

ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

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REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP:

Saturdays: Great Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm

Confession 8:00pm-9:00pm (by Appointment only)

Sundays: 9:00am-12:00pm

(9:00am Orthros & 10:30am Divine Liturgy)

Agape Coffee Hour 12:00pm-2:00pm

BULLETIN: JUNE 5, 2016 A.D.

Putting off Religion!

By Abbot Tryphon - All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, Washington.

The Church's true authority is grounded in love because she holds within her realm the authority to make her people the children of God. She has the authority to forgive, and the capacity to love. And just as her Head, Jesus Christ, she exists to serve, and not to be served. She guides her people with love, recognizing that each person is unique, and is to be ministered to with an authority that is based on serving, not being served. With more and more people embracing a materialistic approach to life, rather than the biblical approach that is grounded in self-denial, it is all the more imperative that the Church's clergy reach out with the love of Christ, and the healing power that comes with being grounded in His love. As increasing numbers of young people are turning to atheism, it is all the more important that today's seekers find in the Church an outpouring of love and humility, so they might see, first hand, the transformational power of Christ at work. We cannot, as churchman, allow those who are in dire need of Christ, see in us a lifeless religion. The worshiping ecclesiastical community must therefore abolish religion and replace it with the transformational power of Christ. The ever-memorable Father John Romanides said in the most categorical way that Christ became human, in order to free us of the illness of religion. Father John wrote, "Unless we churchman put off religion and put on Christ, we will continue to fail in our vocation as servants to others and messengers of God's peace". Unless the Church's priests and bishops demonstrate with holiness and humility, the imitation of Christ the Saviour as servant, the authentic witness of Christ will have been lost. The world needs to see authenticity of faith, and until Christ is seen in the lives of churchman who are living as icons of Christ, and serving as loving, humble servants of the Most High, the world will continue looking for truth in a wasteland of spiritual confusion. The Church must proclaim the Good News in all humility and love, for "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45)."

Feast of the Ascension of our Lord - Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, June 8 at 7:30pm

Soul Saturday: June 18 - Blessing of the Graves at Mt. Royal Cemetery 11:00am-3:00pm.

Call the Church Office to book an appointment with Fr. Mark on the mountain.

THE HOLY EPISTLE (Acts 16:16-34)

