

+ St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

Sunday Bulletin – January 5th 2014 A.D.



Blessing of the Waters Outdoors in Russia!

We continue to pray for Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi, Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim, Mother Pelagia & the Nuns of Maaloula who were all **abducted by terrorists** in Syria. And for all Christians who are being persecuted in the Middle East! The world may not be concerned about you, the media may not care, but we will not forget about you nor be silent!



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

THE HOLY EPISTLE (2 Timothy 4:5-8)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

وَأَمَّا أَنْتَ فَاصْحُ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ. احْتَمِلِ الْمُشَقَّاتِ. اعْمَلْ عَمَلَ الْمُبَشِّرِ. نَمِّ خِدْمَتَكَ. فَإِنِّي أَنَا الْآنَ أَسْكَبُ كَيْبًا، وَوَقْتُ انْجِلَالِي قَدْ حَضَرَ. قَدْ جَاهَدْتُ الْجِهَادَ الْحَسَنَ، أَكْمَلْتُ السَّعْيَ، حَفِظْتُ الْإِيمَانَ، وَأَخِيرًا قَدْ وُضِعَ لِي إِكْلِيلُ الْبَرِّ، الَّذِي يَهْبُهُ لِي فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ الرَّبُّ النَّيَّانُ الْعَادِلُ، وَلَيْسَ لِي قَطُّ، بَلْ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ ظُهُورَهُ أَيْضًا.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

بَدَأَ إِنْجِيلَ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ: كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: «هَا أَنَا أُرْسِلُ أَمَامَ وَجْهِكَ مَلَائِكَةَ الَّتِي يَهَيِّئُ طَرِيقَكَ قُدَّامَكَ. صَوْتٌ صَارِحٌ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ: أَعِدُّوا طَرِيقَ الرَّبِّ اصْنَعُوا سُبُلَهُ مُسْتَقِيمَةً.» كَانَ يُوحَنَّا يُعَمِّدُ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَيَكْرُرُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ التَّوْبَةِ لِمَغْفَرَةِ الْخَطَايَا. وَخَرَجَ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُ كُورَةِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَأَهْلُ أُورُشَلِيمَ وَاعْتَمَدُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ مِنْهُ فِي نَهْرِ الْأُرْدُنِّ مُعْتَرِفِينَ بِخَطَايَاهُمْ. وَكَانَ يُوحَنَّا يَلْبَسُ وَبَرَ الْإِبِلِ وَمِنْطَقَةً مِنْ جِلْدٍ عَلَى حَقْوِيهِ وَيَأْكُلُ جَرَادًا وَعَسَلًا بَرِّيًّا. وَكَانَ يَكْرُرُ قَائِلًا: «يَأْتِي بَعْدِي مَنْ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي الَّذِي لَسْتُ أَهْلًا أَنْ أَنْحِي وَأَحْلَ سُبُورَ جِذَائِهِ. أَنَا عَمَدْتُكُمْ بِالْمَاءِ وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَسَيُعَمِّدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.»

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST IN SYRIA:

