



# ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

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

+Rev. Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (*Pastor*)

514-270-9788 office@stnicholasmtl.org www.stnicholasmtl.com

\*Follow us on **FACEBOOK!**\* (direct link on our website)

**Saturdays:** Great Vespers 7:00pm-8:00pm (Confessions by appointment)

**Sundays:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am-12:00pm

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

**BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 A.D.**

## WE NEED SACRAMENT NOT SENTIMENT!

**By: Fr. Stephen Allen. Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church - Charlottetown, PEI**

I am always amazed at what Reflections people click that they “Like” on Facebook. It is usually the ones that make them feel good or they find some emotional fulfillment in them. And if there was one song that could capture the mindset of modern North Americans, I think it might be the 1968 pop classic “Hooked on a Feeling.” It seems we base everything on how it plays out in our emotions, and it seems it is our emotions that have taken front stage in our spiritual lives—and many in the Church have chosen “Sentiment” over “Sacrament.” Which is to say, we often rely on how good and comfortable we feel as a marker of our spiritual state rather than the depth and extent of our participation in the Sacramental life of the Church through Repentance. Perhaps that is why nowadays we see contradictory behaviour in many who call themselves Christian. “I am a Christian but I support many modern ideas and lifestyles that go against tradition Biblical/Church teachings—I am spiritual but I do not pray, fast, read my Bible or go to Church regularly—I have a great Faith but I have neglected to make it a central and necessary part of my daily life or the daily life of my family and children at home.” So what are we basing our claim of a “Great Spiritual Faith in Christ?”—on emotion and how we feel? We can learn a lot from Jesus’ response to three people that hoped to follow Him and become part of His Church in the Gospel according to St. Luke 9:57-60: “Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” In this Gospel Jesus does not really seem concerned about these peoples’ feeling, comfort or personal commitments. He seems concerned with one thing and one thing only—that they repent and sacrifice everything (even if it causes them pain, suffering and discomfort) to follow Him that they may be “fit for the Kingdom of God.” The Oxford American Dictionary defines Sentiment as “exaggerated and self-indulgent feelings of tenderness or nostalgia.” So if we are we to choose a gauge by which to measure our spiritual lives, our personal feelings and emotions are probably the worst. It is better to gauge our life of “repentance” on more tangible things like how much we struggle daily to pray, fast and live the Sacramental life of the Church—on how much we struggle daily to think, speak and act and in a way befitting our Christian calling—on how much we struggle daily to love and do good things to other people despite how feel about them—or how comfortable we feel doing them. *(Continued on next page)*

**NEW ARRIVALS TO OUR LITTLE CHURCH BOUTIQUE!  
PRAYER ROPE BRACELETS, ICON BRACELETS & MORE!**

(Continued from previous page) In his book "Turning the Heart to God," Saint Theophan the Recluse writes: "From Satan come various different spiritual [emotional] delusions. For some, there is an excessive hope for God's mercy: a [false] hope for God's mercy that [comes from emotion] and is without foundation or reason...". Saint Theophan is not saying anything new here—he is just putting in different words what St. John the Baptist said in the Gospel of Matthew 3:8-10 when he said: "Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,... And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." September 1st was the beginning of the Church new year—it is a new spiritual beginning—and it is a very good day to heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." (Matthew 3:2).