In those days, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ حَدَّثَ بَيْنَمَا كُنَّا نَحْنُ الرُّسُلَ ذَاهِبِينَ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ أَنَّ جَارِيَةً بِهَا رُوحٌ عِرَافَةٌ اسْتَقْبَلَتْنَا. وَكَانَتْ تُكْسِبُ مَوَالِيهَا مَكْسَبًا كَثِيرًا بِعِرَافَتِهَا. هَذِهِ اتَّبَعَتْ بُولُسَ وَإِيَّانَا وَصَرَخَتْ قَائِلَةً: ((هُؤُلَاءِ النَّاسُ هُمْ عَبِيدُ اللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الَّذِينَ يُنَادُونَ لَكُمْ بِطَرِيقِ الْخَلَاصِ)). وَكَانَتْ تَفْعَلُ هَذَا أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً. فَضَجَرَ بُولُسُ وَالتَفَّتْ إِلَى الرُّوحِ وَقَالَ: ((أَنَا أَمْرُكَ بِاسْمِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ أَنْ تَخْرُجَ مِنْهَا)). فَخَرَجَ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى مَوَالِيهَا أَنَّهُ قَدْ خَرَجَ رَجَاءً مَكْسَبِهِمْ أَمْسَكُوا بُولُسَ وَسِيلاً وَجَرُّوهُمَا إِلَى السُّوقِ إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ. وَإِذْ أَتَوْا بِهِمَا إِلَى الْوَلَاةِ قَالُوا: ((هَذَانِ الرَّجُلَانِ يُبْلِغَانِ مَدِينَتَنَا وَهُمَا يَهُودِيَّانِ وَيُنَادِيَانِ بِعَوَائِدَ لَا يَجُوزُ لَنَا أَنْ نَقْبَلَهَا وَلَا نَعْمَلَ بِهَا إِذْ نَحْنُ رُومَانِيُونَ)). فَقَامَ الْجَمْعُ مَعًا عَلَيْهِمَا وَمَزَقَ الْوَلَاةُ ثِيَابَهُمَا وَأَمَرُوا أَنْ يُضْرَبَا بِالْعِصِيِّ. فَوَضَعُوا عَلَيْهِمَا ضَرْبَاتٍ كَثِيرَةً وَالْقُوهُمَا فِي السَّجْنِ وَأَوْصُوا حَافِظَ السَّجْنِ أَنْ يَحْرُسَهُمَا بِضَبْطٍ. وَهُوَ إِذْ أَخَذَ وَصِيَّةً مِثْلَ هَذِهِ أَلْقَاهُمَا فِي السَّجْنِ الدَّاخِلِيِّ وَضَبَطَ أَرْجُلَهُمَا فِي الْمِقْطَرَةِ. وَنَحْوَ نِصْفِ اللَّيْلِ كَانَ بُولُسُ وَسِيلاً يُصَلِّيَانِ وَيَسْبِّحَانِ اللَّهَ وَالْمَسْجُونُونَ يَسْمَعُونَهُمَا. فَحَدَّثَ بَعَثَهُ زَلْزَلَةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ حَتَّى تَزْعَزَعَتْ أَسَاسَاتُ السَّجْنِ فَانْفَتَحَتْ فِي الْحَالِ الْأَبْوَابُ كُلُّهَا وَأَنْفَكَتْ قَيْودُ الْجَمِيعِ. وَلَمَّا اسْتَيْقَظَ حَافِظُ السَّجْنِ وَرَأَى أَبْوَابَ السَّجْنِ مَفْتُوحَةً اسْتَلَّ سَيْفَهُ وَكَانَ مُزْمِعًا أَنْ يَقْتُلَ نَفْسَهُ ظَانًّا أَنَّ الْمَسْجُونِينَ قَدْ هَرَبُوا. فَنَادَى بُولُسُ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ قَائِلًا: ((لَا تَفْعَلْ بِنَفْسِكَ شَيْئًا رَدِيًّا لِأَنَّ جَمِيعَنَا هَهُنَا)). فَطَلَبَ ضَوْءًا وَأَنْدَفَعَ إِلَى دَاخِلٍ وَخَرَّ لِبُولُسَ وَسِيلاً وَهُوَ مُرْتَعِدٌ ثُمَّ أَخْرَجَهُمَا وَقَالَ: ((يَا سَيِّدِي مَاذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ أَفْعَلَ لَكَيْ أَخْلُصَ؟)) فَقَالَ: ((أَمِنْ بِالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ فَتَخْلُصَ أَنْتَ وَأَهْلُ بَيْتِكَ)). وَكَلَّمَاهُ وَجَمِيعَ مَنْ فِي بَيْتِهِ بِكَلِمَةِ الرَّبِّ. فَأَخَذَهُمَا فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَغَسَلَهُمَا مِنَ الْجِرَاحَاتِ وَاعْتَمَدَ فِي الْحَالِ هُوَ وَالَّذِينَ لَهُ أَجْمَعُونَ. وَلَمَّا أَصْعَدَهُمَا إِلَى بَيْتِهِ قَدَّمَ لَهُمَا مَائِدَةً وَتَهَلَّلَ مَعَ جَمِيعِ بَيْتِهِ إِذْ كَانَ قَدْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ

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THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. John 9:1-38)

