

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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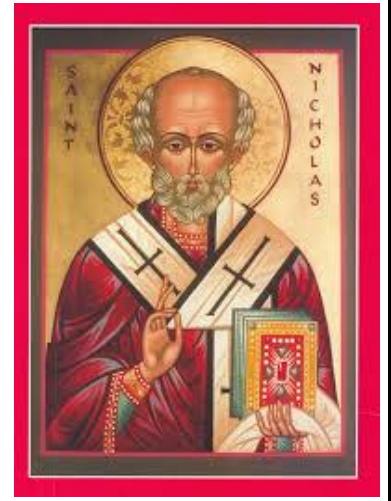
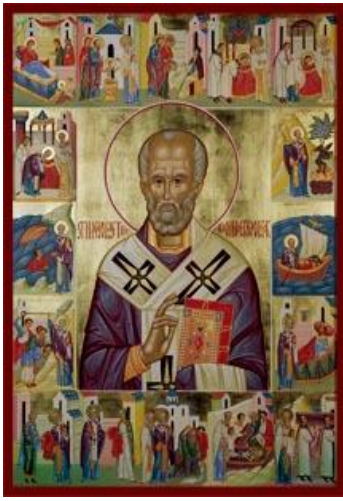
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Sunday, June 11th 2017

All Saints Sunday/أحد جميع القديسين

This Sunday (40-Day) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God

Mariam Kawar Sweis (Widow of Salim Sweis)

(40-Day) Memorial Service for the Handmaiden of God **Nafsika Zamboukus**.

(One-Year) Memorial Service for the Servant of God **Hanna Thome**.

May their memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

الرسالة: عبرانيين 11:33-12:2

يا إخوة ان القديسين أجمعين بالإيمان قهروا الممالك وعملوا البرّ ونالوا المواعد وسدّوا أفواه الأسود، وأطفأوا حدّة النار ونجوا من حد السيف وتقوّوا من ضعف وصاروا أشداء في الحرب وكسروا معسكرات الأجنبيّ. وأخذت نساء أمواتهن بالقيامة. وعذبّ آخرون بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا بالنجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرون ذاقوا الهزء والجلد والقيود أيضا والسجن، ورُجموا ونُشروا وامتحنوا وماتوا بحد السيف، وساحوا في جلود غنم ومعز وهم مُعوزون مُضايقون مَجْهودون، ولم يكن العالم مستحقا لهم، فكانوا تائهين في البراري والجباليّ والمغاوير وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم، مشهودًا لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا الموعد لأن الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئًا أفضل أن لا يكْمُلوا بدوننا. فنحن أيضا اذ يُحْدِق بنا مثل هذه السحابة من الشهود فلنلقّ عنا كل ثقلٍ والخطيئة المحيطة بسهولة بنا، ولنسابق بالصبر في الجهاد الذي أمامنا، ناظرين الى رئيس الإيمان ومكمله يسوع.

THE GOSPEL St. Matthew. (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name's sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

الإنجيل: متى 10:32-33 و 37-38 و 19:27-30 قال الرب لتلاميذه: كل من يعترف بي قدام الناس اعترف انا به قدام ابي الذي في السماوات. ومن ينكرني قدام الناس انكره انا قدام ابي الذي في السماوات. من أحبّ أبًا او أمًا اكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن أحب ابنا او بنتا اكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن لا يأخذ صليبه ويتبعني فلا يستحقني. فأجاب بطرس وقال له: هوذا نحن قد تركنا كل شيء وتبعناك، فماذا يكون لنا؟ فقال لهم يسوع: الحق اقول لكم انتم الذين تبعتموني في جيل التجديد، متى جلس ابن البشر على كرسي مجده، تجلسون انتم ايضا على اثني عشر كرسيًا تدينون أسباط اسرائيل الاثني عشر. وكل من ترك بيوتًا او إخوة او أخوات او أبًا او أمًا او امرأة او أولادا او حقولا من اجل اسمي يأخذ مئة ضعف ويرث الحياة الأبدية. وكثيرون أولون يكونون آخريين وآخرون يكونون أولين.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ Nadim Basma, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell, Jane and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Janan Howell** on the occasion of her birthday on June 10th. Many years!

Alter Candle offering

- ❖ Nabil Rantisi for the good health of Nabil, Nicholas and Alexandra Rantisi on the occasion of Nabil's Birthday. Happy Birthday! Many Years!
- ❖ Mary and Synthia Zamboukos in loving memory of **Nafsika Zamboukos**. May her memory be eternal!
- ❖ Laila Louh in loving memory of **Elias Louh**. May his memory be eternal!

