

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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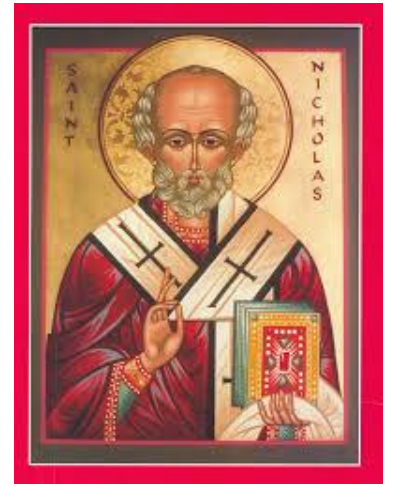
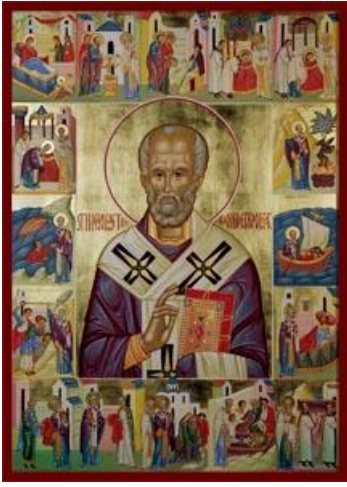
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Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Sub-Dn. Michel Khoury

Sub-Dn. Ilyan Baalbaki

Parish Council Chairman: Maher Shami



Sunday, September 17th, 2017

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Procession of the Cross It is customary in our Archdiocese for the procession to take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

طقوسيًا في آخر الصلاة يرفع الكاهن الصليب أمام الشعب ويبارك به الشعب وكان واضعه بين الرياحين والزهور، فيأتي المؤمنون إليه ساجدين ومقبلينه، فيدفع الكاهن إلى كل واحد زهرة ليوحى إليه انه "بالصليب قد أتى الفرح لكل العالم".



Memorial Service:

❖ **Sunday September 24th:** Six month memorial service for the Servant of God, **Bishara Kubein**, offered by **Raghda Kubein** and family. May his memory be eternal!



THE EPISTLE: St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

الرسالة: غلاطية ٢: ١٦-٢٠

يا إخوة، إذ نعلم أنّ الإنسان لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس بل إنّما بالإيمان بيسوع المسيح، آمنا نحن أيضا بيسوع المسيح لكي نُبرَّر بالإيمان بالمسيح لا بأعمال الناموس، إذ لا يُبرَّر بأعمال الناموس أحد من ذوي الجسد. فإن كنا ونحن طالبون التبرير بالمسيح ووجدنا نحن أيضا خطاة، أفَيكون المسيح إذا خادما للخطيئة؟ حاشى. فإنّي إن عُدْتُ أبني ما قد هدمتُ أجعلُ نفسي متعديًا، لأتي بالناموس مُت للناموس لكي أحيأ الله مع المسيح صُلِبْتُ فأحيأ، لا أنا، بل المسيح يحيا فيّ. وما لي من الحياة في الجسد أنا أحيأ في إيمان ابن الله الذي أحببني وبذل نفسه عني.

الإنجيل: مرقس ٨: ٣٤-٩

قال الرب: مَنْ أراد أن يتبعني فليُكفِّر نفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني، لأنّ من أراد أن يُخلَّص نفسه يُهلكها، ومن أهلك نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يُخلَّصها. فإنّه ماذا ينتفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كلّه وخسر نفسه، أم ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداء عن نفسه؟ لأنّ من يستحي بي وبكلامي في هذا الجيل الفاسق الخاطئ يستحي بي به ابن البشر متى أتى في مجد أبيه مع الملائكة القديسين. وقال لهم: الحق أقول لكم إنّ قوماً من القائمين ههنا لا يذوقون الموت حتّى يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة.