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

ففي ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع مُجْتازُ رَأَى إِنْسَانًا أَعْمَى مُنْذُ وِلادَتِهِ فَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «يَا مُعَلِّمُ مَنْ أَخْطَأَ: هَذَا أَمْ آبَاؤُهُ حَتَّى وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟» أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ: «لَا هَذَا أَخْطَأَ وَلَا آبَاؤُهُ لَكِنْ لِتَظْهَرَ أَعْمَالُ اللَّهِ فِيهِ. يَنْبَغِي أَنْ أَعْمَلَ أَعْمَالَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي مَا دَامَ نَهَارٌ. يَأْتِي لَيْلٌ حِينَ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ. مَا دُمْتُ فِي الْعَالَمِ فَأَنَا نُورُ الْعَالَمِ». قَالَ هَذَا وَتَفَلَّ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ وَصَنَعَ مِنَ التُّفْلِ طِينًا وَطَلَى بِالطِّينِ عَيْنَيْ الْأَعْمَى. وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَذْهَبْ اغْتَسِلْ فِي بَرَكَةِ سِيلَوَامَ». الَّذِي نَفْسِيرُهُ مُرْسَلٌ. فَمَضَى وَاغْتَسَلَ وَأَتَى بَصِيرًا. فَالْحِيزَانُ وَالَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَرَوْنَهُ قَبْلًا أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى قَالُوا: «الَّذِي هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يَجْلِسُ وَيَسْتَعْطِي؟» آخَرُونَ قَالُوا: «هَذَا هُوَ». وَآخَرُونَ: «إِنَّهُ يُشْبِهُهُ». وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَقَالَ: «إِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ». فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «كَيْفَ انْفَتَحَتْ عَيْنَاكَ؟»

أَجَابَ: «إِنْسَانٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ يَسُوعُ صَنَعَ طِينًا وَطَلَى عَيْنَيَّ وَقَالَ لِي: اذْهَبِ إِلَى بَرْكَةِ سِلْوَامَ وَاغْتَسِلِ. فَمَضَيْتُ وَاغْتَسَلْتُ فَبَصُرْتُ». فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «أَيْنَ ذَلِكَ؟» قَالَ: «لَا أَعْلَمُ». فَاتَّوَا إِلَى الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ بِالَّذِي كَانَ قَبْلًا أَعْمَى. وَكَانَ سَبَبُ حِينَ صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ الطِّينَ وَفَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ. فَسَأَلَهُ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ أَيْضًا كَيْفَ أَبْصَرَ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «وَضَعَ طِينًا عَلَى عَيْنَيَّ وَاغْتَسَلْتُ فَأَنَا أَبْصِرُ». فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ: «هَذَا الْإِنْسَانُ لَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَحْفَظُ السَّبَبَ». آخَرُونَ قَالُوا: «كَيْفَ يَقْدِرُ إِنْسَانٌ خَاطِئٌ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ مِثْلَ هَذِهِ الْآيَاتِ؟» وَكَانَ بَيْنَهُمْ انْتِشَاقٌ. قَالُوا أَيْضًا لِلْأَعْمَى: «مَاذَا تَقُولُ أَنْتَ عَنْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ إِنَّهُ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟» فَقَالَ: «إِنَّهُ نَبِيٌّ». فَلَمْ يُصَدِّقِ الْيَهُودُ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ كَانَ أَعْمَى فَابْصَرَ حَتَّى دَعَوْا أَبَوِي الَّذِي أَبْصَرَ. فَسَأَلُوهُمَا: «أَهَذَا ابْنُكُمَا الَّذِي تَقُولَانِ إِنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى؟ فَكَيْفَ يُبْصِرُ الْآنَ؟» أَجَابَهُمْ أَبَوَاهُ: «نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا ابْنُنَا وَأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ أَعْمَى وَآمَّا كَيْفَ يُبْصِرُ الْآنَ فَلَا نَعْلَمُ. أَوْ مَنْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْهِ فَلَا نَعْلَمُ. هُوَ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ. اسْأَلُوهُ فَهُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ». قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ هَذَا لِأَنَّهُمَا كَانَا يَخَافَانِ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ كَانُوا قَدْ تَعَاهَدُوا أَنَّهُ إِنْ اعْتَرَفَ أَحَدٌ بِأَنَّهُ الْمَسِيحُ يُخْرِجُ مِنَ الْمَجْمَعِ. لِذَلِكَ قَالَ أَبَوَاهُ: «إِنَّهُ كَامِلُ السِّنِّ اسْأَلُوهُ». فَدَعَوْا ثَانِيَةً الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي كَانَ أَعْمَى وَقَالُوا لَهُ: «أَعْطِ مَجْدًا لِلَّهِ. نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانَ خَاطِئٌ». فَاجَابَ: «أَخَاطِئُ هُوَ؟ لَسْتُ أَعْلَمُ. إِنَّمَا أَعْلَمُ شَيْئًا وَاحِدًا: أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَعْمَى وَالْآنَ أَبْصِرُ». فَقَالُوا لَهُ أَيْضًا: «مَاذَا صَنَعَ بِكَ؟ كَيْفَ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيْكَ؟» أَجَابَهُمْ: «قَدْ قُلْتُ لَكُمْ وَلَمْ تَسْمَعُوا. لِمَذَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَسْمَعُوا أَيْضًا؟ الْعَلَمُ أَنْتُمْ تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تُصِيرُوا لَهُ تَلَامِيذًا؟» فَشَتَمُوهُ وَقَالُوا: «أَنْتَ تَلْمِيزُ ذَلِكَ وَآمَّا نَحْنُ فَإِنَّا تَلَامِيذُ مُوسَى. نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ مُوسَى كَلَّمَهُ اللَّهُ وَآمَّا هَذَا فَمَا نَعْلَمُ مِنْ آيِنَ هُوَ». أَجَابَ الرَّجُلُ: «إِنَّ فِي هَذَا عَجَبًا! إِنَّكُمْ لَسْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ مِنْ آيِنَ هُوَ وَقَدْ فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ. وَنَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْمَعُ لِلْخَطَاةِ. وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَتَّقِي اللَّهَ وَيَفْعَلُ مَشِيئَتَهُ فَلِهَذَا يَسْمَعُ. مِنْذُ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يَسْمَعْ أَنَّ أَحَدًا فَتَحَ عَيْنَيَّ مَوْلُودِ أَعْمَى. لَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ هَذَا مِنَ اللَّهِ لَمْ يَقْدِرْ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا». قَالُوا لَهُ: «فِي الْخَطَايَا وُلِدْتَ أَنْتَ بِجُمْلَتِكَ وَأَنْتَ تَعْلَمُنَا!» فَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا. فَسَمِعَ يَسُوعُ أَنَّهُمْ أَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجًا فَوَجَدَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَتُؤْمِنُ يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ؟» أَجَابَ: «مَنْ هُوَ يَا سَيِّدُ لِأَوْمِنَ بِهِ؟» فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «...قَدْ رَأَيْتَهُ وَالَّذِي يَتَكَلَّمُ مَعَكَ هُوَ هُوَ». فَقَالَ: «أَوْمِنُ يَا سَيِّدُ». وَسَجَدَ لَهُ

