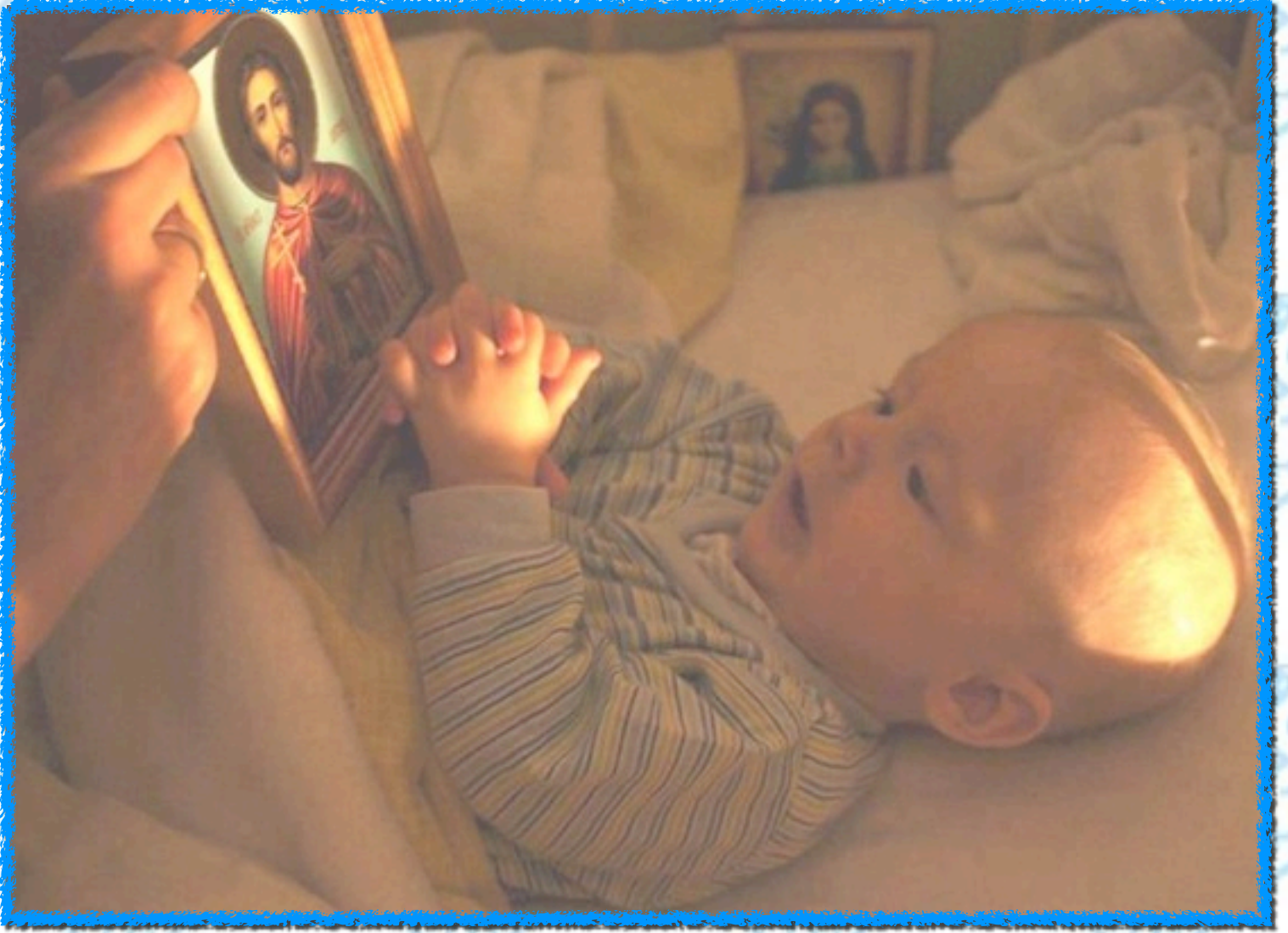


+ St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

SUNDAY BULLETIN - JULY 5, 2015 A.D.



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WE ARE A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA,
WHICH IS AN ARCHDIOCESE OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST.

