

**PRAYER**  
should be our first response,  
not the last hope...



**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

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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 25, 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 (Romans 5:1-11)** Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

فَإِذَا قَدْ تَبَرَّرْنَا بِالْإِيمَانِ لَنَا سَلَامٌ مَعَ اللَّهِ بِرَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي بِهِ أَيْضًا قَدْ صَارَ لَنَا الدُّخُولُ بِالْإِيمَانِ إِلَى هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةِ الَّتِي نَحْنُ فِيهَا مُقِيمُونَ وَنَفْتَخِرُ عَلَى رَجَاءِ مَجْدِ اللَّهِ. وَلَيْسَ ذَلِكَ فَقَطْ بَلْ نَفْتَخِرُ أَيْضًا فِي الضَّيِّقَاتِ عَالِمِينَ أَنَّ الضَّيِّقَ يَنْشِئُ صَبْرًا وَالصَّبْرَ تَرْكِيئَةً وَالتَّرْكِيئَةَ رَجَاءً وَالرَّجَاءَ لَا يَخْزِي لِأَنَّ مَحَبَّةَ اللَّهِ قَدْ انْسَكَبَتْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ الْمُعْطَى لَنَا. لِأَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ إِذْ كُنَّا بَعْدُ ضَعَفَاءَ مَاتَ فِي الْوَقْتِ الْمُعَيَّنِ لِأَجْلِ الْفَجَارِ. فَإِنَّهُ بِالْجَهْدِ يَمُوتُ أَحَدٌ لِأَجْلِ بَارٍّ. رُبِمَا لِأَجْلِ الصَّالِحِ يَجْسُرُ أَحَدٌ أَيْضًا أَنْ يَمُوتَ. وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ بَيْنَ مَحَبَّتِهِ لَنَا لِأَنَّهُ وَنَحْنُ بَعْدَ خَطَاةٍ مَاتَ الْمَسِيحُ لِأَجْلِنَا. فَبِالْأَوْلَى كَثِيرًا وَنَحْنُ مُتَبَرِّرُونَ الْآنَ بِدَمِهِ نَخْلُصُ بِهِ مِنَ الْغَضَبِ. لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ كُنَّا وَنَحْنُ أَعْدَاءٌ قَدْ صُوِّلِحْنَا مَعَ اللَّهِ بِمَوْتِ ابْنِهِ فَبِالْأَوْلَى كَثِيرًا وَنَحْنُ مُصَالِحُونَ نَخْلُصُ بِحَيَاتِهِ. وَلَيْسَ ذَلِكَ فَقَطْ بَلْ نَفْتَخِرُ أَيْضًا بِاللَّهِ بِرَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي نَلْنَا بِهِ الْآنَ الْمُصَالِحَةَ.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Matthew 6:22-33)** The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

سِرَاجُ الْجَسَدِ هُوَ الْعَيْنُ فَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ بَسِيطَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ نَبِيرًا وَإِنْ كَانَتْ عَيْنُكَ شَرِيرَةً فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ مُظْلِمًا فَإِنْ كَانَ النُّورُ الَّذِي فِيكَ ظَلَامًا فَالظُّلَامُ كَمَا يَكُونُ! «لَا يَقْدِرُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَخْدِمَ سَيِّدَيْنِ لِأَنَّهُ إِمَّا أَنْ يُبَغِضَ الْوَاحِدَ وَيُحِبَّ الْآخَرَ أَوْ يُلَازِمَ الْوَاحِدَ وَيَحْتَقِرَ الْآخَرَ. لَا تَقْدِرُونَ أَنْ تَخْدِمُوا اللَّهَ وَالْمَالَ. لِذَلِكَ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَا تَهْتَمُّوا لِحَيَاتِكُمْ بِمَا تَأْكُلُونَ وَبِمَا تَشْرَبُونَ وَلَا لِأَجْسَادِكُمْ بِمَا تَلْبَسُونَ. أَلَيْسَتْ الْحَيَاةُ أَفْضَلَ مِنَ الطَّعَامِ وَالْجَسَدِ أَفْضَلَ مِنَ اللِّبَاسِ؟ انظُرُوا إِلَى طَيُورِ السَّمَاءِ: إِنَّهَا لَا تَزْرَعُ وَلَا تَحْصُدُ وَلَا تَجْمَعُ إِلَى مَخَازِنَ وَأَبْوَكُمُ السَّمَاوِيِّ يَقْوَتُهَا. أَلَيْسَتْ أَنْتُمْ بِالْحَرِيِّ أَفْضَلَ مِنْهَا؟ وَمَنْ مِنْكُمْ إِذَا اهْتَمَّ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ عَلَى قَامَتِهِ ذِرَاعًا وَاحِدَةً؟ وَلِمَاذَا تَهْتَمُّونَ بِاللِّبَاسِ؟ تَأْمَلُوا زَنَايِقَ الْحَقْلِ كَيْفَ تَنْمُو لَا تَتَعَبُ وَلَا تَغْزُلُ. وَلَكِنْ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ وَلَا سَلِيمَانَ فِي كُلِّ مَجْدِهِ كَانَ يَلْبَسُ كَوَاحِدَةٍ مِنْهَا. فَإِنْ كَانَ عُشْبُ الْحَقْلِ الَّذِي يُوْجَدُ الْيَوْمَ وَيَطْرَحُ غَدًا فِي التَّنُّورِ يَلْبَسُهُ اللَّهُ هَكَذَا أَفَلَيْسَ بِالْحَرِيِّ جَدًّا يَلْبَسُكُمْ أَنْتُمْ يَا قَلِيلِي الْإِيمَانِ؟ فَلَا تَهْتَمُّوا قَائِلِينَ: مَاذَا نَأْكُلُ أَوْ مَاذَا نَشْرَبُ أَوْ مَاذَا نَلْبَسُ؟ فَإِنَّ هَذِهِ كُلَّهَا تَطْلُبُهَا الْأُمَّمُ. لِأَنَّ آبَاكُمْ السَّمَاوِيِّ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكُمْ تَحْتَاجُونَ إِلَى هَذِهِ كُلَّهَا. لَكِنْ اطْلُبُوا أَوَّلًا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ وَبِرَّهُ وَهَذِهِ كُلُّهَا تَزَادُ لَكُمْ.