### THE HOLY EPISTLE (Galatians 6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَنْظَرُوا، مَا أَكْبَرَ الْأَحْرَفَ الَّتِي كَتَبْتُهَا إِلَيْكُمْ بِيَدِي! جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعْمَلُوا مَنْظَرًا حَسَنًا فِي الْجَسَدِ، هَؤُلَاءِ يُلْزِمُونَكُمْ أَنْ تَخْتَنُوا، لِئَلَّا يُضْطَهُدُوا لِأَجْلِ صَلِيبِ الْمَسِيحِ فَقَطً. لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْتَنُونَ هُمْ لَا يَحْفَظُونَ النَّامُوسَ، بَلْ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَخْتَنُوا أَنْتُمْ لِكَيْ يَفْتَخِرُوا فِي جَسَدِكُمْ. وَأَمَّا مِنْ جِهَتِي، فَحَاشَا لِي أَنْ أَفْتَخِرَ إِلَّا بِصَلِيبِ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِهِ قَدْ صَلِبَ الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا لِلْعَالَمِ. لِأَنَّهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لَيْسَ الْخِتَانُ يَنْفَعُ شَيْئًا وَلَا الْغُرْلَةُ، بَلِ الْخَلِيقَةُ الْجَدِيدَةُ. فَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ يَسْلُكُونَ بِحَسَبِ هَذَا الْقَانُونِ عَلَيْهِمْ سَلَامٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ، وَعَلَى إِسْرَائِيلِ اللَّهِ. فِي مَا بَعْدُ لَا يَجْلِبُ أَحَدٌ عَلَيَّ اتِّعَابًا، لِأَنِّي حَامِلٌ فِي جَسَدِي سِمَاتِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ. نِعْمَةٌ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مَعَ رُوحِكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ. آمِينَ.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. John 3:13-17)

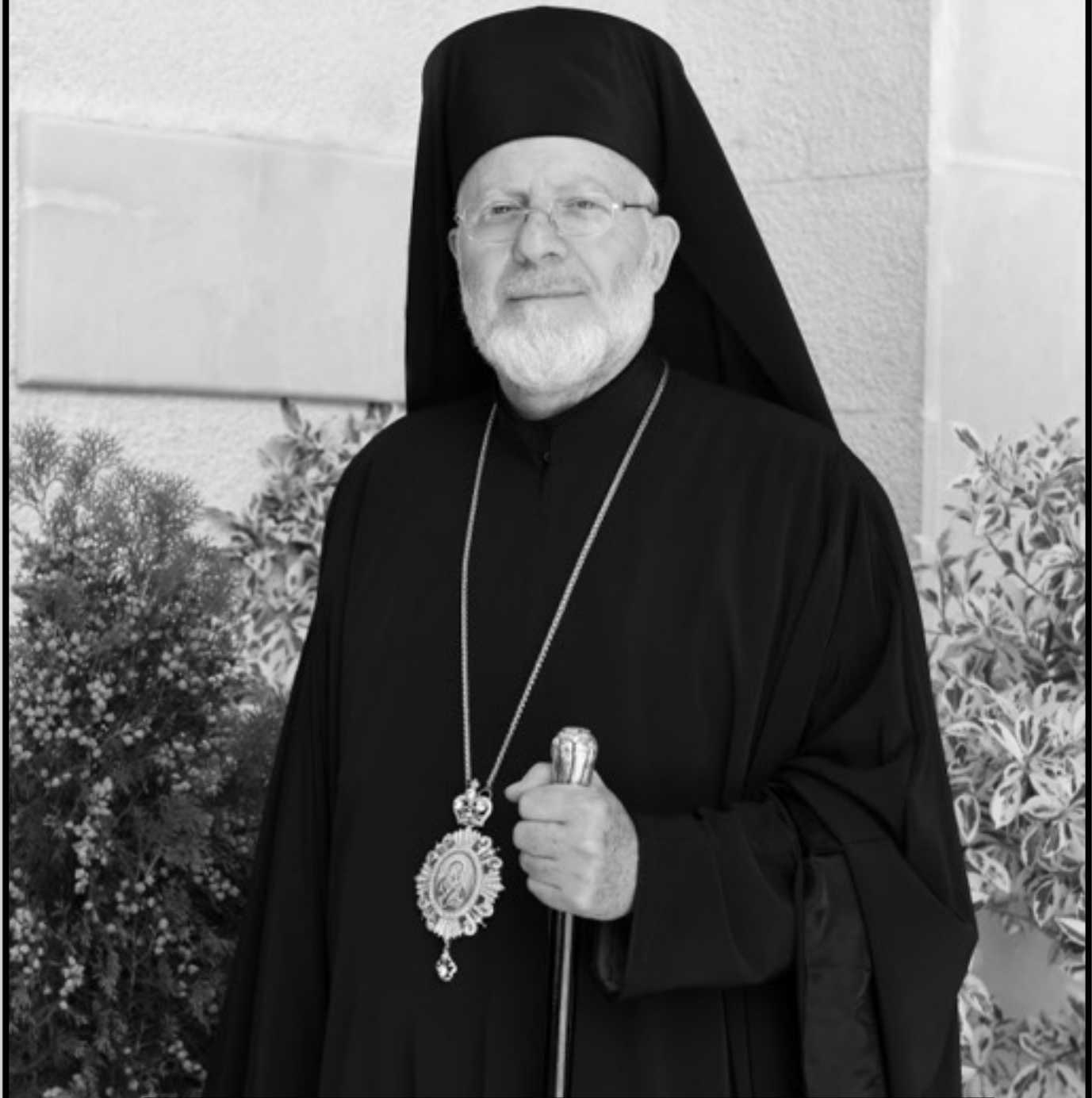
The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ قَالَ يَسُوعَ لَيْسَ أَحَدٌ صَعِدَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ إِلَّا الَّذِي نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي هُوَ فِي السَّمَاءِ. ((وَكَمَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى الْحَيَّةَ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ هَكَذَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يُرْفَعَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ، لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَالَمَ حَتَّى بَدَّلَ ابْنَهُ الْوَحِيدَ، لِكَيْ لَا يَهْلِكَ كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ، بَلْ تَكُونَ لَهُ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يُرْسِلِ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ لِيُدِينَ الْعَالَمَ، بَلْ لِيُخَلِّصَ بِهِ الْعَالَمَ.

