

## كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

### St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Weekly Bulletin

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

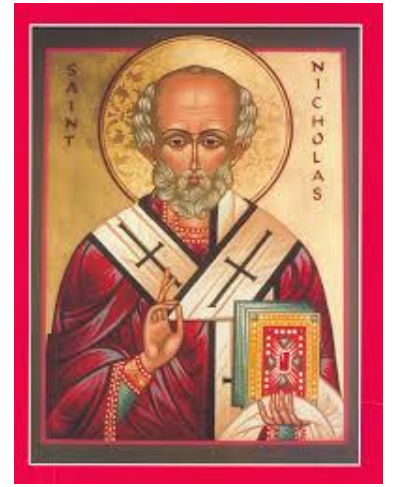
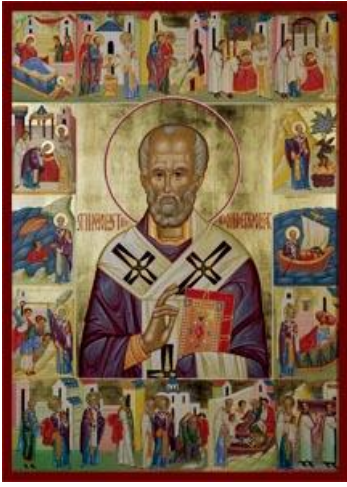
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Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### THE EPISTLE: The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

الرسالة: ١كورنثوس ١٥: ١-١١

يا إخوة أعرفكم بالإنجيل الذي بشرتكم به وقبلتموه وأنتم قائمون فيه، وبه أيضاً تخلصون بأي كلام بشرتكم به إن كنتم تذكرون إلا إذا كنتم قد آمنتم باطلاً. فإني قد سلمت إليكم أولاً ما تسلمته أن المسيح مات من أجل خطايانا على ما في الكتب، وأنه قُبر وأنه قام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب، وأنه تراءى لصفا ثم للاثني عشر، ثم تراءى لأكثر من خمس مئة أخ دفعة واحدة أكثرهم باق حتى الآن وبعضهم قد رقدوا، ثم تراءى ليعقوب ثم لجميع الرسل، وآخر الكل تراءى لي أنا أيضاً كأنه للسقط، لأنني أنا أصغرُ الرسل ولست أهلاً لأن أسمى رسولاً، لأنني اضطهدتُ كنيسة الله، لكنني بنعمة الله أنا ما أنا. ونعمته المعطاة لي لم تكن باطلة، بل تعبت أكثر من جميعهم، ولكن لا أنا بل نعمة الله التي معي. فسواء كنت أم أولئك، هكذا نركز وهكذا آمنتم.

#### THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to Him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

## الإنجيل: متى ١٩: ١٦-٢٢

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع شاب وجثا له قائلاً: أيّها المعلم الصالح ماذا أعمل من الصلاح لتكون لي الحياة الأبدية؟ فقال له: لماذا تدعوني صالحاً وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله؟ ولكن إن كنت تريد أن تدخل الحياة فاحفظ الوصايا. فقال له: آية وصايا؟ قال يسوع: لا تقتل، لا تزني، لا تسرق، لا تشهد بالزور، أكرم أباك وأمك، أحبب قريبك كنفسك. فقال له الشاب: كل هذا قد حفظته منذ صبائي، فماذا ينقصني بعد؟ قال له يسوع: إن كنت تريد أن تكون كاملاً فذهب وبع كل شيء لك وأعطه للمساكين فيكون لك كنز في السماء وتعال اتبعني. فلما سمع الشاب هذا الكلام مضى حزياً لأنه كان ذا مال كثير. فقال يسوع لتلاميذه: الحق أقول لكم إنه يعسر على الغني دخول ملكوت السماوات؛ وأيضاً أقول لكم إن مرور الجمل من ثقب الإبرة لأسهل من دخول غني ملكوت السماوات. فلما سمع تلاميذه بهتوا جداً وقالوا: من يستطيع إذاً أن يخلص؟ فنظر يسوع إليهم وقال لهم: أما عند الناس فلا يُستطاع هذا، وأما عند الله فكل شيء مستطاع.

