

WHERE "SANTA & STOCKINGS" REALLY COME FROM:
ST. NICHOLAS SECRETLY DELIVERS (AT NIGHT) MARRIAGE DOWRIES OF
GOLD COINS TO 3 SISTERS, SAVING THEM FROM SELLING THEIR BODIES.



ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

80 de Castelnau Est, Montreal, QC, H2R 1P2 +Rev. Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)
514-270-9788 office@stnicholasmtl.com www.stnicholasmtl.com *Follow us on **FACEBOOK!***
We are a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America,
an Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch & all the East.

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

Orthros/Matins 9:00am-10:30am

Divine Liturgy 10:30am-12:00pm

BULLETIN: DECEMBER 6, 2015 A.D.



THE HOLY EPISTLE (Hebrews 13:17-21)

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honourably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَطِيعُوا مُرْشِدِيكُمْ وَاخْضَعُوا، لِأَنَّهُمْ يَسْهَرُونَ لِأَجْلِ نَفُوسِكُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ سَوْفَ يُعْطُونَ حِسَابًا، لِكَيْ يَفْعَلُوا ذَلِكَ بِفَرَحٍ، لَا أَنِينٍ، لِأَنَّ هَذَا غَيْرُ نَافِعٍ لَكُمْ. صَلُّوا لِأَجْلِنَا، لِأَنَّنا نَتَّقُ أَنْ لَنَا ضَمِيرًا صَالِحًا، رَاغِبِينَ أَنْ نَتَّصِرَفَ حَسَنًا فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَلَكِنْ أَطْلُبُ أَكْثَرَ أَنْ تَفْعَلُوا هَذَا لِكَيْ أُرَدَّ إِلَيْكُمْ بِأَكْثَرِ سُرْعَةٍ. وَإِلَهُ السَّلَامِ الَّذِي أَقَامَ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ رَاعِي الْخِرَافِ الْعَظِيمِ، رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ، بِدَمِ الْعَهْدِ الْأَبَدِيِّ، لِيُكَمِّلَكُمْ فِي كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ لِتَصْنَعُوا مَشِيئَتَهُ، عَامِلًا فِيكُمْ مَا يُرْضِي أَمَامَهُ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي لَهُ الْمَجْدُ إِلَى أَبَدِ الْأَبَدِينَ. آمِينَ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Luke 13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ كَانَ يَسُوعُ يُعَلِّمُ فِي أَحَدِ الْمَجَامِعِ فِي السَّبْتِ، وَإِذَا امْرَأَةً كَانَتْ بِهَا رُوحٌ ضَعِيفٌ ثَمَانِي عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، وَكَانَتْ مُنْحَنِيَةً وَلَمْ تَقْدِرْ أَنْ تَنْتَصِبَ الْبَتَّةَ. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهَا يَسُوعُ دَعَاهَا وَقَالَ لَهَا: يَا امْرَأَةُ، إِنَّكِ مَحْلُولَةٌ مِنْ ضَعْفِكَ!. وَوَضَعَ عَلَيْهَا يَدَيْهِ، فَفِي الْحَالِ اسْتَقَامَتْ وَمَجَّدَتِ اللَّهَ. فَأَجَابَ رَئِيسُ الْمَجْمَعِ، وَهُوَ مُغْتَاظٌ لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ أَبْرَأَ فِي السَّبْتِ، وَقَالَ لِلْمَجْمَعِ: هِيَ سِتَّةُ أَيَّامٍ يَنْبَغِي فِيهَا الْعَمَلُ، فَفِي هَذِهِ آتُوا وَاسْتَشْفُوا، وَلَيْسَ فِي يَوْمِ السَّبْتِ! فَأَجَابَهُ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ: يَا مُرَائِي أَلَا يَحُلُّ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْكُمْ فِي السَّبْتِ ثَوْرَهُ أَوْ حِمَارَهُ مِنَ الْمَذْوَدِ وَيَمْضِي بِهِ وَيَسْقِيهِ؟ وَهَذِهِ، وَهِيَ ابْنَةُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، قَدْ رَبَطَهَا الشَّيْطَانُ ثَمَانِي عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، أَمَا كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ تُحَلَّ مِنْ هَذَا الرَّبَاطِ فِي يَوْمِ السَّبْتِ؟ وَإِذْ قَالَ هَذَا أُخْجِلَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يُعَانِدُونَهُ، وَفَرِحَ كُلُّ الْجَمْعِ بِجَمِيعِ الْأَعْمَالِ الْمُحْيِيَةِ الْكَائِنَةِ مِنْهُ.

***** WE WELCOME H.G. BISHOP ALEXANDER! *****

December is dedicated to the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Members are encouraged to wear their Order Crosses to Church and to assist during the Church Services.

A Daily Word from Elder Roman: “Establish Yourself as a Praise and as the Glory of God!”

