

كنيسة مار نقولا الانطاكية الاثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Weekly Bulletin

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. George Baalbaki

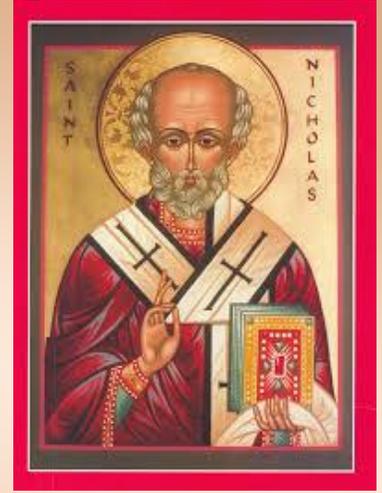
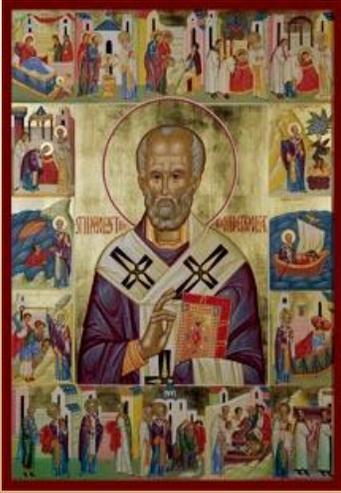
(586) 214-4428- revbaalbaki@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. Gregory Ofiesh

Rev. Deacon Niphon Sweiss

Sub-Dn. Michel Houry

Parish Council Chairman: Salim Qaru



Sunday, June 15th, 2014

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

THE EPISTLE 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, 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. وعذب آخرون بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا بالنجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرون ذاقوا الهزء والجلد والقيود ايضاً والسجن، ورُجموا ونُشروا وامتنحوا وماتوا بحد السيف، وساحوا في جلود غنم ومعزّ وهم مُعوزون مُضايقون مَجْهُودون، ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم، فكانوا تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم، مشهوداً لهم بالإيمان، لم ينالوا الموعد لأن الله سبق فنظر لنا شيئاً أفضل أن لا يكتملوا بدوننا. فنحن ايضاً اذ يُحدّق بنا مثل هذه السحابة من الشهود فلنثقلّ عنا كل ثقلٍ والخطيئة المحيطة بسهولة بنا، ولنسابق بالصبر في الجهاد الذي أمامنا، ناظرين الى رئيس الإيمان ومكمله يسوع.

Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30 The Lord saith to his disciples: So every one 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 you. 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 his twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands; for my name's sake, will receive manifold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

الإنجيل: متى 33:10-32 و 37-38 و 19:27-30 قال الرب لتلاميذه: كل من يعترف بي قدام الناس أعترف انا به قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. ومن يُنكرني قدام الناس أنكره انا قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. من أحبَّ أبًا أو أمًا أكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن أحب ابنا أو بنتا أكثر 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 إنكم 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 أو إخوة أو أخوات أو أبًا أو أمًا أو امرأة أو أولادا أو حقولا من اجل اسمي يأخذ مئة ضعف ويرث الحياة الأبدية. وكثيرون أولون يكونون آخرين وآخرين يكونون أولين.

From the heights thou didst descend O Compassionate One, and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the body of thy Martyrs throughout all the world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifteth her voice, crying, Turn with thy compassion to thy people, and grant peace to thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

Thy work of justice did reveal Thee to Thy community as a Canon of faith. The likeness of humility and the teacher of abstinence. O, Thou Father and great Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, by Thy meekness wealth, intercede therefore, intercede with Christ that He will save our souls.

Unto thee, O Lord, the Author of creation, the universe doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do thou preserve in peace profound thy Church. O most merciful One.

انحدرت من العلو يا متحنن، وقبلت الدفن ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي تعتقنا من الآلام، فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا يا رب المجد لك.

ايها المسيح الاله، ان كنيسةك اذ قد تزينت بدماء شهدائك الذين في كل العالم، كانتها ببرفيرة وارجوان، فهي تهتف اليك صارخة: ارسل رافتك لشعبك، وامنح السلام لمدينتك، ولنفوسنا الرحمة العظمى.