### *Altar Candle Offering:*

- ❖ By **Nader Dahdah** for the good health of him and his family. God Bless and many years!
- ❖ *Sponsors for Sunday's are needed. Please make checks payable to **St. Nicholas Church** in the amount of \$25.00 or more. Thank you!*

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

- ❖ **September 30<sup>th</sup> & October 1<sup>st</sup>: St. Nicholas Church Annual Food Festival.** A lot of items are needed for our festival. We would appreciate your generosity to donate and help us with purchases. Thank you for your continuous support.
- ❖ **October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 @ 5:00 pm. St. Nicholas proudly presents: A Ballroom Dance Show:** We are having our first Ballroom Dance Show on October 22<sup>nd</sup> including: dinner, DJ, raffle, and contest by HAT. So ladies get out your best HAT and let's have some fun. Donation: \$50.00  
For further information please call **Gladys Maalouf @ 4158320316.**
- ❖ **We need your help:** Preparations for the Annual Church Food Festival begin very soon. We need all the help we can get so we can make it as successful as possible. We will be starting at 9:00 am during all these days. Everybody is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Khourye Eman Baalbaki or Gladys Maalouf. We will be making:
  - **September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>:** Fatair & Zaatar.
  - **September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Kaak
  - **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Grape leaves, stuffed zucchini, & eggplant.

### **CHURCH FOOD FESTIVALS:**

- ❖ Church of the Redeemer (Los Altos Hills, Fr. Samer Yousif ): **September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ Holy Virgin Mary (West Sacramento, Fr. Paul Baba): **September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ St. John the Evangelist (Orinda, Fr. Nicholas Borzghol): **September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **St. Nicholas Church (San Francisco, Fr. George Baalbaki): September 31<sup>st</sup> & October 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **ATTENTION: UPDATE: ST. NICHOLAS' BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

The ST. NICHOLAS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT is well underway. You will notice some of the exterior improvements

- ❖ Check out the west wall where the Sermon on the Mount icon is located. The entire exterior of the church will be repainted.



- ❖ Duncan St. driveway has been reconfigured
- ❖ Driveway near the kitchen has been widened.
- ❖ Waterproofing along the Duncan Street wall

We are anxious to complete many of these projects before our **ANNUAL FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1.**

We want to thank those who are behind the scenes and have put their time and effort into setting all the wheels in motion. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

### **Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: The Rich Young Man**

The Lord warns us today of how difficult it is for a man who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God. Does it mean that the Kingdom of God is open only to destitute, to those who are materially poor, who lack everything on earth? No. The Kingdom of God is open to all who are not enslaved by possessions. When we read the first Beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven', we are given a key to this saying: the poor in spirit are those who have understood that they possess nothing which is their own. We have been created as an act of God, loved into existence; we are offered by God communion with Him to which we have no rights. All we are, all we possess is not our own in the sense that we have not made ourselves, we did not create what is seemingly ours - everything which we are and which we have is love, the love of God and the love of people, and we cannot possess anything because everything is a gift that escapes us the moment we want to have possession of it and say, "It is mine".

On the other hand, the Kingdom of God is really the kingdom of those who are aware that they are infinitely rich because we can expect everything from love divine and from human love. We are rich because we possess nothing, we are rich because we are given all things; and so, it is difficult for one who imagines that he is rich in his own right to belong to that kingdom in which everything is a sign of love, and nothing can be possessed, as it were - taken away from others; because the moment we say that we possess something which is not given us either by God or by human care, we subtract it from the mystery of love.

On the other hand, the moment we cling to anything we become slaves of it. I remember when I was young, a man telling me: Don't you understand that the moment you have taken a copper coin in your hand and are not prepared to open your hand to let it go, you have lost the use of a hand, the use of an arm, the use of your body, because all your attention will be concentrated on not losing this copper coin, - the rest will be forgotten.