THE GOSPEL: St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

Altar Candle Offering:

- ❖ *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 20th: St. Nicholas TEEN SOYO meeting.** Wednesday, September 20th @ 6PM. Teen SOYO meeting at 2006 Hull Avenue. Redwood City, CA 94061
- ❖ **September 30th & October 1st: St. Nicholas Church Annual Food Festival.** Food, Dancing, Hookah, Raffle to win a CAR! 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.
We need your help: Preparations for the Annual Church Food Festival have begun. 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 27th, 28th, 29th:** Grape leaves, stuffed zucchini, & eggplant.
 - ❖ **September 30th, & October 1st:** FESTIVAL DAYS. We will need help from everybody for all preparations and festival activities.
- ❖ **October 22nd, 2017 @ 5:00 pm. St. Nicholas proudly presents: A Ballroom Dance Show:** Our first Ballroom Dance Show on October 22nd 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 contact **Gladys Maalouf @ 415-832-0316.**

CHURCH FOOD FESTIVALS:

- ❖ Holy Virgin Mary (West Sacramento, Fr. Paul Baba): **September 16th & 17th**
- ❖ St. John the Evangelist (Orinda, Fr. Nicholas Borzghol): **September 23rd & 24th**
- ❖ **St. Nicholas Church (San Francisco, Fr. George Baalbaki): September 30th & October 1st**

The Liberating Cross (by V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Rogers)

On the Sunday following the Exaltation of the Cross we hear Christ say: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's sake will save it."

On the face of it, this seems a hard statement, this demand to deny ourselves and take up a cross. After all, I already have so many demands and responsibilities placed on my shoulders. I have to pay

the bills, raise the kids, clean the house, go to work, go to school, please my spouse, take care of my failing health. . . how can I place a cross on my shoulders when I'm already carrying so much?

I'll go to church, pay my assessment, pray before dinner — that's about all I can handle. We read these words of Christ and they sound like a demand, a requirement. It sounds burdensome to carry a cross, to deny myself, to lose my life in order to find it. It almost sounds like a form of slavery, this demand to deny myself.

Just the opposite is true. Christ promised us that, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Christ came into the world not to bring slavery, but to bring liberation — liberation from sin and death. It is sin and death to which we are enslaved. The way of the cross is the way to freedom.

One of life's great truths is that we cannot be spiritually healed by focusing on ourselves. Selfishness brings sickness. Man's original sin was the selfish desire to be like God. When we focus only on selfish desires and self-indulgence, we are petty, resentful, and even angry people, insisting that our every whim and desire be fulfilled. Our lives become an endless pursuit of self-satisfaction; but because we are seeking satisfaction where it cannot be found, we are constantly irritated frustrated and angered by the world that cannot give us what we want.

Christ tells us the way out of this endless and hopeless cycle of pursuing satisfaction through self-indulgence: in order to be truly free and fulfilled we must cast aside the life of self-indulgence and rather live a life of self-sacrifice. To live for others is the true path to happiness. To offer ourselves to the needs of others brings more fulfillment than all the extravagance the world dangles in front of us.

What dies on the cross is not our life, but the death that seeks to take that life from us. To take up a cross and die to selfishness and self-indulgence is to be reborn into the eternal riches of the kingdom of God.

Just as Paradise was opened to the thief as he hung from his cross, so too does Paradise await those who follow their Savior in living a life dedicated not to self, but to others.

Truly, to know the way of the cross is to know the way of freedom. In Matins on the feast day of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14), we hear, "Today the Cross is elevated and the world sanctified; for Thou who sittest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, when Thou didst stretch Thy hands thereon, didst draw the whole world to Thy knowledge. Make worthy; therefore, of Thy divine glory those who rely on Thee."

Let us commit ourselves to rejecting a life of self-indulgence by taking up our cross, but not as a burden, for Christ promises, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

الصليب

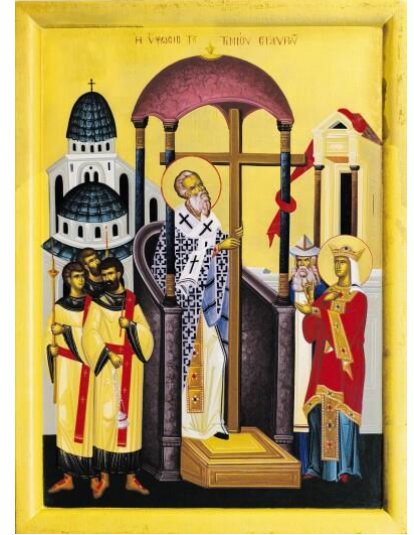
الصليب شجرة الحياة اذ أتم عليها يسوع غلبته للموت. غير أن وصولك الى هذه الحياة يتطلب منك جهداً كبيراً طوال حياتك على الأرض، وهذا ما عبّر عنه مرقس الإنجيلي في قراءة اليوم: "من أراد أن يتبعني فليکفر بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني". من أراد ان يتبعني تعني أن لك أن تمشي وراء السيد وكلماته، ولك أن ترفض هذه المسيرة. ولكن إن أردت أن تتبعه، تكفر بنفسك ونزواتك وتتخلّى عن شهواتك وتنب. بلا هذا كله لست على طريق الصليب. لا يبقى لك من أنا منغلقة على نفسك، متمسكة بذاتها.

