deeper into certainty when we consider, when we contemplate the Cross.

There is a passage of the Gospel in which we are told that when Christ spoke of salvation and of its conditions, Peter said to Him, 'Who then can be saved?' - and Christ answered, 'What is not possible to men is possible for God!'. And He Himself came; the fullness of God abided in a human person, and He has power to forgive because He is the victim of all the evil, all the cruelty, all the destructiveness of human history. Because indeed, no one but the victim can forgive those who have brought evil, suffering, misery, corruption and death into their lives. And Christ does not only forgive His own murderers, when He says, 'Father, forgive - they don't know what they are doing': He goes beyond this, because He had said, 'Whatever you have done to one of My smaller brethren and sisters, you have done it to Me' - not only in good, but indeed, the worst: because in compassion, in solidarity He identifies with every sufferer: the death, the pain, the agony of each of those who suffer is His. And so, when He prays, 'Father, forgive! They do not know what they are doing, what they have been doing', He prays for each of us not only in His own name, but in the name of all those upon whom evil has visited because of human sin.

But it is not only Christ who forgives; everyone who has suffered in soul, in body, in spirit, - everyone is called to grant freedom to those who have made him suffer.

And so, we can see why Christ says, 'Forgive so that you may be forgiven' because both the victim and the culprit are tied in one knot of solidarity and reciprocal responsibility. Only the victim can say, 'Lord - forgive him, forgive her', and only then can the Lord say, 'I do!'.

But do you realise what responsibility it puts on each of us with regard to all and everyone? But also the depth, the glorious depth of hope which opens up to us when we look at the Cross and see that in solidarity with all mankind Christ taking upon Himself all the suffering of the world, accepting to die an impossible death has said in the name of all the sufferers, 'Yes, - we forgive!'

This is one more step towards freedom, this is one more step towards the moment when we will be faced with Christ's resurrection that engulfs us also because the risen Christ is risen and is offering all and each of us the fullness of eternal life.

And so again, and again we can say that Lent is a spring of a new life, a new time, a time of renewal, not only in repentance, but in being taken by Christ Himself as the shepherd took the lost sheep, as the Lord took up His Cross, brought it to the place of death, and undid death, undid evil by forgiveness and giving His life. Once more we are confronted with another step of our freedom and of newness. Let us enter ever deeper into this mystery, into this wonder of salvation, and rejoice in the Lord, and rejoicing, step after step, more and more, let us also express our gratitude by newness of life.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

الصليب طريق إلى القيامة

جعلت الكنيسة، في منتصف الصوم، الصليب محوراً لجهاد المؤمن الصائم لأنّ الإنسان قد يملّ، وأرادت الكنيسة أن يتابع سيره بفرح وصبر وسلام حتّى يبلغ القيامة. وُضع الصليب على الزهر لأنّه ليس أداة آلام. إنّهُ يبتدئ بالآلام ولكنّه ينتهي بالقيامة.

القيامة الآن حاصلة في نفوسنا إنّ كنّا للمسيح. ولكن لا تكون القيامة إلّا إذا طبّقنا القواعد التي تحدّث عنها يسوع في الإنجيل: «من أراد أن يتبعني فليكفر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني».

هذه القيامة، قيامة الحياة، ازدهار الحياة، انبعاثنا من الألم ومن الخطيئة، سلامنا، فرحنا، هذه كلّها تصير إنّ أردناها أن نصير: «من أراد أن يتبعني. المسيح لا يُكره أحدًا على الحياة ولا يُكره أحدًا على الموت. ليس أحد مجبرًا على محبّته ولكن من أحبّه يعيش ومن لا يحبه يموت. ليس أنّه يموت موتًا في الجسد ولكنّه ميت اليوم وهو يتحرّك. ليس كلّ من رُزق الحياة حيًّا بالمعنى الصحيح.

من أراد أن يتبع المخلّص، أي من أراد أن تكون فيه حياة المسيح، حياة الله، عليه أن يكون إلهيًّا في نفسه، في أخلاقه، في تصرّفاته، في فكره. من أراد أن يصبح مثل الله، حيًّا مثله، محيًّا مثله، سيّدًا، كريمًا مثله، أزيًّا مثله، من أراد ذلك عليه أن يكفر بكلّ شيء وبالنهيّة أن يكفر بنفسه.

هذه الحياة الكريمة، الطيبة، السعيدة التي لنا مع الله تعرقلها عراقيل كثيرة. تعرقلها كلّ محبة باطلة، كلّ تعلّق فاسد. الإنسان الذي يعشق المال عشقًا ويغرق فيه غرقًا، يصبح على صورة الشيء الذي يحبه. فمن أحبّ الجسد يصبح هو أيضًا جسدًا، نتنًا كالجسد، مريضًا كالجسد، فانيًا كالجسد. من أحبّ الله يصير على صورة الله، أي سيّدًا، حرًّا، أزيًّا، دائم الوجود.

هل نصبح مثل الله؟ هذا يفترض ألا نصبح مثل أشياء العالم ومثل الحيوانات التي في العالم. وإذا تركنا حيوانيتنا وصنميتنا وتعبدنا للجسد وتعبدنا للدنيا، نصبح أحرارًا أي نصلّب تلك الأشياء التي كنّا متعلّقين بها. إنّ أمتنا الأشياء التي كنّا نعبدّها نصبح أحرارًا منها وهي التي كانت تكبلنا. نصبح فقط أمام الله وننظر إليه وينظر هو إلينا، نتأمّله ونقتبس جماله ونصير كما يكون هو أي أنّ نور وجهه يرسم علينا، ومن رآنا على هذه الأخلاق وهذا التصرف، من رآنا على هذه الروحانيّة فكأنّه رأى الله.

«من أراد أن يتبعني» يعني من أراد أن يكون قائمًا مثلي حيًّا كريمًا، هذا لا تسود عليه الأشياء التي لا أرضى عنها. ويسهل لنا السيّد هذه المسيرة بقوله: «ماذا ينفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كلّهُ وخسر نفسه؟» أو «ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟» هذه كلمة نقولها في المآتم: ماذا أخذ معه؟ الدنيا فانية. علينا أن نتذكّر هذا ليس فقط في المآتم ولكن لنعيش كلّ يوم ونحن أصحّاء مالكين قوّة الجسد ونقول: ماذا ينفعني هذا المال المتزايد الذي أتكالّب عليه؟ أو ماذا ينفعني هذا الجاه الذي أتبيّج به أمام الناس؟ أو ماذا تنفعني الزعامات التافهة؟ وإذا كان شيء من هذا لا ينفعني فأنا فوق كلّ هذه الأشياء. وإذا أنا حرّ، لأنّي ما طلبت كلّ هذا الأشياء وأنا ابن القيامة، ولهذا أستطيع أن أقضي النصف الثاني من الصوم منتظرًا القيامة متذوّقًا المسيح بالروح، بالتصرّف، بالسلوك اليوميّ ليطلّ علينا المسيح بفصح عظيم.

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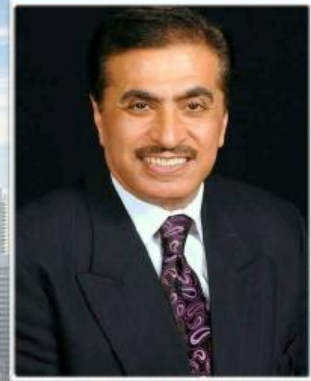


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