*Bread! Bread! Bread!
Bread! Bread! Bread!
Bread! Bread! Bread!*



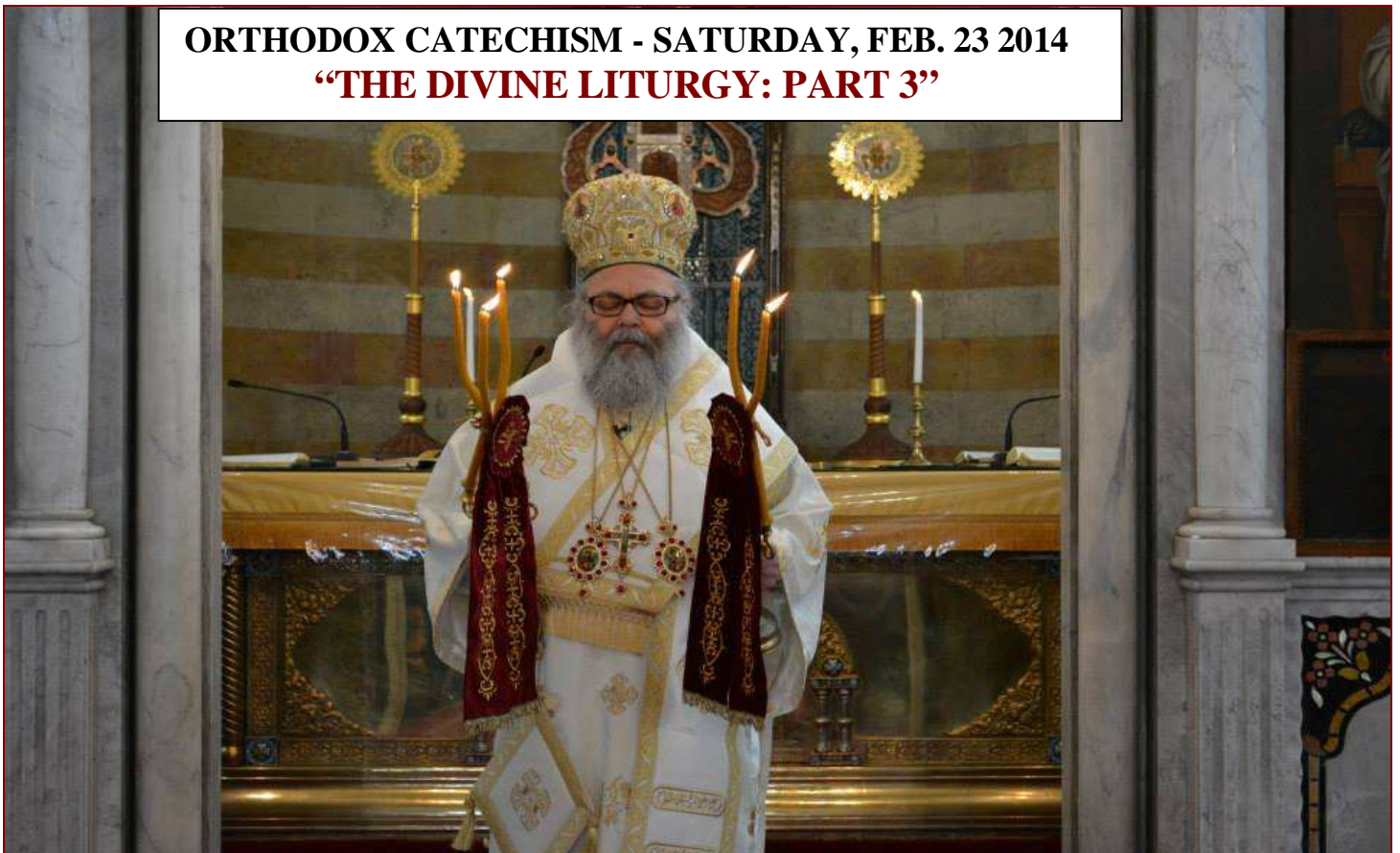
طلبات العيد في سوريا

**MOVIE NIGHT – Saturday January 25 at 7:00pm
“Extreme Pilgrim & The Last Anchorite”**



An Anglican Cleric encounters Fr. Lazarus - a Coptic Orthodox Monk (former Australian Atheist) who has been living in solitude for many years in an ancient Cave of St. Anthony the Great in the vast Egyptian Desert. The Englishman experiences a taste of Orthodox Asceticism & Spirituality under the guidance of Fr. Lazarus, and learns about his calling from the World to the Desert!

**ORTHODOX CATECHISM - SATURDAY, FEB. 23 2014
“THE DIVINE LITURGY: PART 3”**





Enjoy our
ZALABI

Sunday, January 5th 2014
During the Coffee Hour



Sitto's Kitchen
*Kibbe Labaniye
& Shish-Barak*

Sunday,
February 2nd 2014

Book the Date!
More info to come!

