

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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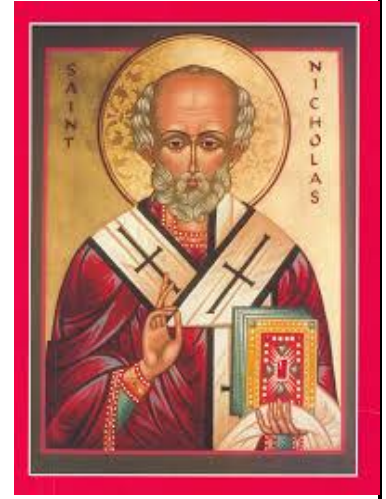
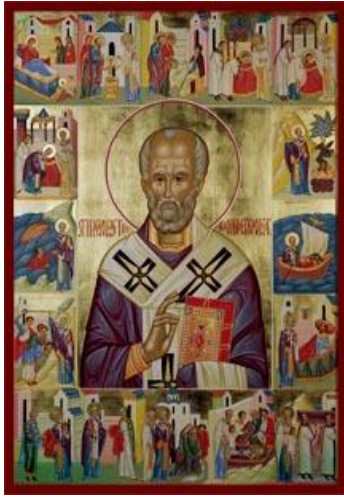
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Sunday, April 2nd 2017

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent/ Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt

الأحد الخامس من الصوم / القديسة مريم المصريّة

Condolences: The clergy and parishioners of St. Nicholas church offer our Sympathy and condolences to Olga Azar on the passing of her sister (**Mary Jamal Jubran**) into eternal life in Amman, Jordan.

Also our condolences to all Jubran, Azar, Theodory, Zummet and Katouha families.

May her memory be eternal!

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٩: ١١-١٤

يا إخوة، إنّ المسيح إذ قد جاء رئيس كهنة للمستقبلية فبمسكن أعظم وأكمل غير مصنوع بأيدي ليس من هذه الخليقة، وليس بدم تبيوس وعجول بل بدم نفسه دخل الأقداس مرة واحدة فوجد فداء أبدياً، لأنّه إن كان دم ثيران وتبيوس ورماد عجلة يُرش على المنجسين فيقدّسهم لتطهير الجسد، فكم بالأحرى دم المسيح الذي بالروح الأزليّ قرب نفسه لله بلا عيب يطهر ضمائرهم من الأعمال الميتة لتعبدوا الله الحيّ.

THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (10:32-45) At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

الإنجيل: مرقس ١٠: ٣٢-٤٥

في ذلك الزمان أخذ يسوع تلاميذه الاثني عشر وابتدأ يقول لهم ما سيعرض له: هوذا نحن صاعدون إلى اورشليم، وابن البشر سيُسَلَّم إلى رؤساء الكهنة والكتبة، فيحكمون عليه بالموت ويُسلمونه إلى الأمم فيهزأون به ويصقون عليه ويجلدونه ويقتلونه، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم. فدنا إليه يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي قائلين: يا معلم، نريد أن تصنع لنا مهما طلبنا. فقال لهما: ماذا تريدان أن أصنع لكما؟ قالا له: أعطنا أن يجلس أحدهما عن يمينك والآخر عن يسارك في مجدك. فقال لهما يسوع: إنكما لا تعلمان ما تطلبان. أتستطيعان أن تشربا الكأس التي أشربها أنا، وأن تصطبغا بالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها أنا؟ فقالا له: نستطيع. فقال لهما يسوع: أمّا الكأس التي أشربها فتشربانها وبالصبغة التي أصطبغ بها فتصطبغان، وأمّا جلوسكما عن يميني وعن يساري فليس لي أن أعطيته إلا للذين أعدّ لهم. فلمّا سمع العشرة ابتدأوا يغضبون على يعقوب ويوحنا. فدعاهم يسوع وقال لهم: قد علمتم أن الذين يُحسبون رؤساء الأمم يسودونهم، وأنّ عظماءهم يتسلطون عليهم. وأمّا أنتم فلا يكون فيكم هكذا. ولكن من أراد أن يكون فيكم كبيراً فليكن لكم خادماً، ومن أراد أن يكون فيكم أولاً فليكن للجميع عبداً. فإنّ ابن البشر لم يأت ليُخدَم بل ليُخدم وليبذل نفسه فداءً عن كثيرين.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ St. Nicholas church for the good health of those who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Jihan Halabi, Muna Batshon, Lena Dabeet, Amel Jada, Rula Madback, Dina Rantisi, Luay Bouri and Suha Rantisi. Happy Birthday.Many Years!

