

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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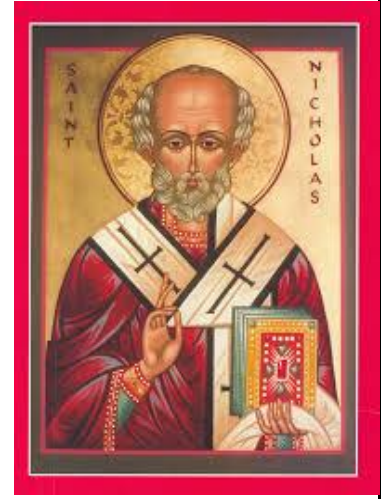
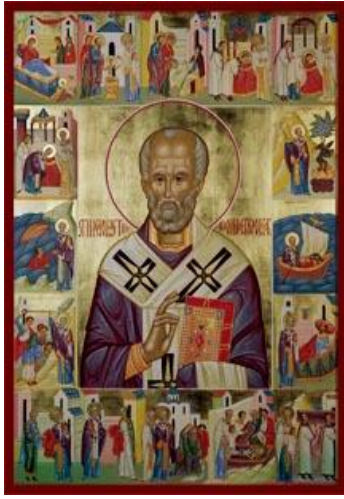
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, March 26th 2017

4th Sunday of Great Lent /St. John Climacus / أحد القديس يوحنا السلمي

This Sunday (6-Month) Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Nabil Dabai**

Offered by his family and all the entire Dabai families. May his memory be eternal!

(One-Year) Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Nassif Saliba**, and (3-Years) Memorial Service for His Eminence **Metropolitan Philip Saliba**. Offered by Ghada Maalouf and her family.

May their memory be eternal!

Condolences: The clergy and parishioners of St. Nicholas church offer our Sympathy and condolences to Salwa Hanhan on the passing of her sister (**Able**) into eternal life.

May her memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE St. Paul to the Hebrews. Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

الرسالة: يا إخوة إن الله لما وعد إبراهيم إذ لم يمكن أن يُقسم بما هو أعظم منه أقسم بنفسه * قائلاً لأبائكم بركة وأكثرتك كثيراً * وذلك إذ تأتي نال الموعد * وإنما الناس يُقسمون بما هو أعظم منهم وتنتضي كل مشاجرة بينهم بالقسم للتنبيت * فلذلك لما شاء الله أن يزيد ورثة الموعد بياناً لعدم تحول عزمه توسط القسم * حتى نحصل بأمرين لا يتحولان ولا يمكن أن يخلف الله فيهما على تعزية قويتة نحن الذين التجأنا إلى التمسك بالرجاء الموضوع أمامنا * الذي هو لنا كمرساة للنفس أمانة راسخة تدخل إلى داخل الحجاب * حيث دخل يسوع كسابق لنا وقد صار على رتبة ملكيصادق رئيس كهنة إلى الأبد.

الإنجيل: في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنساناً وسجد له قائلاً يا معلم قد أتيتك بابني به روح أبكم * وحيثما أخذته يصرعه فيزيد ويصرف بأسنانه ويبيس . وقد سألت تلاميذك أن يخرجوه فلم يقدرُوا * فأجابته قائلاً أيها الجيل الغير المؤمن إلي متى أكون عندكم حتى متى أحتملكم هلم به إلي * فأتوه به . فلما رآه للوقت صرعه الروح فسقط على الأرض يتمرع ويذب * فسأل أباه منذ كم من الزمان أصابه هذا * فقال منذ صباه * وكثيراً ما ألقاه في النار وفي المياه ليهلكه . لكن إن استطعت شيئاً فتحن علينا وأغننا * فقال له يسوع إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن * فصاح أبو الصبي من ساعته بدموع وقال إني أؤمن يا سيدي . فأغث عدم إيماني * فلما رأى يسوع أن الجمع يتبادرون إليه انتهر الروح النجس قائلاً له أيها الروح الأبيكم الأصم أنا أمرك أن اخرج منه ولا تعد تدخل فيه * فصرخ وخبطه كثيراً وخرج منه فصار كالميت حتى قال كثيرون إنه قد مات * فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضه فقام * ولما دخل بيتاً سأله تلاميذه على انفراد لماذا لم نستطع نحن أن نخرجه * فقال لهم إن هذا الجنس لا يمكن أن يخرج بشيء إلا بالصلاة والصوم * ولما خرجوا من هناك اجتازوا في الجليل ولم يرد أن يدري أحد فأنه كان يعلم تلاميذه ويقول لهم إن ابن البشر يسلم إلى أيدي الناس فيقتلونه وبعد أن يقتل يقوم في اليوم الثالث .