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

- ❖ **Father's Day picnic: JUNE 18th**. The picnic will be held at Hanna's winery. Join us for a fun day with entertainment, music with the super star **Wasem Rabih**. Location: 5353 Occidental Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. **If you need a ride to get there, please call the church office.**
Note: The Divine Liturgy will be held at the Winery. No Service at the church in that day.
- ❖ **Three Holy Youths Camp: June 19th – June 23rd 2017**
Medical Forms must be completed at your parish in person. **Registration \$100.**
For more info, please contact Ilyan Baalbaki : (586) 604-5331.
Register online @ norcaldeanerycamp.org > Registration > Media Consent Form.
- ❖ **2017 PLC: 2017 Parish Life Conference** will be held on **July 5-9, 2017** hosted by St. Michael Church in Van Nuys, CA. for more info, visit: <http://www.antiochianevents.com/la.html>

- ❖ **2017 Antiochian Archdiocese Convention** will be held on **July 23-30, 2017** hosted by St. George Cathedral. Florida. For more info, visit: <http://ac2017miami.org/>
- ❖ **Save the date: September 30th & October 1st:** St. Nicholas church Annual Food Festival...
- ❖ **Save the date: October 22nd, 2017 Ball Dance Contest:** We are having our first Ball Dance Contest in October 22nd and we need young men and young women to participate. For further information please call **Gladys Maalouf @ 4158320316**.

All Saints Sunday

The Mother of God and the Saints whose memory we keep today, those who are known to us because God has revealed them and because they have been understood and recognised, either by their contemporaries, or years, at times - centuries later, all the Saints are the response of the earth to the love of God. And this response is given by them not only in their own name but in the name of all creation and in our names also; because each of us has the privilege to be called by one name, our Christian name, the name of one of those Saints. And the Saints whose names are ours stand before God and pray that their name should not be made unworthy in the eyes of the Lord. The Saints of God embrace the whole of Creation in their love, in their intercession, in their prayer, in their real, continuous presence. How wonderful it is that we belong to this vast family of men, of women, of children who have understood what the Lord meant when He came, and lived, taught and died for us! They responded with their own heart, they understood with all their mind, and they accepted His message with all their determination, to overcome in themselves all that has been the cause of the crucifixion; because if only one person on earth had strayed, fallen away from God, Christ would have come to save at the cost of His life. This is His own testimony to a Saint of the early centuries who had been praying that the sinners should be confounded; and Christ appeared to him, and said, "Never pray that way! If one sinner have existed, I would have died for him."

The Saints are people who responded to love by love, people who realised that if someone can die for them, their only response of gratitude is to become such that he should not have died in vain. To take up our cross means exactly this: to turn away from all those things which are Christ's death and crucifixion, from all those things which surrounded Christ with hatred and lack of understanding. We are all free to do this, more than those who lived in His time because they could be mistaken in Him in those days; but in our days, after two thousand years, when we can read the Gospels, and see emerging from the story the stature, the Person of Christ, when we have got millions of witnesses that tell us that He truly gave His life for us, and that the only response we can give is to give our lives for one another in His name - how can't we respond?

Let us therefore, on this day make a new resolve: to listen in the way in which they listened, with all their heart, all their mind, all their will, all their self to see what happened, to hear what He said, to respond by gratitude and by determination. And then, if we offer this little to God - our gratitude and our good will - the strength, the power for us also to grow into the stature which God has willed, dreamt for us, - the power will be of God; as He had said, My strength deploys itself in weakness, My grace sufficeth... And Paul, who knew that, added, in another passage, All things are possible unto us in the power of Christ Who sustains us...

Let us make a new start, so that the Saints whose names we wear should rejoice in us, so that the Mother of God Who gave Her Son unto death that we may respond, that we may understand, that we may be saved should rejoice, and that Christ should see that it is not in vain that He lived, taught, and died. Let us be His glory, a light; it may be a small light, just like a small candle, it may be a bright light as one of the great Saints - but let us be a light that lights the world and makes it less dark! Let us be joy so that others may learn to rejoice in the Lord.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh



أحد جميع القديسين (من موقع المنارة الأرثوذكسية)

“كل من اعترف بي قدام الناس يعترف به ابن الإنسان قدام ملائكة الله”