Alter candle offered by

- ❖ Liza Alexiaeff , Sally Habeeb and families for the good health of dear friend **Lamia Dib**, Many Years!

Sunday Lenten Luncheon

Join us downstairs for Luncheon offered by:

Julia Nasser in loving memory of her husband Wajdy Nasser.May his memory be eternal! Many Thanks! May God bless you and your family!

- ❖ **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 (شعينة) 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 & Judy 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!

2017 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: GREAT AND HOLY WEEK OF OUR LORD'S PASSION AND HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Sunday, April 9th (أحد الشعانين)

Palm Sunday: Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Matins at 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy & Procession with Palms at 11:00 AM

Holy and Great Monday, April 10th

Bridegroom Matins 7:00 PM (صلاة الختن)

Holy and Great Tuesday April 11th

Bridegroom Matins 7:00 PM (صلاة الختن)

Holy and Great Wednesday, April 12th

Holy Oil Service 7:00 PM (صلاة مسح المرضى بالزيت المقدس)

Confession Before & after the service

Holy and Great Thursday, April 13th

1- Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM (خميس الأسرار)

Breakfast after liturgy

2- Matins with 12 Passion Gospels 7:00 PM (صلاة اناجيل الآلام)

Holy and Great Good Friday, April 14th

The Royal Hours & Vespers Service At 11:00 AM (صلاة الغروب)

Decoration of Bier of Christ (تزيين نعش السيد المسيح)

Matins with the Lamentations at the Tomb at 7:00 PM (تقاريط جناز السيد المسيح)

Holy and Great Saturday, April 15th (خدمة الفصح المجيد)-

Starting Service 10:00 PM (بداية الخدمة)

Rush Hour 10:30 PM (صلاة الهجمة)

Matins 11:00 PM

Divine Liturgy 11:30 PM (القداس الالهى)

Followed by breakfast

Holy and Great Sunday, April 16th

Vespers 12:00 PM (صلاة الباعوث)

Followed by Children Eggs Hunt



**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

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❖ **Three Holy Youths Camp: June 19<sup>th</sup> – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

Registration for camp begins.. February 16th- May 1<sup>st</sup> . Registration \$200.00

For online Registration Visit: [norcaldeanerycamp.org](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2017**

**Ball Dance Contest:** We are having our first Ball Dance Contest in October 22<sup>nd</sup> and we need young men and young women to participate. For further information please call **Gladys Maalouf @**

[4158320316](http://4158320316)

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### ***Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt***

On the fifth Sunday in Lent we remember Saint Mary of Egypt, and she can teach us a great deal of what we need to know. She was a sinner, publicly known, a temptation and a scandal to men. How she became a sinner - we do not know; whether there was evil in her, whether she was seduced or raped, how she became a harlot, we shall never know. What we know for sure is that one day she came to a church of the Mother of God - the image of perfect wholeness - and she suddenly felt that she could not enter it. We need not imagine a miraculous force preventing her from crossing the threshold; the force was probably - certainly - within herself. She felt that the realm was too sacred, and the person of the Mother of God too holy for her to dare walk into Her presence and stand in the precincts of the church.

This was enough for her to realise that all the past was darkness, and that there was but one way out of it: to shake off all evil and to start a new life. She did not go for advice, she did not go for confession; she walked out of the city into the desert, into the scorching desert where there was nothing but sand and heat and hunger, and desperate loneliness.

She can teach us something very great. As Saint Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but our response is not. But Mary responded; through the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness and sanctity of the Mother of God, and nothing, nothing was too much for her to change her life.

Year after year, in fasting and prayer, in the scorching heat, in the desperate aloneness of the desert she fought all the evil that had accumulated in her soul; because it is not enough to become aware of the evil, it is not enough even to reject it in an act of will, - it is there, in our memories, in our desires, in our frailty, in the rottenness which evil brings. She had to fight for her whole life, but at the end of that life she had conquered; indeed, she had fought the good fight, she had become pure of stain, she could enter the realm of God: not a temple, not a place but eternity.

She can teach us a great deal. She can teach us that only if one day we become aware that in the realm into which we walk so freely: the church, or simply the world created by God and which has remained pure of evil although subjected, enslaved to evil, because of us - is so holy that we alone have no place there, we might in response to this sense repent, that is turn away from ourselves in horror, and turn against ourselves with stern determination. Then we could follow her example.

This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is Lent. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. And today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: 'Be sure that God Who could heal the leprous could heal the leprosy which is yours'.