+ SYNAXARION +

On June 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity of the venerable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed Virgin Mary, the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman Elizabeth. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment he could speak again. Herod heard of this news and sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, including the Forerunner. Herod's executioners killed Zacharias between the court and the temple; his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels. By his intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

On June 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the commemoration of the Nativity of the Forerunner and Baptist John; and we commemorate the holy Venerable Martyr and muchsuffering Febronia of Nisibis. Febronia betrothed herself to Christ and was tonsured a nun in Assyria, in a convent where her aunt Bryaena was abbess. Lysimachus, the son of a nobleman, desired to wed Febronia, but since Emperor Diocletian suspected him to be a secret Christian, he sent Lysimachus to the east with his uncle Silenus to apprehend and kill Christians. Silenus did this everywhere without mercy. Lysimachus, on the contrary, spared the Christians wherever he could and hid them from his beastlike uncle. Silenus came to Nisibis and Febronia's convent. Hearing about her great wisdom and meekness, Silenus ordered that Febronia be brought to him. When the holy virgin refused to deny Christ, Silenus ordered her to be cruelly beaten and killed. However, a horrible punishment and death from God befell Silenus the same day. Lysimachus ordered that Febronia's miracle-working body be honorably buried and he, with many other soldiers, were baptized. Febronia suffered and took up habitation in eternal blessedness in 302. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

# — ORTHODOX SCIENCE IS A POSITIVE SCIENCE —

By: Abbot Tryphon (Taken from The Morning Offering - Ancient Faith Radio)

Our Orthodox understanding of theology is not as a speculative science, but a science based on a positive science much like that of the astronomer. Like the sciences that are inspired by observations made using instruments that allow us to see things that are invisible to the naked eye, our Orthodox science is a positive science that allows us to observe that which we can not see. Our Orthodox understanding of the Bible and the writings of the Fathers is that neither the Bible nor the writings of the Fathers are revelation or the word of God. They are about the revelation and about the word of God. Like all the positive sciences, books about our faith can never replace observations. The writings of the Fathers, and the writings found in the Scriptures, are not the observations themselves, but about these observations. God has revealed Himself to the prophets, apostles, and saints, and they have seen God. They did not simply read about this encounter, but experienced glorification. "The writings of scientists are accompanied by a tradition of interpretation, headed by successor scientists, who, by training and experience, know what their colleagues mean by the language used, and how to repeat the observations described. So it is in the Bible and the writings of the Fathers. Only those who have the same experience of glorification as their prophetic, apostolic, and patristic predecessors can understand what the Biblical and Patristic writings are saying about glorification and the spiritual stages leading to it. Those who have reached glorification know how they were guided there, as well as how to guide others, and they are the guarantors of the transmission of this same tradition (Father John Romanides)."

**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.

**St. Nicholas Annual Raffle:** August 22 - \$10,000 & Lot's of Cash Prizes! Tickets are \$100. Contact Paul Massad (514-816-5760) or Sylvia Mefrige (514-344-0550) to purchase tickets.

**Congratulations** to our new Parish Council: Larry Zakaib (Chairman), Mark Tabah (Vice Chairman), Hector Zakaib (Treasurer), Jeff Azakie (Recording Secretary), Carol Maker (General Secretary), Gerry Shadeed (Immediate Past Chairman), Eric Zakaib, Youssef Samlaji, Rosette Habak, Justin Massad, Ibrahim Tamer & Sacha Sara.

The L.S.C. Ladies Aid Society is looking for new office space, reasonably priced, in the Borough of Saint-Laurent area. They need about 1000 to 1200 square feet (including a small washroom) for holding meetings, storing supplies such as clothing and occasionally distributing them to families. If you have available space which meets these criteria, please call Siham Khoury: 514-739-3992.

## \*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTE \*\*\*

**Our Church Office is closed June 22 - July 10 as Aida is on vacation. Our Church will be closed on Sunday July 2 (no Church service) as Fr. Mark will be away for the PLC June 29 - July 2. On Sunday July 9 & 16 there will be a substitute Priest serving as Fr. Mark will be on vacation with his family July 6-19, and away again for the Archdiocese Convention July 24-28. There will not be any Vespers on July 1, 8 & 15. For Pastoral Emergencies during Fr. Mark's absence, please contact Carol Maker (514-335-4372) to arrange a Priest for you and to book the Church for a funeral, etc. Thank you!**