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Bells

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## ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

### كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

80 de Castelnau Est, Montreal, QC, H2R 1P2 +Rev. Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)  
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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: FEBRUARY 21, 2016 A.D.



"The only hope of salvation from the delusions and the heresies, the innovations and the traps of wicked people and of the devil is Prayer, Repentance and Humility."

- Elder Josph the Hesychast -

### THE HOLY EPISTLE (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

وَلَدِي تِيمُوثَاوُسُ، قَدْ تَبِعْتَ تَعْلِيمِي، وَسِيرَتِي، وَقَصْدِي، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَاتِي، وَمَحَبَّتِي، وَصَبْرِي، وَأَضْطِهَادَاتِي، وَالْأَمِي، مِثْلَ مَا أَصَابَنِي فِي أَنْطَاكِيَّةَ وَإِيقُونِيَّةَ وَلِسْتِرَةَ. آيَّةَ اضْطِهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ! وَمِنَ الْجَمِيعِ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعِيشُوا بِالتَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. وَلَكِنَّ النَّاسَ الْأَشْرَارَ الْمَزُورِينَ سَيَتَقَدَّمُونَ إِلَيَّ أَرْدَاءً، مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضْلِينَ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتَ فَانْتَبْ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَ وَأَيَّقَنْتَ، عَارِفًا مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتَ. وَأَنَّكَ مِنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ، الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُحَكِّمَكَ لِلْخَلَاصِ، بِالْإِيمَانِ الَّذِي فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Luke 18:10-14)

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

(( قال الرب هذا المثل إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا ، واحد فريسي والآخر عشار . أما الفريسي فوقف يصلي في نفسه هكذا : اللهم أنا أشكرك أنني لست مثل باقي الناس الخاطفين الظالمين الزناة ، ولا مثل هذا العشار . أصوم مرتين في الأسبوع ، وأعشر كل ما أقتنيه . وأما العشار فوقف من بعيد ، لا يشاء أن يرفع عينيه نحو السماء ، بل قرع على صدره قائلاً : اللهم ارحمني ، أنا الخاطيء . أقول لكم : إن هذا نزل إلى بيته مبرراً دون ذاك ، لأن كل من يرفع نفسه يتضع ، ومن يضع نفسه يرتفع . ))

### Syrian Refugee Sponsorships for St. Nicholas Church:

We are awaiting confirmation from the Government to proceed with accepting applications for the sponsorship of Syrian Refugees via our parish. We are working with Dina Yazigi, a licensed Immigration Consultant, approved to work with our Churches by H.E. Metropolitan JOSEPH. She is also overseeing & working with our sister parish of St. George in Montreal. H.E. Metropolitan JOSEPH requested each Pastor to appoint a parishioner to be a liaison with the Archdiocese: I appointed Zaher Samaan for this task. We will be following the rules 100% for this delicate issue, and I ask that you be patient with us and know that we will treat all requests equally & will inform you when it is time to accept applications. Thank you! (Fr. Mark)

# WHY DO LITTLE CHILDREN DIE?

(Answered by: H.G. Bishop BASIL)

In answer to that question, St. Athanasios the Great speculated "The infants that leave here in purity will receive salvation there in eternity. Perhaps God called them early to be near Him by intention to avoid living a very sinful life." But, as the Holy Scripture says, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord?" (Romans 11: 33- 34). Indeed, who can know with certainty those things which have not been revealed to us? But, although we may not be certain of the "Why?" we can be certain of the following:

- 1) **GOD IS GOOD:** "Good and upright is the Lord" (Psalm 25:8). That means that all God does is good. St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote, "He who gives us the children, He has the authority to take them away from us. And because He is good, His decisions are also good; and because He is wise, He does what is always to our advantage."
- 2) **MANY IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER THAN FEW:** "For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul" (The Wisdom of Solomon 4:8-11). If we are saddened by thoughts of the good things and happinesses which the child will not know in this world, it is only fair that we also be grateful that he, now being with Christ, will be spared evil things and sadnesses. St. John Chrysostom wrote, "If you loved your son, now you should rejoice, for he has been spared the sufferings of this life." And putting the following into the mouths of the children, he wrote, "O our fathers, do not weep for us! You wanted to have us near you in this corruptible world where all are filled with grief and pain; where all things are unstable and uncertain. But the Lord God, who loved us, took us away from this vain life, as if from the mouth of a lion." Speaking very frankly, St. Gregory of Nyssa says, "Let me tell you of the so-called 'good things' of this life. Listen to them: sorrows and pleasures, angers and fears, hopes and desires. What is the evil then that has happened to your child who died early in life and was spared from these many and so powerful tyrants?"
- 3) **ETERNAL LIFE IS BETTER THAN TEMPORAL LIFE:** "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). Is our temporary life here on earth better than the eternal life which is to come for those who are in Christ? Certainly not. St. John the Theologian heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelations 21:4). Writing to a father mourning the death of his son, St. John Chrysostom wrote, "Do you mourn because with the death of your son you will have no heir to your wealth? But what do you desire more? To have your son inherit your property or heaven? What would you have desired for him? To acquire the temporal good things of earth or to inherit those which are permanent and eternal? Now, of course, you do not have him as your heir, for instead of you God Himself has made him His heir. He has not become a co-heir of your property with his brothers, but he has become a co-heir with Christ."
- 4) **WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME:** "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him" (I Thessalonians 4:14). St. John Chrysostom wrote to a grieving parent, "You desire to see your child? Then live with piety, and quickly you will enjoy that sacred sight ... Again, could it be that you are mourning because your child will no longer return home? Reflect on the fact that the things of this life are unstable and fleeting. Think also that you, too, will die after a while and will go near him ... You also say that you did not have the chance to enjoy him and to be filled with him? You will certainly enjoy him there!"



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

**CONFESSION IS BY  
APPOINTMENT ONLY**



**ORTHO-CAT**



*Let every thing that has breath  
praise the Lord!*

*Psalms 150:6*

