

# + St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

Sunday Bulletin – December 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 A.D.



**WE START WITH THIS REASON**

*(Crown of Thorns)*

**TO FINISH AT THE TRUTH OF THIS SEASON!**

*(Christmas Wreath)*



لننطلق من هذا السبب  
الى حقيقة هذا الموسم  
للوصل

Forget About What the World is Doing! Just Make Sure That **Jesus Christ** is the Reason for **YOUR** Christmas Season! You Don't Need to Force Others & Don't Let Them Force You! Simply Influence the World by Your Persistent **Faith & Love!**

We continue to pray for Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (*Antiochian Orthodox Metropolitan of Aleppo, Syria*) & Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim (*Syriac Orthodox Metropolitan of Aleppo, Syria*) who were **abducted by terrorists** on April 22 in Syria. We still have no official news concerning them! Please keep them in your prayers! The world may have forgotten about you, and the media is not interested, but we will not forget about you nor be silent!



80 de Castelnau Est, Montreal, QC, H2R 1P2 – Office: 514-270-9788; Fax: 514-270-6424;  
Pastoral Emergency: 514-926-7875 - [www.stnicholasmtl.com](http://www.stnicholasmtl.com)/office@stnicholasmtl.org

+ **Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)**

### **THE HOLY EPISTLE (Colossians 3:4-11)**

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

مَتَى اَظْهَرَ الْمَسِيحِ حَيَاتِنَا، فَحَيِّنِينَ تُظْهَرُونَ اِنَّكُمْ اَيْضاً مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمِيتُوا اَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى الْاَرْضِ: الزَّانَا، النَّجَاسَةَ، الْهَوَى، الشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ، الطَّمَعِ الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةُ الْاَوْثَانِ، الْاُمُورَ الَّتِي مِنْ اَجْلِهَا يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللهِ عَلَى اِبْنَاءِ الْمَعْصِيَةِ، الَّذِينَ بَيْنَهُمْ اِنَّكُمْ اَيْضاً سَلَكَتُمْ قَبْلاً، حِينَ كُنْتُمْ تَعِيشُونَ فِيهَا. وَأَمَّا الْآنَ فَاطْرَحُوا عَنْكُمْ اِنَّكُمْ اَيْضاً الْكُلَّ: الْعُضْبَ، السَّخَطَ، الْخُبْثَ، التَّجْدِيفَ، الْكَلَامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ افْوَاهِكُمْ. لَا تَكْذِبُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ، اِذْ خَلَعْتُمْ الْاِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ اَعْمَالِهِ، وَلَيْسْتُمْ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ حَسَبَ صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ، حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَيَهُودِيٌّ، خِتَانٌ وَعُزْلَةٌ، بَرَبْرِيٌّ سِكْنِيٌّ، عَبْدٌ حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحِ الْكُلِّ وَفِي الْكُلِّ.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Luke 14:16-24)**

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'

فَقَالَ لَهُ: «اِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ وَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ لِيَقُولَ لِّلْمَدْعُوِّينَ: تَعَالَوْا لِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ. فَابْتَدَأَ الْجَمِيعُ بِرَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. قَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: اِنِّي اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلاً وَأَنَا مُضْطَرٌّ أَنْ اُخْرَجَ وَأَنْظُرُهُ. أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تُعْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ آخَرُ: اِنِّي اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَمْتَحِنَهَا. أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تُعْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ آخَرُ: اِنِّي تَرَوَّجْتُ بِامْرَأَةٍ فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَقْدِرُ أَنْ اُجِيءَ. فَأَتَى ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. حَيِّنِينَ غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: اُخْرَجْ عَاجِلاً إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَرْقِطْهَا وَأَدْخُلْ إِلَى هُنَا الْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجُدَعِ وَالْعُرْجِ وَالْعُمَى. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ قَدْ صَارَ كَمَا أَمَرْتَ وَيُوجَدُ أَيْضاً مَكَانٌ. فَقَالَ السَّيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ: اُخْرَجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالسَّبَاجَاتِ وَالزَّرْمُهُمُ بِالذُّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي لِأَنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاكَ الرَّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوِّينَ يَدْخُلُ عَشَائِي.»