لقد أظهرتك أفعال الحق لرعيته، قانوناً للإيمان، وصورة للوداعة ومعلماً للامسك، أيها الأب رئيس الكهنة نيقولاوس، فلذلك أحرزت بالتواضع الرفعة وبالمسكنة الغنى، فنتشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

أيها الرب البارئ الخليفة، إن المسكونة تقدم لك الشهداء اللابسي الله كباكير الطبيعة. فبتوسلاتهم احفظ كنيسةك في سلام دائم، من أجل والدة الإله، يا جزيل الرحمة

قناديل الهيكل Altar Candles & Coffee Hour

- **Sherine Douy Nakad** for **her** good health and **her family**. Many years!

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



Dawud and Huda Rantisi and family would like to congratulate **Dina Rantisi** for graduating from San Francisco State University with her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Minor in International Relations. We are incredibly proud of her and we know she will do great things in the future, we wish her the best of luck! May God Bless her.



Dawud and Huda Rantisi and family would like to congratulate **Fadi Rantisi** for graduating from Skyline Community College with his Associate's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. We are very proud of him and we wish him the best of luck at San Francisco State University. May God Bless him.



St. Nicholas Clergy and Parish Family would like to congratulate the following graduates for their accomplishments:

Dina Rantisi graduating from San Francisco State University with her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Minor in International Relations

Fadi Rantisi graduating from Skyline Community College with his Associate's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Merna Katout graduating from Notre Dame de Namur University with Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Art.

Mabrook and May the Lord God Shower you with his Mercy!

Mark your Calendars:

THIS SUNDAY Father's Day Picnic on June 15th!

The picnic will be held at Dr. Hanna's winery
Location: 5345 Occidental Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Items you may need to take with you: folding chairs
and tables, Patio Umbrella, blankets....

Adults: \$15.00 / Children under 12 \$10.00

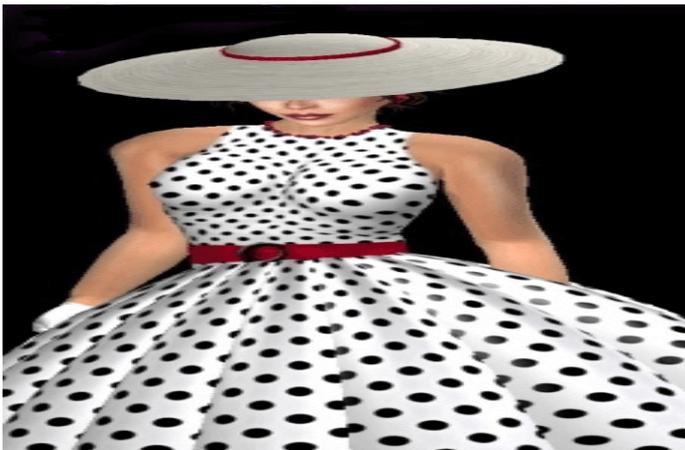
*Divine Liturgy at St. Nicolas Church
will start at 10:00 AM*

يبدأ القداس الالهي الساعة 10:00 صباحاً

There will be no Matins.

All Ladies Please Bring a tray of Deserts.....

RSVP: Jeries Azar 415-710-0456 or The church office at 415-648-5200



MODELS NEEDED For St. Nicholas Fashion Show

Twenty five Models Needed
Age : 18 and over
Size: All sizes are welcome
Event Date: October 4th 2014
If you are interested
Please call
Somaya Hanna
415-239-0714
OR Email
sue.rantisi@gmail.com
Openings are filling quickly
Please reserve ASAP



ATTENTION ALL TEENS:

Join Teen SOYO on the evening of Friday, June 13th for an evening of bowling and fun.
900 KING DRIVE DALY CITY, CA 94015. Please email mqaqish16@ndhsb.org or
baalbaki.i.315@gmail.com if you have any questions.

2014 Parish Life Registration volunteers needed:

We will be open from Wednesday, July 1 through Saturday, July 5 - 10 am - to 10 pm and Sunday, July 6, 10 am - 2:00 pm. Also we will need help during the week before the Conference to prepare the materials needed. We will have signup sheets on Sunday after church. To sign up or get more information, please contact Marilyn Habeeb, 650-692-1966 or email at mhabeeb692@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sunday of All Saints