THE GOSPEL St. Mark. (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Margarette Qaqish, Manal Haddad and Samantha Saoud. Happy Birthday. Many Years!
- ❖ Salim and Salwa Batshon in loving memory of **Ibrahim Khalil Batshon, Khalil Batshon, Naser, Hannah, and Sourya Batshon, Salem and Julia Jildeh.** May their memory be eternal!

Alter candle offered by:

- ❖ Ghada Maalouf for the good health of Ghada, Nassif and Yasmina Malouf; Najat & Nick Nicola and their family. Many years! Also in loving memory of Metropolitan Philip Saliba, Nassif Saliba, Adma Saliba and Daad Shalhoub. May their memory be eternal!
- ❖ Mitri and Odette Najjar in loving memory of **Adeibeh and Yousef Abu Hatab.** 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 26th: Sermonette: **Marilyn Habeeb**

Epistle Readers Arabic: **Rita Dabai**

Epistle Readers English: **Randa Shatara**

Sunday Lenten Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by:

Shami families. Many Thanks! May God bless you and your families!

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

Ladies:

You and your families are invited to celebrate the Spirit of Palm Sunday (شعنية) and the Resurrection (Easter) by joining our workshop event:

1. On April 6th the ladies will be doing the **Dates** cookies “Ka’ik” to prepare for Palm Sunday bake sale; they will be at church hall starting from 10:00 am. All the ladies are welcome to come and help

2. On April 8th the ladies will organize an Easter spiritual workshop, dedicated to our Kids we will have plenty of booths, Egg coloring, cookie decorating, Bread baking. Please bring your kids; it will be a fun event, donation \$5:00 each, lunch will be served



Good Friday Soup and Bagels

Leila Paolino & Sub. Deacon Michel Khoury are donating & preparing the Soup, toasted Bagels and coffee after the Lamentation Service for the good health of their families. God Bless. Many Years!

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sunday April 9th we will serve delicious Luncheon (Fish) after the service celebrating the Palm Sunday. **Donation: \$35.**

Please call the church office to reserve your seat in advance.

PASCHA (EASTER) BREAKFAST ITEMS NEEDED

As our custom, the Family of St. Nicholas Parish enjoys breaking the Fast together on the dawn of the Resurrection day. All the parishioners of St. Nicholas will have their breakfast together in celebration of the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Call church office if you would like to donate these items or money toward purchasing these items:

Feta Cheese	Cheese	Labneh	Olives	Ham
Orange Juice	Turkey	Pickles	Fruits	Napkins
Pita Bread	Tahini	Milk	Foam Cups	Olive Oil
Forks	Sausage	Bacon	Potato	Coffee
Pancakes	Knives			

Thanks for your donations!

Agape Service - صلاة الباعوث & children's Eggs Hunt Sunday,

April 16th at 12:00 PM Agape (Vesper) Service

Easter Sunday at 12:00 PM, there will be an Agape vespers and the readings of the Gospel of the Resurrection proclaimed to the four corners of the earth in the languages of all mankind.

Following the Service we will have the Easter Egg Hunt donated by **Almaza Tannous, Mike Tannous, Hani Tannous, Gihan Cosentino, Christine Jekelian and their families in memory of Josef & Margarit Hanhan, Charles Tannous and Asal Tannous. Also by Almaza Tannous for the good health of her children Mike, Hani, Gihan, Christine and their families.**

Many Thanks. May God bless you and our families

❖ 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.