(Prepared by: Fr. Stephen Allen - Charlottetown, PEI)

Everyday at the Holy Annunciation Orthodox Monastery in New Germany, Nova Scotia, the Elder Roman gives a “Word” for the Monks to meditate on that day. These small statements, although simple in their articulation, are truly deep and profound and demand one to struggle and work in their life in Christ—to seek Christian perfection (Theosis). Their purpose is to push those who desire an intimate relationship with the Divine to move beyond the mere static outward forms of religious obligations and to enter into a living faith that is “transformative.” The above title is a selection of Fr. Roman's daily “Word” and the following is a small reflection on it, which comes from my personal daily mediation. **Reflection:** “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20). As Orthodox Christians we know we are to praise and glorify God. Fr. Roman, however, puts a little twist on this—he teaches his monks not only to praise and glorify God, but to “become” that very praise and glory within one's self. And this is not just splitting hairs—there is a difference between giving God glory and becoming His glory to those around us. The first is something we do and the second is who we are. All too often these days our Christian Faith has become something we do—just another activity like playing soccer or becoming a member of a secular social club or daily working as a firefighter. These daily activities may influence the way we act and think, but we do not see them as something that completely defines who we are. We feel within ourselves that we are more than just the sum total of those activities. It should, however, not be so when it comes to our Orthodox Christian Faith—our Life in Christ—which should be not only the “very thing” but the “only thing” that completely and totally defines who we are—and in extension all our thoughts, words and deeds. St John of Kronstadt writes: “If you are a scholar, a student in any educational establishment, or an official in some ministry, an officer in any of the branches of the military service, or... a technologist, a painter, a sculptor, a manufacturer, a mechanic—remember that the first science for each one of you is to be a true Christian, to believe sincerely in the Holy Trinity, to converse daily with God in prayer, to take part in the Divine Services, to observe the rules and regulations of the Church, and to bear in your heart, before your work, during your work, and after your work, the name of Jesus, for He is our light, our strength, our holiness, and our help.” All our thoughts, words and actions need to be “crucified with Christ”, making us more than people who do Christian things, but who are servants of Jesus Christ at every time and in every place. So as thoughts come to us, or as we are about to say something or we are about to do a certain action to others, we should examine all of them and ask have these thoughts, words and deeds been crucified and purified through the Cross of Christ? Daily we need to ask, “Am I living everyday in Christ, following the teaching of the Holy Orthodox Faith—our Life in Christ?” There is a simple test: Has a worldly activity taken priority over Church attendance? Has a Christmas party taken priority over the Nativity Fast? Has time on Facebook taken priority over daily prayers and Bible reading? Has wanting to fit in with social norms and certain people taken priority over following the teachings of Christ and His Church? Have our personal desires and wants taken priority over our Life in Christ? Take some quiet time today and meditate on Fr. Roman's Word, “Establish yourself as a praise and as the glory of God.” **Remember, there are two kinds of people who come to Church: the ones that strive daily to live in Christ in every moment, and those who just visit Him on Sunday!**

Today's Memorial Service is for the departed servants of God:

- * Louise & George Maker, Joan Maker Cordonis, Mark Massad. Offered by Carol Maker.
- * Moussa Zoghaib, Afifee, Elias, Souraya, Toufic, Bechara, Kamal, Youssef, Gerious, Lutfy, Mariam & Takla. Offered by Julia Zoghaib & Family.
- * George Zogheib (15th year); Elias, Mike, Joe, Moussa, Chalabier, Noel, Issa, Anissy, Youssef, Lea, Bechara, Joelle & Abdalla Koury. Offered by his daughter Eghni Zogheib.
- * Souheil Hanna (18th year). Offered by Denise, Sami, Roula & Raja Hanna.
- * Mae & John Jabara, Martha & Morris Jabara, Georgette Kousaie. Offered by Paul Jabara.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR OF 50 YEARS!
MARY JANE PUIU WAS AWARDED THE "ANTONIAN SILVER MEDAL"
BY H.E. METROPOLITAN JOSEPH. IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO HER TODAY
BY H.G. BISHOP ALEXANDER AT THE END OF THE DIVINE LITURGY.

NATIVITY FAST
NOV 15 - DEC 25

GREAT VESPERS
EVERY SATURDAY
7:00PM-8:00PM

- ASK ABOUNA -
SAT. DEC. 19
8:00PM-9:00PM
HOSTED BY:
THE FELLOWSHIP OF
ST. JOHN THE DIVINE



HEALING SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
(8:00PM - 9:00PM)

+ FOR THE HEALING OF SOUL & BODY +
ALL ARE WELCOME!

- * SMALL COMPLINE (PRAYERS BEFORE SLEEP)
- * METALYSIS CANON (PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS)
- * JESUS PRAYER (PRAYER ROPE)
- * ANOINTING WITH BLESSED OIL FROM MIRACULOUS ORTHODOX SHRINES.



THE NATIVITY FAST: Fasting is NOT just about Food! (By: Abbot Tryphon)

FAST from self-concern and FEAST on compassion for others. FAST from discouragement and FEAST on hope. FAST from lethargy and FEAST on enthusiasm. FAST from suspicion and FEAST on truth. FAST from thoughts that weaken and FEAST on promises that inspire. FAST from shadows of sorrow and FEAST on the sunlight of serenity. FAST from idle gossip and FEAST on purposeful silence. FAST from problems that overwhelm you and FEAST on prayer that sustains. FAST from criticism and FEAST on praise. FAST from self-pity and FEAST on joy. FAST from ill-temper and FEAST on peace. FAST from resentment and FEAST on contentment. FAST from jealousy and FEAST on love. FAST from pride and FEAST on humility. FAST from selfishness and FEAST on service!