INTRODUCTION

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

BACKGROUND

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

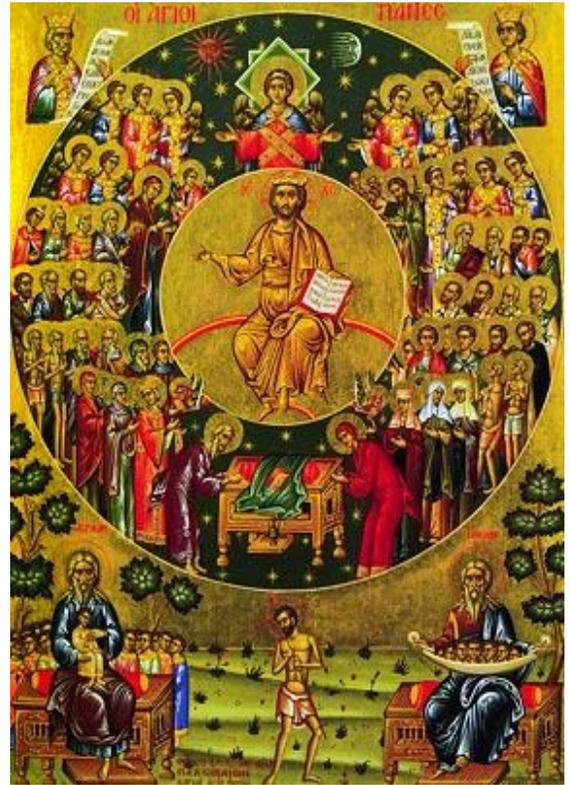
This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

ICON OF THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. To the side of the throne are Adam and Eve, bowing in reverence to Christ. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory. At the lower left of the icon is the Patriarch Abraham who has a righteous soul in his bosom, as told in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in the Gospel. At the lower center is the Good Thief who was crucified with Christ. On the lower right is the Patriarch Jacob.



Pentecost and Creation

Earth is a wondrous place – no matter where we go – how deep, how far, how high, how hot, how inhospitable – in this place we find life. Everywhere we look on our nearest neighbor – Mars – we find – no life. We want to find life. We hope to find life. We theorize life. But we have yet to find it.

There is something about life, at least in our earthly experience, that *isinexorable*. Any individual case of life may be fragile, but life itself endures. In the Genesis account we are told that God blessed this planet and said:

Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Gen 1:11-12 NKJ)

Note that the account does not say that God said “Let there be life!” and life just appeared...(Boom! Trees!) But that He blessed this place and commanded that *it bring forth* grass... herbs... trees... according to their kind... and it was so!

The feast of Pentecost in Eastern tradition, celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church as Christians do across the world. However, there is a strange aspect to the Eastern version of the feast (or so it might seem). The Feast focuses as much on the Holy Spirit’s work in Creation as it does on the Spirit’s work in the Church. The Church is decorated in green. In Russian tradition, branches of birch are brought into the Church; fresh green grass is placed on the floor; flowers are everywhere. In Soviet times a secular version of the festival remained, called the Day of Trees.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church is not something separate from Creation – nor are the trees a distraction from the Church. They are, *together*, a proper reminder of the role God’s Spirit plays always, everywhere. He is the “Lord and Giver of Life.”

Just as the Spirit moved over the face of the waters in the beginning of creation, so He moves over the face of all things at all times, bringing forth life and all good things. Though I am frequently assaulted with bouts of pessimism, despairing over various aspects of our distorted civilization, the truth is that like the planet itself, civilization with its drive for beauty and order seem inexorable. The history of humanity is not the story of a fall from a great civilization with increasing instances of barbarism and cave dwelling. Great civilizations have risen and fallen, but civilizations continue to occur. Some may already have begun in the ruins that surround us now.