Let us therefore see in her a new encouragement, a new hope, indeed, a new joy, but also a challenge, a call, because it is in vain that we sing the praise of saints if we do not learn from them and emulate them. **Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**

## جالسون عن يمين الله

كان يسوع وتلاميذه عاندين من الجليل إلى المدينة العظيمة أورشليم. وفيما كان قلب السيد متجهًا إلى الآب، إلى الموت الذي سيؤدّي إلى النصر. فيما كان الرب يتأهبّ للدخول في المعركة الكبرى انتصب اثنان من الاثني عشر يسألانه عن شيء دنيويّ حسب الرب تافهًا في هذا الظرف. سألاه أن يجعلهما وزيرين في ملك ظنّاه دنيويًا لأنّ الجميع كانوا ينتظرون أن يعلن يسوع الناصريّ نفسه ملكًا على اليهود.

قاطعهما الرب بقوله: الكأس التي أشربها أنا أنتشربانها؟ كأس الموت أنتشركان فيها؟ والصبغة التي اصطبغ بها، صبغة الدم، أتصبغان بها؟ وقال له: نستطيع. ومع ذلك أجاب الرب: ولو أنكما تقدرا على أن تموتا من أجلي إلا أنّي لا أقدر على أن أجعلكما سيّدين في الملكوت، هذا مرتبط بالآب. أراد أن يموتهم عن الدنيا، عن ملكوت إسرائيل، إلى ملكوت آخر يعمّ الأرض ويكون في قلوب الناس. ولكنّه كان عارفًا أنّ أحدًا من تلاميذه لن يستطيع أن يفهم شيئًا وأن يذوق شيئًا ما لم يشترك في رؤية هذا الفداء الذي كان الرب مزعمًا على أن يتممه في أورشليم.

ولذا نقل أتباعه إلى فكر آخر بقوله: «إنّ رؤساء الأمم يسودونهم وعظماءهم يتسلطون عليهم»، وفي إنجيل مرقس الذي يُقرأ اليوم نقرأ: «الذين يُحسبون رؤساء الأمم» أي أنّ كلّ البشر في تقاهة لأنهم يحسبون أنّ لهم رؤساء يعظمونهم. الرئيس جعل مسؤولاً وهو لا شيء، وإذا ظنّ نفسه شيئًا وظننتموه أنتم شيئًا فلكم تخطئون. القضية ليست أن نكون ذوي وجاهة في الأرض ولكن أن نكون وجهاء بعد الموت. ولهذا أنتم ورؤساؤكم ستذهبون إلى مملكة جديدة التي سادسناها بموتني. وسيعلم الناس أنّ «من أراد أن يكون بينكم أولاً فليكن للكلّ عبداً». أنا جنّت لأحرّركم من العبوديّة، من تلك العبوديّة التي كانت متحكّمة فيكم، فأنتم تتزلفون دائماً وتتجاملون وجعلتم أنفسكم عبيداً للناس. غير أنّي سوف أعتقكم من العبوديّة وأجعلكم أحراراً بحيث لا يبقى فوق رؤوسكم أحد.

المسيحيّ ليس ذليلاً ولا متسكّعاً لأنّ رأسه ينطح السحاب ويصل إلى عرش الله، إلى رأس الله، فبولس يعلمنا: «أنتم جالسون مع المسيح عن يمين الله». ولكن من أراد أن يجالس الله وأن يكون ندّاً لله بالنعمة المعطاة من عنده، فهذا يجب أن يكون في ملكوت الحبّ، عليه أن يجعل نفسه عبداً للناس، أن يتطوّع للناس. أنت لست بذليل لأنّ رأسك ينطح عرش الله، ولكنك تتدّلل. العظيم من ذلّ نفسه في الخدمة، من تواضع أمام كلّ مخلوق، أمام أدنى مخلوق، أدنى مخلوق وأرفع مخلوق متساويان، لأنّ المسيح قد أتى من أجلهم كلّهم. ولذلك ليس عندنا رفيع، لا كبير ولا صغير. المسيح وحده يكبر الناس والخدمة تعظم الناس. بهذه الأفكار أراد ربّنا أن يهيّئنا لنصعد معه إلى أورشليم، لنصعد معه إلى المحبة، ولنصعد معه إلى الحرّية وإلى الصدق. ملكوت المسيحيّ ملكوت صدق والناس بالصدق وبالطهارة يخلصون.

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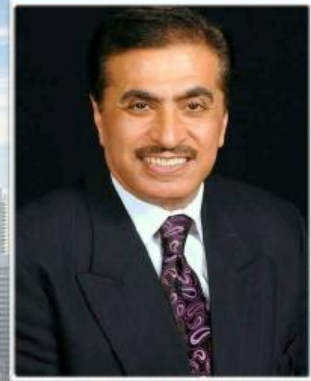
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