

The athletes maintained their resistance in the arena; the tyrants inflicted torments upon the martyrs. And the choirs of the angels stood by holding the prizes of victory. These wise ones astonished both tyrants and kings, and they destroyed the evil one by their confession of Christ. O Thou Who didst strengthen them, O Lord, glory be to Thee.



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

Sundays: Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9:00am-12:00pm

SUNDAY BULLETIN: MAY 28, 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 (Acts 20:16-18, 28-36) In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

لَأَنَّ بُولُسَ عَزَمَ أَنْ يَتَجَاوَزَ أَفْسُسَ فِي الْبَحْرِ لِئَلَّا يَعْرِضَ لَهُ أَنْ يَصْرِفَ وَقْتًا فِي أَسِيَّا لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ يُسْرِعُ حَتَّى إِذَا امْكَنَهُ يَكُونُ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ فِي يَوْمِ الْخَمْسِينَ. وَمِنْ مِيلْيْتُسَ أَرْسَلَ إِلَى أَفْسُسَ وَاسْتَدْعَى قُسُوسَ الْكَنِيسَةِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءُوا إِلَيْهِ قَالَ لَهُمْ: «أَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ مِنْ أَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ دَخَلْتُ أَسِيَّا كَيْفَ كُنْتُ مَعَكُمْ كُلَّ الزَّمَانِ إِحْتَرَزُوا إِذَا لَأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الَّتِي أَقَامَكُمُ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ فِيهَا أَسَاقِفَةً لِتَرْعُوا كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي اقْتَنَاهَا بِدَمِهِ. لِأَنِّي أَعْلَمُ هَذَا: أَنَّهُ بَعْدَ ذَهَابِي سَيَدْخُلُ بَيْنَكُمْ ذَنَابٌ خَاطِفَةٌ لَا تَشْفِقُ عَلَى الرَّعِيَّةِ. وَمِنْكُمْ أَنْتُمْ سَيَقُومُ رِجَالٌ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِأُمُورٍ مُلْتَوِيَةٍ لِيَجْتَذِبُوا التَّلَامِيذَ وَرَاءَهُمْ. لِذَلِكَ اسْهَرُوا مُتَذَكِّرِينَ أَنِّي ثَلَاثَ سِنِينَ لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا لَمْ أَفْتَرُ عَنْ أَنْ أُنذِرَ بِدُمُوعٍ كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ. وَالآنَ اسْتَوْدِعُكُمْ يَا إِخْوَتِي لِلَّهِ وَلِكَلِمَةِ نِعْمَتِهِ الْقَادِرَةِ أَنْ تَبْنِيَكُمْ وَتُعْطِيَكُمْ مِيرَاثًا مَعَ جَمِيعِ الْمُقَدَّسِينَ. فَضَّةٌ أَوْ ذَهَبٌ أَوْ لِبَاسٌ أَحَدٍ لَمْ أَشْتِهِ. أَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ حَاجَاتِي وَحَاجَاتِ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ خَدَمَتْهَا هَاتَانِ الْيَدَانِ. فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ أَرَيْتُكُمْ أَنَّهُ هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْكُمْ تَتَعَبُونَ وَتَعْضُدُونَ الضَّعْفَاءَ مُتَذَكِّرِينَ كَلِمَاتِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ أَنَّهُ قَالَ: مَغْبُوطٌ هُوَ الْعَطَاءُ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْأَخْذِ». وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا جَثَا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ مَعَ جَمِيعِهِمْ وَصَلَّى.

St. Nicholas SOYO Spring Time BBQ & 'Camp T' Info Day - Sunday, May 28 following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$15 each (Registered Sunday School students eat for FREE). For tickets, please see in the Church Larry Zakaib, Nicholas Zakaib, Mary Eve Anderson, Justina Anderson & Evan Bilikas. (see insert for more info)

Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Orthros & 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!

AGM - Sunday, June 11 after the Divine Liturgy.

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!

Soul Saturday June 3 - to schedule an appointment to meet Fr. Mark at Mount-Royal Cemetery that day to offer prayers at the graves of your loved ones, please contact the Church Office.

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

* Leila Nemer (1st year); Fares, Walid, Mikhael, Katrina, Nicholas, Alya, Nicola, Sami, Fr. Paul Nemer, Alfred, Samira, William, Elie & Michel. Offered by the Family.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. John 17:1-13) At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