2017 Great Lent Period

(February 27th – April 16th , Strict Fast - NO Dairy, Meat, and Fish)

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

❖ 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)**

أغثني في عدم إيماني

في الأحد الرابع من الصوم تقيم الكنيسة المقدسة ذكرى ناسك عظيم كان رئيسا لدير طور سيناء وألف كتابا ذاع صيته في المسيحية الا وهو كتاب "سُلم الفضائل"، يصوّر فيه حياة الراهب أصلا وحياة المؤمن بصورة عامة. في الكتاب يتسلّق المؤمن سُلمًا، ودرجات السُلم هي الفضائل يسمو بها من درجة إلى درجة إلى قمة السُلم، وهذا بعد صراع مرير. وفيما نحن مدركون آخر الصيام أرادت الكنيسة أن تضع أمامنا هذه السُلم لكي نصعد عليها ونحن ننظر إلى قمة الحياة التي جاءتنا بالفداء، إذ ان إنجيل اليوم ينتهي بإعلان السيد لتلاميذه أنه صاعد إلى أورشليم. طبعاً الرب قد وصل إلى نهاية السُلم ولم يسقط، والسُلم كانت بالنسبة له الصليب الذي ارتفع منه إلى أعلى السموات. على هذا الدرب تريدنا الكنيسة أن نسلك، ولذا أخذت من الإنجيل حادثة الشاب المصاب بداء الصرع وكان يسقط ويزيد ويقع في نوبات مرض الفترة تلو الفترة. ونرى السيد يُمسك بيده ويُنهضه، وكأنه بذلك يجعله معه على الصليب وفي القيامة.

لما طلب والد الشاب من يسوع أن يشفي ابنه قال له يسوع: "إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء مستطاع للمؤمن". عند ذلك يعترف الوالد بأنه ضعيف الإيمان ويترجى أن يزيد السيد ثقته به: "إني أومن يا رب فأعِن قلة إيماني". ماذا يعني هذا لنا اليوم؟

الإيمان مُعرّض للضعف لأن الانسان تتجاذبه أهواء الدنيا المعشّشة فيه كما كان الشيطان مستقرّاً في جسد الولد المصروع. لذلك ينبغي أن يطهر الانسان كي يبقى على الإيمان. قضية الإيمان ليست قضية تصديق عقلي. ليست أن نسلم بأن الله موجود وأنه مصدر الكائنات. الشياطين كلها تسلم بوجود الله ولكنها تُحاربه بأن. كيف نتحوّل من أناس يُصدّقون بوجود الله إلى أناس إلهيين يكونون قيثارات للروح، هياكل متحرّكة، سماء للآخرين؟ يتم هذا اذا تسلّقنا السُلم التي تحدّث عنها يوحنا رئيس دير طور سيناء. كيف نتسلّق السُلم لنصل إلى فوق؟ كيف نتحوّل من أناس بُكّم إلى بشر فُصحاء بشهادتهم الحيّة؟ الجواب ايضا في هذا الفصل الإنجيلي: "هذا الشيطان لا يخرج الا بالصلاة والصوم". هذان هما الركنا اللذان نعتمدهما في الحياة المسيحية لكي نصل إلى الكمال.

الصلاة والصوم بمعناهما العميق هما افتقار إلى الله. المُصلّي هو إنسان جثا أمام ربّه ليقول انه لا شيء وأنه بحاجة إلى كل شيء من الله لكي يوجد. الإنسان لا يوجد دون صلاة. والصوم في معانيه البليغة يعني أننا ننتظر من الله كل شيء، كل عطاء، كل نعمة، كل فضل.

الصلاة والصوم يعينان في آخر المطاف أننا سلطنا في تواضع أمام الله، لذلك فإنهما يحفظان الإيمان. ولذلك إن اعتبرنا أننا ذوو وجود وجاه وعظمة فليس لله مكانة في النفس. ولكن إن أحسنا عميقاً، وكل منا في غرفته، بأننا بالكلية لا شيء، دودة الأرض وتراب ورماد، إن صدّقنا بأننا كالهباء الذي تُدريه الريح، إن قادتنا رياضات الصلاة إلى هذا الشعور، فعند ذاك يأتي الله إلى فراغنا ويملاها بنعمة من عنده ويعطينا كل وجود. وعند ذاك إذا تكلمنا، فلسنا نحن المتكلمين ولكن روح أبينا هو الذي يتكلم فينا. عند ذاك نرتفع إلى ذروة السُلم ونرفع معنا العالم إلى الملكوت الباقي.

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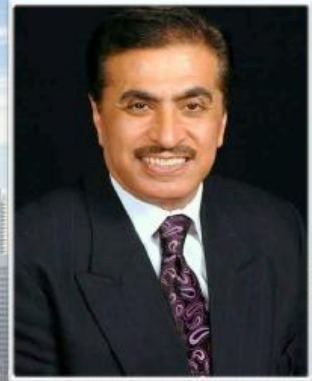
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