Whether we keep in our hand a copper coin, or whether we feel rich in so many other ways - intellectually, emotionally, materially is irrelevant, - we are prisoners, we have lost the use of a limb, the use of our mind, the use of our heart; we can no longer be free, and the Kingdom of God is a kingdom of freedom.

On the other hand also, how difficult it is to one who has never lacked anything, who has always possessed more than he needs, to be aware of the poverty or the need of another: poverty - material, emotional or intellectual, or any other lack. It requires a great deal of

understanding and sympathy, it requires from us that we should learn to be attentive to the movements of other people's hearts and to their material needs in order to respond to them. One says in Russian 'A satisfied person no longer understands a hungry one'; which of us can say that we are hungry in any respect? And this is why we do not understand the needs of people - of one another here, or of people beyond the confines of our congregation. So, let us reflect on that; poverty does not mean destitution; it means freedom from enslavement to an illusion that we are self-sufficient, self-contained, the creator of what we are and what we possess. And also free from enslavement to what is given us to make husbandmen of God. Let us reflect on this; because if we learn this, if we learn what Saint Paul said that whether he is rich, whether he is destitute, he is equally rich because his richness is in God and in the human love. Then we will be able, whether we possess material things or not, to be free of them, and to belong to God's Kingdom which is a Kingdom of mutual love, or mutual solidarity, of compassion for one another, of giving to one another what we were given freely.

### إن أردت أن تكون كاملاً

ابتدأ الشاب الغني الذي جاء إلى يسوع حديثه قائلاً: أيها المعلم الصالح ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية. ويسوع لا يريد أن يدعوه هذا الرجل معلماً صالحاً لأنه أدرك أن الشاب الذي يحدثه كان يظن أن يسوع مجرد إنسان وليس إلهاً وكان يجماله، يدعوه صالحاً كما ندعو بعضنا بعضاً بالألقاب حتى يقلبنا الجميع ونستفيد من لطافة الناس. يسوع يرفض كل أنواع المصانعة والمجاملة الكثيرة ولذلك يجيب الشاب: إن أردت أن تدخل الملكوت فاحفظ الوصايا. الوصايا هي طاعة الله وبالطاعة يدخل الإنسان الملكوت.

ثم نسمع الرجل يقول للسيد: كل هذا قد حفظته منذ صباه، فماذا ينقصني بعد؟ نفهم من هذا أن الرجل متقدم في الحياة الروحية وكامل في أخلاقه على ما يبدو. رغم تمسكه بالشرعية استطاع أن يسأل المعلم: ماذا يعوزني بعد؟ وكأنه كان يشعر بأن هناك أمراً أبعد من ناموس موسى أو أسمى منه. عندئذ أجابه السيد بكلمة غريبة: إن كنت تريد أن تكون كاملاً فاذهب وبع كل شيء لك واعطه للمساكين فيكون لك كنز في السماء وتعال اتبعني. والسؤال الذي يواجهنا اليوم هو: هل نحن مدعوون لنترك بيوتنا وننتشر على الطرقات لنتبع المعلم؟ ماذا يعني لنا كلام يسوع اليوم؟ «إن أردت أن تكون كاملاً بع كل ما لك وتعال اتبعني». هناك أموال تعرقل الناس عن اتباع المسيح، تكون حاجزاً بين الناس والمسيح. المال الكثير قد يكون حملاً وتجربة خلابة بحيث يغرق الناس فيه. عندما نعالج قضية زوجية يشكي الرجل زوجته أحياناً: عندها كل شيء، ماذا تريد؟ يعتقد هذا الرجل أن شريكه حياته تكفي بالمال وتطمئن إلى المال، وأن المال يحل كل شيء. هذا ليس بصحيح. المال مهما تكسب لا يعطي رافة ولا حنواً، وكثيراً ما يخفف من الرافة والحنو والصدقة. هناك بالطبع بيننا أناس يظنون أنهم يستطيعون أن يشتروا الدنيا ويبيعوها بأموالهم. هذا ليس صحيحاً حتى على صعيد الأعمال. فالأعمال علاقات شخصية أولاً وتقوم أولاً على حسن المعاملة.