تَكَلَّمَ يَسُوعُ بِهَذَا وَرَفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ نَحْوَ السَّمَاءِ وَقَالَ: «أَيُّهَا الْآبُ قَدْ أَتَتْ السَّاعَةُ. مَجِّدِ ابْنَكَ لِيَمَجِّدَكَ ابْنُكَ أَيْضاً إِذْ أُعْطِيْتَهُ سُلْطَاناً عَلَى كُلِّ جَسَدٍ لِيُعْطِيَ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً لِكُلِّ مَنْ أُعْطِيْتَهُ. وَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ: أَنْ يَعْرِفُوكَ أَنْتَ الْإِلَهَ الْحَقِيقِيَّ وَحَدَكَ وَيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلْتَهُ. أَنَا مَجِّدْتُكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. الْعَمَلُ الَّذِي أُعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَعْمَلُ قَدْ أَكْمَلْتُهُ. وَالْآنَ مَجِّدْنِي أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الْآبُ عِنْدَ ذَاتِكَ بِالْمَجْدِ الَّذِي كَانَ لِي عِنْدَكَ قَبْلَ كَوْنِ الْعَالَمِ. «أَنَا أَظْهَرْتُ اسْمَكَ لِلنَّاسِ الَّذِينَ أُعْطَيْتَنِي مِنَ الْعَالَمِ. كَانُوا لَكَ وَأُعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي وَقَدْ حَفَظُوا كَلَامَكَ. وَالْآنَ عَلِّمُوا أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا أُعْطَيْتَنِي هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ لِأَنَّ الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي أُعْطَيْتَنِي قَدْ أُعْطَيْتَهُمْ وَهُمْ قَبِلُوا وَعَلِّمُوا يَقِيناً أَنِّي خَرَجْتُ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ وَأَمَّنُوا أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ أَرْسَلْتَنِي. مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ أَنَا أَسْأَلُ. لَسْتُ أَسْأَلُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْعَالَمِ بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ أُعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَنَّهُمْ لَكَ. وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي فَهُوَ لَكَ وَمَا هُوَ لَكَ فَهُوَ لِي وَأَنَا مَمَجَّدٌ فِيهِمْ. وَلَسْتُ أَنَا بَعْدُ فِي الْعَالَمِ وَأَمَّا هَؤُلَاءِ فَهُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ وَأَنَا آتِي إِلَيْكَ. أَيُّهَا الْآبُ الْقُدُّوسُ أَحْفَظْهُمْ فِي اسْمِكَ. الَّذِينَ أُعْطَيْتَنِي لِيَكُونُوا وَاحِداً كَمَا نَحْنُ. حِينَ كُنْتُ مَعَهُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ كُنْتُ أَحْفَظُهُمْ فِي اسْمِكَ. الَّذِينَ أُعْطَيْتَنِي حَفَظْتَهُمْ وَلَمْ يَهْلِكْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا ابْنُ الْهَلَاكِ لِيَتِمَّ الْكِتَابُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ فَإِنِّي آتِي إِلَيْكَ. وَأَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا فِي الْعَالَمِ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ فَرَجِي كَامِلاً فِيهِمْ.

That the value of my life might be distinguished from that of others, Thou didst plant a garden in Eden, adorned with diverse plants, where Thou didst establish me free of sorrows and care as a partaker of Thy divine life, as a creature of mingled nature on earth, and equal to the Angels. Wherefore, O Saviour, grant rest unto Thy servants in the land of the living, in the tabernacles of the righteous.

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

I weep and I wail when I think upon death, and behold our beauty, fashioned after the image of God, lying in the tomb disfigured, dishonoured, and bereft of form. O marvel! What is this mystery which doth befall us? Why have we been given over unto corruption, and why have we been wedded unto death? Truly, as it is written, by the command of God, Who giveth the departed rest.

— THE PSYCHOPATH —

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

We've all read news reports of horrid cases of people being imprisoned for long periods of time by perverted individuals who have been later diagnosed as classic psychopaths. By definition, psychopaths are individuals who are hateful towards others, and incapable of empathy. Sometimes known as Dissocial Personality Disorder, or Narcissistic Personality Disorder (alternate terms for sociopathic behaviour), these people are callous individuals, who are unconcerned for the feelings of others. There is a lot of clinical evidence that points to a biological grounding for the uncaring nature of the psychopath. Since caring is a largely emotion-driven enterprise, it has been found that the brains of psychopaths have weak connections among the components of the brain's emotional systems. Such disconnects make it impossible for the psychopath to feel emotions deeply. Disgust, as an emotion, plays an important role on our sense of ethics, and normal people find certain types of unethical actions disgusting, something that keeps them from engaging in cruel treatment of other people. But psychopaths, when shown disgusting photos of mutilated faces and when exposed to foul odours, have extremely high thresholds for disgust. In rarer cases, the psychopathic personality can be the result of having suffered an extremely abusive childhood. Psychopaths, because they have an inability to empathize with others, are unable to feel the emotion of love. Simply put, psychopaths are not able to participate in normal, loving relationships that bound people together, as family, friends, and fellow human beings. Thus the question arises for the Christian, how can a person who does not have the ability to love, love God? And, if such a person is incapable of loving God, how can they escape eternal hell fire, since it is in this life that we are expected to prepare ourselves for an eternity in the presence of an All Holy God. If a psychopath is incapable of loving God, can we even say such a person was created in the image and likeness of God, Who is love? How can God have even allowed such a person be born, for does not this birth give life to someone who is totally incapable of gaining salvation? Wouldn't such a birth be a violation of free will? This question can equally be posed regarding the child born without a brain, or someone born without any cognitive abilities. Such abnormalities in God's creation are ultimately the result, not of God's will, but the result of the fall. The Scriptures identify sociopathic and psychopathic behaviour as among the severest moral and spiritual effects of man's fall into sin. Jesus described such sins as arising from evil hearts (Mark 7:20-23), and the holy apostle Paul identified godlessness as the root of such a deadly heart (Romans 1:28-32). In the psychopath we see the worst characteristics of sinful man's nature, the worst effects of both genetic and environmental moral degradation. The New Testament does not offer specifics on how a Christian society should deal with such serious problems. The Church's teachings about morality and immorality of every kind, and her hopeful appeals and invitations to repentance, conversion, and transformed life in Christ, certainly apply to a psychopath as to any sinner. Saint Paul, describing conduct that included psychopathic characteristics, wrote to one congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, "Such were some of you" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). As Orthodox Christians, we know that God is able to rescue and restore to righteousness the most corrupt heart. Because of this, it is possible for even a psychopath to be healed, and to come into a transformational relationship with the Living God. Yet, ultimately, much of this will remain a mystery to us, until that great day when we stand in the presence of God, and all is revealed to us. I believe culpability is the primary factor. God will not damn someone for things outside of their control.