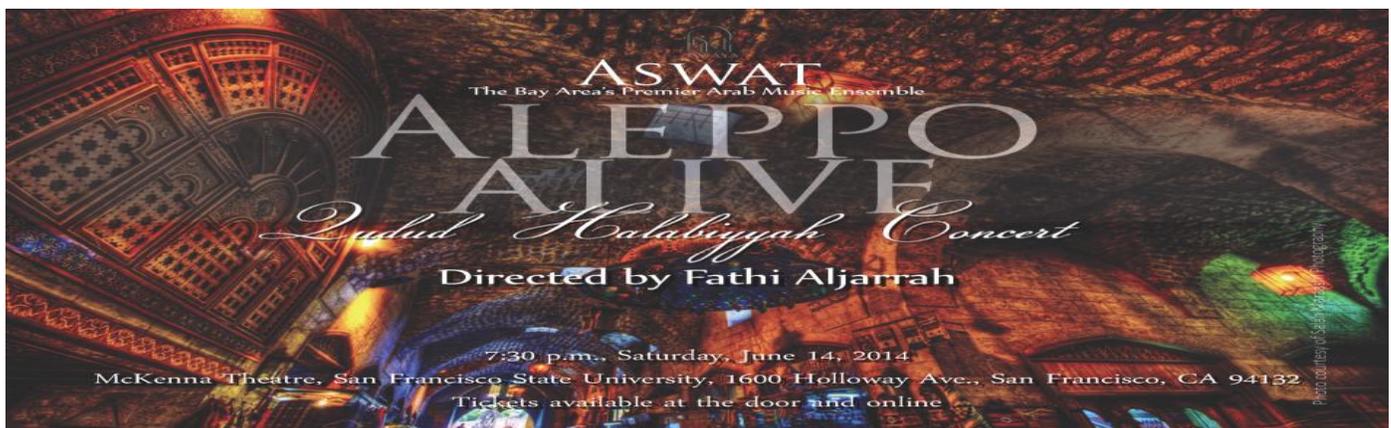
The story told in Scripture is not the story of collapse and decay. There are certainly dire warnings of terrible trials and great catastrophes. But these things do not reveal the mystery of God’s will. These things are cracks in the pavement while life continues to burst forth:

God has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth– in Him (Eph. 1:9-10).

What appeared as tongues of flame upon the heads of the disciples at Pentecost was a manifestation of this Divine Purpose at work. With the sound of a mighty rushing wind, the Holy Spirit filled the room. The fullness of the Church burst into the streets proclaiming the Gospel in a multitude of languages. Being birthed in Jerusalem was the New Jerusalem, where there is neither slave nor free, Jew nor Greek, male nor female. Instead there is the fullness that fills all things bringing forth all things in one – in the One Christ Himself.

The voice of Pentecost is the voice of creation’s groans being transformed into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Stones cry out, trees clap their hands and the song of creation rejoices in the One Christ.

<http://glory2godforallthings.com/2013/06/21/pentecost-and-creation/>





Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
Parish Life Conference
Hosted by: St. Nicholas Church, San Francisco, CA
July 2-6, 2014

Conference Hotel:

Hyatt Regency, Burlingame; \$125.00 group room rate
(available 3 days prior after Conference)

Conference Highlights:

- Keynote Addresses by Right Reverend Irenei Steenberg (Thursday-Saturday)
- Thursday Workshops (12:30-2:00 PM or 2:30-4:00 PM)
 - *Teaching Orthodox Christian Values in the Home*
 - *Altar Boys Training*
 - *Teen Forum with Sayidna JOSEPH*
 - *Parish Financial Budgeting and Reporting for Clergy*
 - *Equipping Our Youth with Shields against Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug use, so they will Excel in Life.*
- Order of St. Ignatius Dinner and Complementary Children Dinner to allow parents can attend Dinner (Thursday)
- Organizational Meetings and Diocesan General Assembly (Friday)
- Bible Bowl (Friday Evening)
- Teen Dance (Friday After Bible Bowl)
- Oratorical Festival (Saturday)
- Dinner & Hafli (Saturday)
- Award's Brunch (Sunday after Hierarchical Divine Liturgy)
- Daily Liturgy and Vespers (Thursday through Sunday)
- Daily Kids Club and Teen Activities (Thursday through Saturday)



With the falling asleep of Metropolitan PHILIP, we will be dedicating the Souvenir Journal in his memory. We would like every family within the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West to submit a Souvenir Journal entry in tribute to Metropolitan PHILIP of Thrice Blessed Memory and Eternal Repose. To purchase an entry for the Souvenir Journal go to: www.LAPLC.org

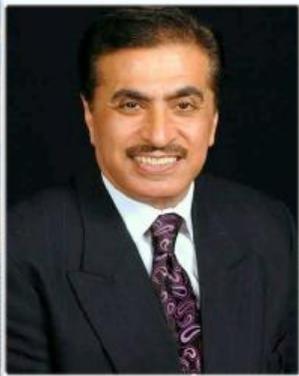
For more information, including making your Hotel Reservations and Online Registration of Event Tickets or printing Conference forms go to: www.LAPLC.org or email us: 2014plcsf@gmail.com

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