Thank you Sylvia Mefrige, the Antiochian Women, and to all who bought & sold our 500 Raffle Tickets. It was a great success & very fun evening. Congratulations to our 10 winners: Leonard Assaly (\$10,000); Russel Jazzar (\$2,000); Gerry Koury (\$2,000); Virginia Shaheen (\$1,000); Jonathan Aziz (\$500); Michael Elian (\$500); Joe Chalhoub (\$500); Celia Rossy (\$500); Mike Piers (\$250); Tania Shamy (\$250).

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN: LADIES' CLOSING DINNER

Tuesday, June 14 2016 at 6:30pm- Restaurant Madisons (1695 Boul de l'avenir)

Ticket: \$30/person - To confirm, please contact Roula Mourani before June 6

(514) 699-9635 / roula_mourani@sympatico.ca

SOYO & YAM BBQ - SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Join us for a great BBQ of homemade quality mouthwatering Burgers & Souvlaki after the Divine Liturgy. For tickets, please contact Larry Zakaib (514-892-9900)

Students in need of Financial Assistance for Post-Secondary University Education, may apply for a grant from The Aziz Tabah Foundation for the coming scholastic year. Please contact Carolyn Tabah @: 514-948-2590 for further information.

Today's Memorial Service is for the Departed Servants of God:

- * Michael Saad (6th month). Isabelle, Najeeb, Mariam, Hallem, Bobby, Freddy, Victor, Lawrence. Offered by his brother Gordon Saad & The Saad Family.
- * Nelson Ayoub (27th year). Jamile Ayoub. Offered by his wife Doreen Ayoub & Family.
- * Josephine Massad (9th year); Rubellah, Omar, Joe & Eddy Aziz. Offered by the Massad Family.