ثم نسمع الرب يقول بصورة جبارة هادئة: «إن مرور الجمل من ثقب الإبرة لأسهل من دخول غني ملكوت السماوات». والجمل جمل وثقب الإبرة ثقب الإبرة كما نعلم. وكأن ربنا جعل ملكوت الله للأغنياء مستحيلاً! والحق أنه يقول إن الغني المتكبر مخالف للعدالة وإن العدالة تقضي بتوزيع أموال الأغنياء على الذين لا يملكون شيئاً، وألا يُهدر الطعام وآلاف الناس لا يأكلون بما فيه الكفاية.

الغني ليس فقط الإنسان الذي يملك أموالاً كثيرة. كلمة «الغني» معناها من يستغني. الغني من استغنى عن الله، من استغنى عن الله بالمال، بالجمال، بالذكاء، بالثقافة، بالمراكز، بالسلطة، بالمجد. كل هذه إذا تعلّق الإنسان بها تمنعه من دخول الملكوت. ملكوت الله يدخله المتواضعون الذين يفتقرون لربهم ويعتبرونه كل شيء دون سواه. إذا تجردنا من محبة المال ومن كل ادعاء ومن التعلّق بأي شيء منظور، إذا تجردنا من كل ذلك وجدنا أنفسنا فارغين من كل شيء ومستعدين لقبول الله في قلوبنا. عندما نفتقر إلى حضور الله فينا وقد أفرغنا ذاتنا من كل شيء سواه، إذ ذاك نصبح كاملين به «فتعلم الأمم أن الرب مقدّسنا ومكملنا» (حزقيال ٣٧: ٢٨). إذ ذاك نبلغ إلى كمال الله.

جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون





Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>  
12pm-10pm



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- Ladies Auxiliary Kan Zaman Booth ( Photo booth)
- Jumper for the kids
- and much more!

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>  
12pm- 8pm



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Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Redeemer  
PRESENTS  
Our 36th Annual



# Mediterranean Festival

Saturday, September 9 • 12 - 10 pm  
Sunday, September 10 • 12 - 8 pm

Come enjoy two days of fun in the sun!  
Delicious food, family entertainment, music, culture,  
dancing, games, artisan crafts, kids zone, and more!



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Los Altos Hills, CA 94024



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From San Francisco: I-280 S to Magdalena Ave. exit, turn left and go 0.3 miles to 625 Magdalena Avenue



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# **The 13th Annual West Sacramento *Mediterranean Food & Music Festival***

**Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian Church**  
**3060 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691**

**SEPTEMBER 16 & 17, 2017**

**Saturday: 11 am - 10 pm | Sunday: 12 pm - 7 pm**



## ***California Star* *NADER ZAKI***

***accompanied by:*  
*Samer, Taghreed,*  
*Emad, Najwa***



## ***Syncopating Sea Monkeys***



## ***RCHS Big Band***



## ***HVMC Dabke Dance Troup***

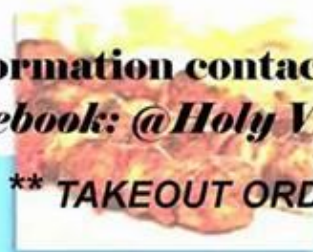
**Admission:**  
**\$3 - Adults (11 & older)**  
**Free - 10 & under**  
**Free Parking**



## ***Belly Dance Show***

**For more information contact Jean Baba @ 916-955-4736**  
**Like us on Facebook: @Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian Church**

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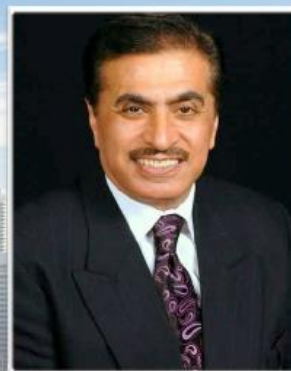
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