بدأ عيد جميع القديسين، تاريخياً، بعيد لجميع القديسين الشهداء بالتحديد، ولكن يمكننا اعتبار أن العيد هو عيد جميع القديسين لأن القديسين المجاهدين ولو لم يستشهدوا بالدم كانوا شهداء الحياة المسيحية، فكل إنسان يعترف بالمسيح أمام الجميع هو معرّض للشهادة، وغير مهم إن كانت الشهادة بالدم أو بالدموع. نفرح اليوم وسط حياة الكنيسة الليتورجية بحضور جميع القديسين “لنا سحابة من الشهود” (عبر 1:12)، “غسلوا ثيابهم وبيّضوا ثيابهم في دم الخروف” (رؤ 14:7). نعيّد في هذا اليوم لكل القديسين الذين عاشوا ملكوت الله على الأرض ودخلوا إلى حياة المسيح القيامية، ونكرّم هؤلاء الذين عاشوا سرّ التّبنيّ أي تصرّفوا كأبناء لله. نحقل بهؤلاء الذين وصلوا إلى أعلى الدرجات ووصلوا إلى قمة فرح القيامة وأعطوا بذلك شهادة سلامية منعكسة من داخلهم نحو العالم أجمع من حولهم. وكما نقرأ في سنكسار اليوم: “نعيّد اليوم لجميع ما قدّسه الروح القدس... التسعة طغمت الأجداد ورؤساء الآباء والأنبياء والرسل الأطهار والشهداء ورؤساء الكهنة والشهداء الكهنة الأبرار والأبرار والصديقين وجميع مصاف النساء القديسات وجميع القديسين الآخرين”.

موقع العيد أهم الأمر الذي فعله القديسون حتى ينالوا كل هذا التكريم من الكنيسة؟، طبعاً الجواب بتطبيقهم لما سمعناه في إنجيل اليوم: “كل من يعترف بي قدام الناس اعترف أنا أيضاً به قدام أبي الذي في السموات. ولكن من ينكرني قدام الناس أنكره أنا أيضاً قدام أبي الذي في السموات من تسميته فالكنيسة تعيد لجميع القديسين مباشرة بعد عيد العنصرة، وبحيث يشكّل العنصرة آخر عيد في الدورة الليتورجية السنوية، وبهذا العيد ينتهي كتاب البنديكستاري، وأهميته تكمن أنه بنهاية الحياة بالمسيح يجب أن يتحقق هدف الحياة بالمسيح وهو قداسة الإنسان وتجديده لذلك تعيد الكنيسة اليوم لثمارها أي قديسيها.

الشهادة والاعتراف

لكن يبقى السؤال ما هو... ومن لا يأخذ صليبه ويتبعني فلا يستحقني”.

كلام الإنجيل ليس إلا إيقاظ لوعي أرثوذكسيّتنا. وبالتالي عن ماذا تخلينا من أجل محبة المسيح؟ ما هي الأشياء التي نحن مستعدون أن نقدمها للآخرين؟ كم عدد الشهداء الذين تقدموا من أجل البشارة بكلمته؟ طبعاً الأجابة خاصة بكل واحد منّا وكل من يقبل الله كأب له يمكن أن يجد الأجوبة الصريحة.

يسير على طريق القداسة كل هؤلاء الذين يجاهدون بقوة ومسؤولية ضدّ الأهواء محاولين تنقية وتطهير حياتهم الداخلية. يبارك المسيح هؤلاء الذين اقتنوا قلوباً نقية ويعدّهم بأنهم سيروون الله.

يرتفع اليوم أمام أعيننا سلم إلى السماء، القداسة ليست نظام أو قانون ولأشخاص محددين ومحدودين. هي دعوة لنا جميعاً، القداسة هي ملء الحياة بالمسيح، هي العيش المشترك بين الله والإنسان.

جسد هذه القداسة وحققها جميع القديسين الذين نُعيّد لهم اليوم، تظهر القداسة في وجوههم كحقيقة مُعاشة وليس كشكل جميل، وبرؤيتنا لها نتعلم ولو بدون كلام، فهي جهاد وتعَب وصبر وتواضع ودموع وحتى الدم لهؤلاء الذين استشهدوا من أجل المسيح “من أجل شهادة يسوع ومن أجل كلمة الله” (رؤ 4:20).

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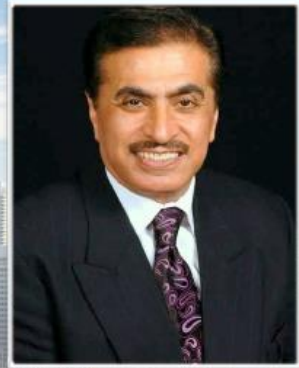


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