

"The goal of reading is the application, in our lives, of what we read.
Not to learn it by heart, but to take it to heart.
Not to practice using our tongues,
but to be able to receive the tongues of fire
and to live the mysteries of God."
+ St. Paisios the Athonite



ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس
الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X صاحب الغبطة البطريرك يوحنا العاشر
Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH صاحب السيادة المتروبوليت جوزيف
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Right Reverend Bishop ALEXANDER صاحب السيادة الأسقف الكسندر
Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York

The Reverend Father Mark Wyatt قدس الأب مارك ويّات
Pastor of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

Formerly: The Syrian Greek Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas of Canada
Founded in 1899 by St. Raphael (Hawaweeny) Bishop of Brooklyn

80 de Castelnau Est, Montreal, QC, H2R 1P2

514-270-9788 office@stnicholasmtl.org

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Saturdays: Great Vespers

5:00pm-6:00pm (English & Arabic)

Sundays: Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9:00am-12:00pm (English & Arabic)

SUNDAY BULLETIN: JUNE 11, 2017 A.D.



For Metropolitan Boulos,
Archbishop John, and for
their quick release from
captivity and safe return,
let us pray to the Lord.

THE HOLY 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, so 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.

الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا مَمَالِكَ، صَنَعُوا بَرًّا، نَالُوا مَوَاعِيدَ، سَدَّوْا أَفْوَاهَ أَسْوَدٍ، أَطْفَأُوا قُوَّةَ النَّارِ، نَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ السَّيْفِ، تَقَفُّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، صَارُوا أَشِدَاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ، هَزَمُوا جُيُوشَ غُرَبَاءَ، أَخَذَتْ نِسَاءٌ أَمْوَالَهُنَّ بِقِيَامَةٍ. وَأَخْرُورَ عَذِّبُوا وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا النِّجَاةَ لِكَيْ يَنَالُوا قِيَامَةً أَفْضَلَ. وَأَخْرُورَ تَجَرَّبُوا فِي هُزْءٍ وَجَلْدٍ، ثُمَّ فِي قَيْوِدٍ أَيْضًا وَحَبْسٍ. رُجِمُوا، نَشِرُوا، جُرِبُوا، مَاتُوا قَتْلًا بِالسَّيْفِ، طَافُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَجُلُودِ مِعْزَى، مُعْتَازِينَ مَكْرُوبِينَ مُذَلِّينَ، وَهُمْ لَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحَقًّا لَهُمْ. تَأَيَّهِنَ فِي بَرَارِيٍّ وَجِبَالٍ وَمَغَايِرٍ وَشَفُوقِ الْأَرْضِ. فَهَوَّلَاءَ كُلُّهُمْ، مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوْعِدَ، إِذْ سَبَقَ اللَّهُ فَخَطَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، لِكَيْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بِدُونِنَا. لِذَلِكَ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا إِذْ لَنَا سَحَابَةٌ مِنَ الشُّهُودِ مِقْدَارُ هَذِهِ مُحِيطَةٌ بِنَا، لِنَطْرَحَ كُلَّ ثِقَلٍ وَالْخَطِيئَةَ الْمُحِيطَةَ بِنَا بِسُهُولَةٍ، وَلِنَحَاضِرَ بِالصَّبْرِ فِي الْجِهَادِ الْمَوْضُوعِ مَامَنَا، نَاطِرِينَ إِلَى رَئِيسِ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَكْمَلِهِ يَسُوعَ، الَّذِي مِنْ أَجْلِ السَّرُورِ الْمَوْضُوعِ أَمَامَهُ احْتَمَلَ الصَّلِيبَ مُسْتَهِينًا بِالْخَرْبِ، فَجَلَسَ فِي يَمِينِ عَرْشِ اللَّهِ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30) The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone 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 Thee. 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 twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name's sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَعْتَرِفُ بِي قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ أَعْتَرَفُ أَنَا أَيْضًا بِهِ قُدَّامَ أَبِي الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَكِنْ مَنْ يُنْكِرُنِي قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ أَنْكِرُهُ أَنَا أَيْضًا قُدَّامَ أَبِي الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَبًا أَوْ أُمًّا أَكْثَرَ مِنِّي فَلَا يَسْتَحِقُّنِي وَمَنْ أَحَبَّ ابْنًا أَوْ ابْنَةً أَكْثَرَ مِنِّي فَلَا يَسْتَحِقُّنِي وَمَنْ لَا يَأْخُذُ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبِعُنِي فَلَا يَسْتَحِقُّنِي. فَأَجَابَ بَطْرُسُ حِينئِذٍ: «هَا نَحْنُ قَدْ تَرَكْنَا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَتَبِعْنَاكَ. فَمَاذَا يَكُونُ لَنَا؟» فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: «الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تَبِعْتُمُونِي فِي التَّجْدِيدِ مَتَى جَلَسَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ مَجْدِهِ تَجْلِسُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا عَلَى اثْنَيْ عَشَرَ كُرْسِيًّا تَدِينُونَ أَسْبَاطَ إِسْرَائِيلَ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ. وَكُلُّ مَنْ تَرَكَ بَيْوتًا أَوْ إِخْوَةً أَوْ أَخَوَاتٍ أَوْ أَبًا أَوْ أُمًّا أَوْ امْرَأَةً أَوْ أَوْلَادًا أَوْ حُقُولًا مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِي يَأْخُذُ مِئَةَ ضِعْفٍ وَيَرِثُ الْحَيَاةَ الْأَبَدِيَّةَ. وَلَكِنْ كَثِيرُونَ أَوْلُونَ يَكُونُونَ آخِرِينَ وَآخِرُونَ أَوْلِينَ.»

Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Divine Liturgy starting at 10:00am on Saturday, June 24 at St. John the Baptist Antiochian Orthodox Church (Fr. Elie Touma) on 400 Laurier, Laval, H7N 2P6. Reception to follow. All are welcome!

Feast of the Holy Apostles - Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00pm at St. Nicholas Church. Note: The Holy Apostles Fast is June 12 and ends at the celebration of the Feast.

No Vespers on June 24 and July 1, 8 & 15 at our Church.

The Antiochian Women invite you to join them for their closing event of the year! **Paint Nite** is coming to St. Nicholas! June 13th, at 7:00pm. Please be on time. The artist will start giving directions at 7:30pm sharp. \$40 will get you all painting supplies, snacks and beverages. Please buy your tickets by June 4th. Absolutely no tickets will be available at the door. The painting we will all be doing is called "The Breeze". If you would like to see it, please email Ann Zakaib at: azakaib@gmail.com. For tickets and info, please call Helene Zakaib at 450-466-9205 or email at: helene.zakaib@gmail.com. See you there!

On this day, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of All Saints who shone forth throughout all the world, North and South, East and West. David the Prophet and king, who revered the beloved of God, and respected them because of his great piety, said in the Psalms, "How precious are Thy beloved unto me, O God" (138:17). And the Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, recounted the lives of the saints, when he wrote, "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets us; and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (12:1). Therefore, as Orthodox Christians, we honor the beloved saints of God, respecting them as keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue and benefactors of humanity. We commemorate all of the holy ones every year on this day, as the list of saints ever increases, even though some of their names escape us. Nevertheless, we honor them for their piety and strive to imitate their good works. By the intercessions of Thine immaculate Mother, O Christ God, and of all Thy Saints from the beginning of time, have mercy and save us, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

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

Come, let us duly crown with hymns Forerunner John the Baptist, the prophets, the Apostles' choir, the martyrs and the hierarchs, the righteous with the ascetics, the noble Hieromartyrs, the women great in love for God, all the just and the angels in all their ranks; and while singing praise, let us make entreaty to gain that glory which they have from Jesus Christ the Savior. He that is glorified on high as God by all the Angels ineffably did not forsake the bosom of the Father, when he dwelt with us upon earth; and thou wast the provider of this salvation, when for us thou didst lend flesh, O Virgin, from thy pure blood unto Him in manner beyond description. O pure one, ask that He forgive the sins of us, thy servants.

— THE SURVIVAL OF THE CHURCH —

By: Abbot Tryphon. Taken from "The Morning Offering" - Ancient Faith Ministries.

For Orthodoxy to thrive into the next century, we must see a return to the very roots of our faith, where the Church proclaims the Good News of Christ in all its purity, and centers herself in the mystical and sacramental core of her very being. She must offer the transformational healing that comes only with God's grace, and through the life of His Church, fulfilling her Gospel vocation. If we Orthodox look closely at the amazing resurrection of our Church, following the fall of communism, with the thousands of new churches being reopened, new ones built, and monasteries growing at a phenomenal rate, we can see that the twenty first century could well be the Age of Orthodoxy. If this is to take place, we must put off everything that has brought down Western Christianity. Accountability must be foremost in how we operate as religious institutions. Bishops and priests must be accountable to one another, transgressions against the Body of Christ must be rooted out, and the clergy (including our bishops) must be the humble servants the Gospel has called us to be. Pompous, medieval behavior must be put aside, and the humble, co-suffering Saviour must be seen in how we serve. The transformative power of the Good News of Christ must be allowed to change the world, and the view of an "institutional" Church, ripped from our mindset, replaced with the Gospel vision of the Church as Hospital of the Soul. The Holy Orthodox Church will thrive in the twenty-first century, only if we do not hinder her life and ministry by allowing our own love of power and authority, to hinder our true vocation, as ministers of Christ's mercy and love.

— STRIVING FOR PRAYER —

By: Abbot Tryphon. Taken from "The Morning Offering" - Ancient Faith Ministries.

St Gregory of Sinai spoke of the effort involved in prayer, when he wrote, "No bodily or spiritual activity without pain or toil ever brings fruit to him who practices it, because 'the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.' (Matthew 11:12)". Here, the word pain means remorse and contrition of spirit. For those who are weak physically, weeping and mourning for our sinfulness take the place of physical effort. It takes physical discipline for the heart to acquire the peace needed for prayer: "to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak." (1 Cor 9:22). Those who are experienced in prayer must concentrate on the heart, "If your heart has opened", and this should be done with great fear of God, because the union of the mind and heart (which precedes our union with God) is granted by divine grace. "The great gift of prayer is usually preceded by some special sufferings and upheavals of the soul, which lead our spirit to realize the extent of our poverty and nothingness, according to Saint Isaac the Syrian. In order to be worthy of this gift of Grace we need to be faithful in our humility and purity, and must reject every sinful thought at their first appearance. It is to the faithful, pure and humble that the gifts of the Spirit are given." (Luke 16:10-12). Archimandrite Sophrony said that, "of all ascetic practices the striving for prayer is the most arduous. Our spirit will be in constant flux. At times prayer flows like a strong current; at other times our heart will feel withered and dry. But the spells when we lose fervor should get briefer."