ثم انت تعرف أن في دنياك صلباناً كبيرة يجب أن تُصَلَّبَ عليها. لك مشاكل في عائلتك أحياناً. الرجل قد يكون صليبيًا لامرأته أو المرأة صليبيًا لزوجها. ولك أحياناً صليب في حياتك المهنية وحياتك الوطنية. أو فيك امراض او تشنجات. هنا يقول الرب يسوع: “من أراد أن يُخلَّص نفسه يُهلكها”. أن تُخلَّص نفسك من الخطيئة يفترض تعباً كثيراً ونضالاً يومياً. ليس من يوم واحد في حياتك لا تُواجه إغراء الخطيئة وجاذبيتها. هذه الأشياء الفاسدة التي تُواجهها يجب ألا تدخل إلى نفسك، وإذا دخلت وجب عليك أن تطردها. لذا قال المخلص بعد هذا: “مَنْ أَهْلَكَ نفسه من أجلي ومن أجل الإنجيل يُخلَّصها”. ان كنت مرتبطاً بيسوع وحده تقدر أن تُهلك نفسك، ويعني هنا خطاياك وشهواتك.

ويصل ربنا بنا الى الذروة عندما يقول: “ماذا ينتفع الانسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه؟”. ماذا ينفع أن تكسب مالا كثيراً او نفوذاً كبيراً ووجاهة، واستمتعت بكل الملذات ولم تجعل مكاناً في قلبك لله؟ هنا يستعمل العالم بمعنى فساد العالم. أنت مدعو أن تختار بين ربك الله وربك للعالم.

في هذه الحرب الروحية التي تقودها على الشر الآتي إليك او الذي دخل إليك، يجب أن تُدرك أنك تخصّ المسيح، وإذا كنت من خاصته تكون قد بدأت الدخول الى الملكوت على هذه الأرض إذ “ملكوت الله في داخلكم”. أنت تُجاهر أنك للمسيح إذا طلب أحد الناس أن تكشف هويتك. تُجاهر بإيمانك بيسوع وبأن كل فكرك مرتكز عليه.

التعزية التي أعطاها يسوع أحبائه في هذا الخطاب هو أن بعضاً منهم لا يموتون حتى “يروا ملكوت الله قد أتى بقوة”. يسوع بشر بملكوت الله، وهذا الملكوت حلّ بمجيئه لأن تعليمه هو بدء إدخالنا الملكوت وعجائبه ايضاً. ولكن عندما قال: “ملكوت الله سوف يأتي بقوة” قصد موته وقيامته. عندئذ تتأسس الكنيسة وينزل الروح القدس على التلاميذ، وإذا اقتبل الناس المعمودية تكثر الكنيسة وتعطي جسد المسيح ودمه أي يمتد ملكوت الله في النفوس. الكنيسة هي مدخل الى الملكوت بالإنجيل والأسرار المقدسة. ينمو ملكوت الله في الكنيسة ويكتمل في السماء حيث نُعاين الله وجهاً لوجه). جاورجيوس مطران جبيل والبترون





Sept. 30th
12pm-10pm



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Oct. 1st
12pm- 8pm



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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



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*accompanied by:
Samer, Taghreed,
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***Syncopating Sea
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***HVMC Dabke
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***Belly Dance
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*Middle
Eastern
Food
Festival*



**Saturday September 23rd from 11:00am to 8:00pm &
Sunday September 24th from 12:00pm to 8:00pm**

**St. John the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church
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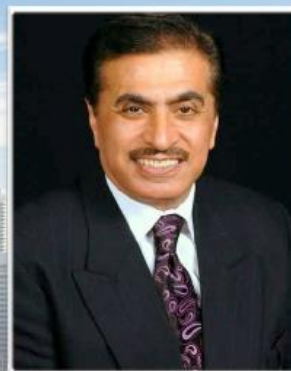
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