

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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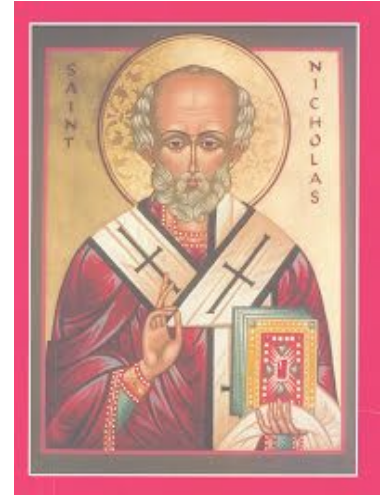
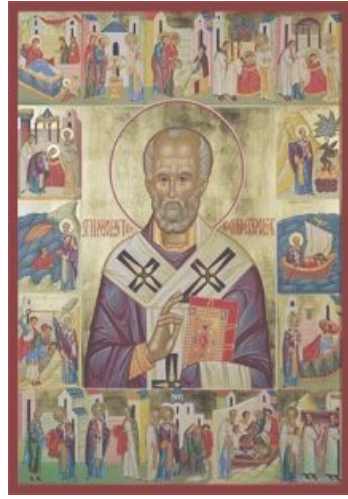
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Sunday, July 2nd, 2017

THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

الرسالة: عبرانيين ٩: ١-٧

يا إخوة، إنَّ العهد الأول كانت له أيضًا فرائض العبادة والقدس العالميّ لأنّه نُصب المسكن الأول الذي يقال له القدس وكانت فيه المنارة والمائدة وخبز التقدمة. وكان وراء الحجاب الثاني المسكن الذي يقال له قدس الأقداس وفيه مستوقّد البخور من الذهب وتابوت العهد المغطى بالذهب من كلّ جهة فيه قسطنّ من الذهب وعصا هرون التي أفرخت ولوحا العهد ومن فوقه كاروبا المجد المظللان الغطاء. وليس هنا مقام الكلام في ذلك تفصيلاً. وحيث كان ذلك مُهيّأ هكذا فالكهنة يدخلون إلى المسكن الأول كلّ حين فيتمّمون الخدمة. وأمّا الثاني فإنّما يدخله رئيس الكهنة وحده مرّة في السنة ليس بلا دم يقربّه عن نفسه وعن جهالات الشعب.

الإنجيل: متى ٨: ٥-١٣

في ذلك الزمان، دخل يسوع كفرناحوم فدنا إليه قائد مئة وطلب إليه قائلاً: يا ربّ إنّ فتايّ مُلقّي في البيت مخلاً يُعذب بعذاب شديد. فقال له يسوع: أنا آتي وأشفيه. فأجاب قائد المئة قائلاً: يا ربّ لست مستحقاً أن تدخل تحت سقفي، ولكن قل كلمة لا غير فيبراً فتأتي. فإني أنا إنسان تحت سلطان ولي جند تحت يدي، أقول لهذا اذهب فيذهب، وللآخر أنت فيأتي، ولعبدي اعمل هذا فيعمل. فلما سمع يسوع تعجّب وقال للذين يتبعونه: الحقّ أقول لكم إنّي لم أجد إيماناً بمقدار هذا ولا في إسرائيل. أقول لكم إنّ كثيرين سيأتون من المشارق والمغارب ويتكئون مع إبراهيم وإسحق ويعقوب في ملكوت السموات، وأمّا بنو الملكوت فيلقون في الظلمة البرّانيّة. هناك يكون البكاء وصريف الأسنان. ثمّ قال لفائد المئة: اذهب وليكن لك كما أمنت. فشفي فتاه في تلك الساعة.

THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (8:5-13)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered Him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Holy Bread of oblation offered by:

- ❖ Nadim, Basma, Janan, Jim, Ivette, Jennifer, Brandon and Matthew Howell, and Oscar Moran for the good health of **Jane Moran** on the occasion of her birthday July 12th. Many Years!
- ❖ Radi and Janet Baqleh for the good health of **Bashar and Shadi Baqleh** on the occasion of their birthday July 4th. Many Years!

Alter Candle offering

Sponsors for Sunday's are needed. Please make checks payable St. Nicholas Church in the amount of \$25.00 or more. Thank you!

Special Thank You:

St. Nicholas Church would like to thank the Wahab family for their generous donation in memory of Bishara Wahab. May his memory be eternal!

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

- ❖ **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>
- ❖ **Annual Picnic: Sunday July 9th, 2017** The picnic will be held at Hanna's winery. Join us for a fun day with entertainment. 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 on that day.
- ❖ **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](tel:4158320316)**.

Protecting Veil of the Mother of God by Metropolitan Anthony Surozh

Time and again we ask ourselves what is the aim of the Christian life: what can we do to be true Christians? A simple, but very realistic reply is to say "Fulfill all the commandments, and you will be a Christian".

And yet, we may fulfill all the commandments, we may feel that we are right before God, but if our heart is not in what we do, we have not done what a Christian is called to do, to be, because the commandments which Christ left us are not drilling orders. In the commandments He reveals to us what we should do if our heart were pure, if we communed with God, if we were true to ourselves. These are the things — He says — that should become natural to you, and therefore, you can judge yourselves by comparing not your deeds to the commandments, but your heart to the inspiration that would make them natural. And so it is not simply by doing things that this is achieved, but by becoming the kind of person for whom these things are their true nature; in other words, by willing to be the true, undistorted image of Christ.