Join us today in supporting our **Sunday School** as they perform their **Annual Christmas Concert** for you & Join them downstairs for their **Christmas Party**

Coffee Hour: High Quality **Belgian Chocolates** will be on sale by our **Men's Club**  
Along with **Classy 2014 Agendas** by our **Antiochian Women**

**Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ December 24 2013**

**Orthros at 6:00pm followed by the Divine Liturgy at 7:00pm**

**Followed by Choir Christmas Concert & then the Christmas Reception in the Hall**

### **Today's Holy Oblation is offered for the Good Health of the Servants of God:**

Sacha Mathiew Sara, Beatrice Saray, Joseph Saray Jr. (Rita, Thomas, Daniel), Florence Sayegh, Hynda-Anne Sayegh (Cassandra), Philip Sayer, Irma Sayfy, Carol Saykaly (Brian), Mark Saykaly (Louise, Christine), Michelle Saykaly (Gregory, Maggie, Adele), Vivian Saykaly, Lorraine Scaff (Nagib, Lara), Roger Sekaly, Bruce Shadeed (Suzanne, Nicholas, Alexander), Gerry Shadeed (Bente, Erica, Dana), Michael Shadeed (Carole), Virginia Shadeed, Amin Shahda (Dalida, Sarah, Sonia), Virginia Shaheen, George Shalhoub, Claire Shamy, Doris Shamy (Bill), Dr. Frank Shamy (Tania, Michel), Nicholas Shamy (Sanaa, Miled, Dyala, Elissar, Paul).

### **Today's Memorial Prayers are offered for the Eternal Memory of the Servants of God:**

- \* For Joyce (Assaly) Ayoub (1<sup>st</sup> year). Remembered also: Beatrice, Norman, Pauline, Bob, Nicholas, Skye, Mounira & George. Offered by Charles Ayoub & Family.
- \* For Fares Abou Merhi (4<sup>th</sup> year) & Abdallah Chouker (8<sup>th</sup> year). Offered by Therese Azakie, Sam & Andrea Chouker.
- \* For Florida & Victoria Nackley, Elham & Antoine Nahhat. Offered by Helene & Family.
- \* For Essa & Alma Shamy. Remembered also: Edward, Raymond & Victor. Offered by Doris Shamy and Bill Scullion.

## **H.E. METROPOLITAN PHILIP'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY RECEPTION INVITATION**

**Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Obama,** Greetings and best wishes to you and to your two precious daughters in the spirit of this Holy Christmas season. I was honored to receive your invitation to attend a White House holiday reception on Friday, December 6th, 2013. I remember fondly my attendance at the White House reception two years ago. The photograph which we took together on that auspicious occasion continues to adorn my office. Unfortunately Mr. President, I did not attend your holiday reception this year because while I do have the joy of Christmas, I do not have the peace of Christmas. This is the peace which the angels proclaimed on that Holy Night "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14). Although I am Lebanese by birth and a proud American citizen for the past fifty-seven years, I received my secondary education in the cities of Homs and Damascus, Syria. Mr. President I do not have the peace of Christmas because there is no peace either in Lebanon or in Syria. During the time which I spent in Syria as a student and secretary to the late Patriarch Alexandros Tahan, I ate the bread of Syria, I drank the water of Syria, I breathed the air of Syria and I enjoyed the most generous hospitality of the Syrian people. No Mr. President, I do not have the peace of Christmas while two of my brother archbishops Boulos Yazigi and Youhanna Ibrahim are still in captivity in northern Syria with no news since their abduction. Actually Mr. President, we do not know whether they are alive or dead. Two weeks ago, Mr. President, twelve of our Orthodox nuns were abducted from the convent of St. Thekla of Maaloula, Syria. These nuns are innocent women who care for some orphans in the convent. These peaceful women do not have arms and do not fight but pray for peace every day and night. I contacted the State Department and spoke to Ambassador Ford who promised me that he is doing everything possible to gain the release of the two abducted Archbishops and the nuns, but to no avail. Recently a video appeared on Al-Jazeera network which reportedly showed the nuns and the Abbess of the convent, Mother Pelagia in captivity, and she said that they were living in a villa. What a mockery! If the abductors wanted the nuns to escape the bombardment of Maaloula, they could have sent them to the Orthodox Patriarchate in Damascus, which can accommodate one hundred nuns. We know the truth Mr. President. The truth is that the video was made under extreme psychological pressure, which these nuns are enduring every day. There is every reason to fear for their safety. Finally Mr. President, anything that you can do as the leader of the free world to stop the bloodshed and destruction in Syria will be very deeply appreciated. May the peace of Christmas which this broken world does not understand dwell in your hearts and in the hearts of your family forever. Sincerely yours, **Metropolitan PHILIP (Saliba)**



IC XC  
NI KA  
ORTHODOX FAITH

أني أستطيع  
كل شيء  
في المسيح  
الذي  
يقوّيني

فيلبي 4-13

Philippians 4:13

I CAN DO ALL THINGS...



THROUGH CHRIST  
WHO STRENGTHENS ME

لرفع الظلم عن الارشمندريت المتوحد بندلايمون فرح



أجراس كنائسنا  
ستظل تقرع

THE BELLS OF  
OUR CHURCHES  
WILL KEEP  
RINGING!

ST. THEKLA ORTHODOX MONASTERY  
IN MAALOULA BEFORE IT WAS  
BOMBARDED BY TERRORISTS