St. Nicholas Teen SOYO
Presents their Annual:

“St. Valentine’s Youth Dance Event”

Saturday, February 15 2014
At the St. Nicholas Church Hall

More Info to Come!

St. Nicholas Sunday School

*Monthly Birthday Party
& Fun Activity*

Sunday January 19

Sunday February 16

Today’s Memorial Prayers are offered for the Eternal Memory of the Servants of God:

* For Fadwa, Saleem, Helen, Gordon, Richard, Maurice, Susan, Louis & Gregory. Offered by the Aboud Family.

* For Gordon Battah (14th year). Remembered also: Rashidy & Joseph, Norman & Alphonse, Alex & Marguerite. Offered by Grace Battah & Family.



St. Nicholas Church
Wine & Mezza
*For our Singles
& Young Couples*

More Info to Come!



**St. Nicholas
Pre-Lenten Luncheon**

Sunday March 2nd 2014

Book the Date!



THE HERODS OF SYRIA

The event of Christ's birth is tied to the tragic event of the killing of "fourteen thousand children" (The Holy Innocents) at the orders of Herod, the king of Judea. Herod could not bear for someone to be born who would threaten his authority and speak the truth in his presence. He committed the massacre of thousands of children in order to insure the continuation of his rule and his power over people. The child-killer Herod is still alive and well. He has not died. From the dawn of history until today, how many Herods have ruled, tyrannized, been exalted, then feel and slept under the ground? Even so, he has not died. He has worn various garbs and put on various clothes. He has spoken all the languages of the world. He has taken the colors of every race and nation. He is white, black, yellow and red. He might be a man at one time and a woman at another time. He takes different forms from one generation to another and he has no lack of grooming in this age. In all situations there are those who laud and applaud him and grant him obedience and loyalty, pledging him to be the ruler of themselves and their tribe. Herod might be wrapped in the garb of secularism, socialism, nationalism or any other ideology... He might put on the mantle of religious leaders and hide behind religious or sectarian slogans. But he remains the Herod who does not see his glory remain and grow as quickly as the number of victims piled up in mass graves. "Herod, who seeks the young child's life, is dead." With these words, the angel brought the good news to Joseph, the betrothed of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. The angel brings good tidings of the death of King Herod who ordered the destruction of all the children of Bethlehem under the age of two so that Christ might perish among those babies. The angel appears to Joseph in a dream and asks him to return with the baby Jesus from the land of Egypt to the land of Palestine, after the one who was seeking to kill Him died. The death is wonderful news brought by the angel, the angel of good tidings, to Joseph. Yes, news of Herod's death was joyous news that brought good tidings to many, among them Joseph and Mary. We are not sinning if we rejoice and be glad with them. Death is true, as people say. There must come the day when a person dies and goes from this world to the next. But Herod's death did not prevent Christ's crucifixion and killing. Herod is not a closed-off and isolated individual. One Herod grows and sprouts another Herod, and on and on until time ends and God inherits the earth and everything upon it. In Syria today there is not one Herod, but rather many Herods who consider it permissible to commit massacres, killings, beheadings and forced expulsions. All the Herods of the world have come together against Syria, like hungry vultures circling over corpses. The Herods are Syrian, Arab and foreign. Or, you could say the Draculas of this age, satisfied only by more Syrian blood. When will those who seek to kill the child die? This is not merely a question. It is an ardent prayer that we raise up on the feast of the Nativity of Christ, the King of Peace. When will they die? A question as a prayer from the heart bearing hope, as we are the children of hope, that there will be an end to the shedding of the blood of innocents. Your Nativity, O Christ, fills us with gladness, joy and delight. But it is also our right to be glad, rejoice and delight when we hear that one of the Herods has died, and how much more so if it were all of them!



Sunday, January 5th 2014:
Blessing of the Water for the Feast of Holy Theophany
Following the Divine Liturgy

*“We are on the high seas of life,
Sometimes there are storms and at other times calm.
God’s grace does not leave us.
Else we would have sunk, if He had not held us up.”
(The reposed Elder Amphilochios of Patmos Island)*