But where do we begin then? It is easy to be doers — how can we change our hearts, how can we find inspiration indeed to do it? If we think of God, if we think that God has so loved us that, to use the words of Saint Paul, He came to save us while we were still His enemies, that He gave his life that we may live free from evil; then what should be our first reaction, our first response? I think, at that level we should say, "Let my whole life be evidence to God that I have understood: understood that He believed in me and felt it was worth giving His own life for me, that He hoped that I would respond, and He loved me unto life and unto death."

If we have understood this, not only the love of God, but the faith He has in us, the hope He has placed upon us, then our first step should be to build our life in such a way as to be a joy for God; if we only could think of our lives as a way of giving God a little joy — not the exulting joy of perfect victory, but a joy which a mother, a father, a guide has when a child, a youth, a grown up man or woman says, "I do understand, I have understood, and now all my life I will strive to show my understanding". And showing our understanding of God's love, of God's faith and hope does not consist in singing praises to Him; it consists in making all our life a hymn of gratitude, so that seeing what we do, how gradually we become new people, how our hearts, full of gratitude and of joy, make us shine with an inner light, then we will have begun on our spiritual life.

There is a passage in the Gospel, in which we are told, "Let your light so shine before men that seeing this light they may give glory to the Father Who is in Heaven...". What is this light which we must reveal, unveil, let freely shine around us? It is not our own light, it is not manifesting our intelligence, our human warmth, our talents; it is becoming so filled with what is God's, so transparent to His light, that His light may shine freely, and not be kept, as it were, in the darkness of our soul. Again, — it is the only way we can cast light, share light with others, because our talents, our intelligence, our hearts, may well be below those of others, while this light is life, this light is enlightenment, this light can help others to become new.

So let us begin with simply being actively grateful to God, — actively grateful: not emotionally, but indeed, to the core of our being, in every thought, in heart, in our will and action.

قل كلمة لا غير

«قل كلمة لا غير». هذا ما قاله قائد المئة الذي جاء يطلب الشفاء لفتاه. هذا عرف أنّ كلمة يسوع تشفي. ليس الكلام البشريّ هو الذي ينفع. الكلام كلام أي أنّه هواء يتلاشى. واحدًا كان الكلمة، المسيح وحده كلمة الله. ليس أنّه حكى حكيًا لكنّه مات موثًا. ونحن في الكنيسة نجتمع لنسمعه يقول هذه الكلمة المحيية، الإنجيل، لكي بها نشفى فتصبح فينا حقيقة فعّالة. كلّ جماعة نشاء أن تبني لنفسها كنيسة تتقدّس فيها، يكون لها المعبد وكأنّه سماء هابطة عليها. الحجارة التي تنصبها، إن هي إلّا رموز، هي رمز قلوب تتراصّ حول المسيح الكلمة وأفكار ترتفع إليه. هي سماء يحملها من شاء وإله يستنزله من أراد إلى العرش الحقّ الوحيد الذي هو قلب الإنسان.

الإنسان لا يصعد إلى الله إلّا لكون الله قد قال كلمته، أي أنّه قد نزل إليه. من لامسه الله بنعمة وعطف كريم، فهذا ابن الله، وهذا ساكن في الملكوت، وهو تاليًا منتصب في السماء، مُسمّر على عرش الله، عن يمين القدرة. الأشياء العظيمة لا تظهر، الأشياء الكبيرة يكتبها الله بيده، في فكر، وهي أعظم من التاريخ وأكبر من كلّ ما يتحدّث عليه العظام.

العظام، الأعظمون، ليسوا بالضرورة أولئك الذين تذكرهم الكتب. المرأة التي ترعى أولادها، والشابّ الذي يكافح في سبيل طهارته، والإنسان الذي يتوخّى الصدق، هؤلاء كلّهم أعظم من التاريخ.

الملكوت الإلهيّ، أمنيات البشريّة في توقها إلى الأفضل. أمنيات الملكوت هذه تتحقّق قبل كلّ شيء في الناس. والناس يموتون، والناس يمرضون، والإنسان ينهار. الحقيقة فينا، التي سكبها يسوع وأطلقها، هذه الحقيقة لا تموت.

نحن نكتب كلمة الله في قريتنا وفي مدينتنا، إن عرفنا أن نجاهد في سبيله، في سبيل تلك الحقيقة التي وضعها في نفوسنا. ولذلك فنحن حقيقة منصوبة في صميم الوجود يترجمها الوجود كلمة.

لسنا مدعوّين إلى أقلّ من هذا، الله افتدانا ليجعلنا لنفسه كلمات تحيا ونفوسًا تكافح وحقيقة تبلغ ذرى السماء.

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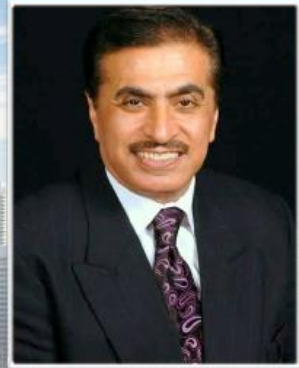
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