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

- \* Rosa Abou Assaleh (4th year) & Moussa Abou Assaleh (11th year). Offered by the Family.
- \* Nick & Fred Assaly (20th year); Theodora Bilikas (15th year); Assaf, Chacra and Assaly families. Offered by Doreen Assaly and Family.
- \* Fouad Salhany (1st year); Norma & Carolyn. Offered by his daughter Barbara.
- \* Roger Saykaly (4th year); Eileen, Thomas, Balida, Alfred, Margaret, Julia, George and Nicholas Saykaly. Offered by Brian & Carol Saykaly.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord



**JOIN US IN WELCOMING  
FOR THE 1ST TIME TO OUR PARISH:  
H.E. METROPOLITAN JOSEPH  
FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS - SEPTEMBER 13  
ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY  
STARTING AT 6:00PM  
FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN RECEPTION IN OUR  
NEWLY RENOVATED CHURCH HALL**

# UPCOMING CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

**To purchase tickets for the Grand Hafli  
Please contact:**

Sylvia Mefrige  
514-344-0550  
Salwa Abouassaly  
514-337-6779  
Hala Zakaib  
514-748-0882  
Hana Rahhal  
514-953-4220  
Church Office  
514-270-9788

NOTE: Children 12 & under \$25.00

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**To purchase tickets for the Fashion Show please contact:  
Carol Maker  
514-335-4372  
cmaker33@gmail.com  
or the Church Office**

## Grand Hafli

Presented by: St. Nicholas Antiochian Church  
Date: Saturday, November 5th 2016  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Price: \$50/ per person

**New Location! New Location !**

**Nuits de Beyrouth  
965 Curé-Labelle Suite K  
Laval, Quebec**



Mezza  
Supper

Ticket #-----

100\$



Diane Majdell and St. Nicholas Church  
present  
**A Cocktail Fashion Show and After Party Dance**  
To benefit  
**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**  
Sunday, September 25, 2016  
5:00 pm Cocktails/Hors D'oeuvres  
6:30 pm Fashion Show  
Followed by After Party Dance and Sweet Table

**Le Loft Hotel**  
314 Sherbrooke St. East,  
Montreal H2X 1E6  
Free Parking on Street

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