لُغتنا انطاكيّة، لُغتنا واحدة

“Our language is Antiochian, our language is One” - H.B. Patriarch John X

THE HOLY EPISTLE (Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

الرُّوحُ هُوَ: مَحَبَّةٌ فَرَحٌ سَلَامٌ، طُوبَى أَتَاةٌ لُطْفٌ صَالِحٌ، إِيمَانٌ وَدَاعَةٌ تَعَفُّفٌ. ضِدٌّ أَمْثَالٌ هَذِهِ لَيْسَ نَامُوسٌ. وَلَكِنَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ قَدْ صَالَبُوا الْجَسَدَ مَعَ الْأَهْوَاءِ وَالشَّهَوَاتِ. إِنْ كُنَّا نَعِيشُ بِالرُّوحِ فَلْنَسْكُ أَيضاً بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ. لَا نَكُنْ مُعْجِبِينَ نَغَاضِبُ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضاً، وَنَحْسِدُ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضاً. أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِنْ أَنْسَبَقَ إِنْسَانٌ فَأَخَذَ فِي زَلَّةٍ مَا، فَأَصْلَحُوا أَنْتُمْ الرُّوحَانِيِّينَ مِثْلَ هَذَا بِرُوحِ الْوَدَاعَةِ، نَاطِرًا إِلَى نَفْسِكَ لِئَلَّا تُجْرَبَ أَنْتَ أَيضاً. أَحْمِلُوا بَعْضَكُمْ أَنْفَالَ بَعْضٍ وَهَكَذَا تَمَمُوا نَامُوسَ الْمَسِيحِ..

THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ لَمَّا جَاءَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى الْعَبْرِ إِلَى كُورَةِ الْجَرَجَسِيِّينَ، اسْتَقْبَلَهُ مَجْنُونَانِ خَارِجَانِ مِنَ الْقُبُورِ هَائِجَانِ جِدًّا، حَتَّى لَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَجْتَازَ مِنْ تِلْكَ الطَّرِيقِ. وَإِذَا هُمَا قَدْ صَرَخَا قَائِلِينَ: ((مَا لَنَا يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ اللَّهِ؟ أَجِئْتَ إِلَى هُنَا قَبْلَ الْوَقْتِ لِتُعَذِّبَنَا؟)) (وَكَانَ بَعِيدًا مِنْهُمْ قَطِيعُ خَنَازِيرٍ كَثِيرَةٍ تَرَعَى. فَالشَّيَاطِينُ طَلَبُوا إِلَيْهِ قَائِلِينَ: ((إِنْ كُنْتَ تُخْرِجُنَا، فَادِّنْ لَنَا أَنْ نَذْهَبَ إِلَى قَطِيعِ الْخَنَازِيرِ)) (فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: ((امْضُوا)). فَخَرَجُوا وَمَضُوا إِلَى قَطِيعِ الْخَنَازِيرِ، وَإِذَا قَطِيعُ الْخَنَازِيرِ كُلُّهُ قَدْ انْدَفَعَ مِنْ عَلَى الْجُرْفِ إِلَى الْبَحْرِ وَمَاتَ فِي الْمِيَاهِ. أَمَّا الرُّعَاةُ فَهَرَبُوا وَمَضُوا إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ، وَأَخْبَرُوا عَنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، وَعَنْ أَمْرِ الْمَجْنُونِينَ. فَإِذَا كُلُّ الْمَدِينَةِ قَدْ خَرَجَتْ لِمُلَاقَاةِ يَسُوعَ. وَلَمَّا أَبْصَرُوهُ طَلَبُوا أَنْ يَنْصَرِفَ عَنْ نُحُومِهِمْ. فَدَخَلَ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَازَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ.

CHRISTIAN PHARISEES! (By: Abbot Tryphon)

If your spiritual life is concentrated only on external practices and traditions, but does nothing to bring about real change, you will have gained nothing. Too many people think as long as they keep the fasting rules, do their prayers, and attend the services, they are good Orthodox Christians. Yet if there is no love, no charity, and no forgiveness of others, and your life is filled with gossip and judgement, your Orthodox Christian faith is worth nothing. Christ condemned the Pharisees not because they kept the law and attended to the traditions of the Jewish faith, but because they did so while filled with pride and arrogance. Without sincere repentance and holiness of life, their encounter with God led to an emptiness of heart. Because our Orthodox faith is one of tradition and liturgical structure, it is easy to fall into the trap of being nothing more than a Pharisee. Being strict in one's observance of Orthodox practices can easily lead to pride and arrogance. If you find yourself feeling better than others and proud of your piety, you have gained absolutely nothing. The external practice of the Orthodox Christian faith without heartfelt humility and repentance leads down the road of spiritual ruin. The Church is the hospital of the soul, but healing can only come if we put effort into it. If your doctor prescribes a medication for your condition but you fail to follow your doctor's orders, you will not get well. The Church has all that you need for spiritual transformation, but healing only comes if you cooperate with the healing process. The goal is holiness (wholeness) and is the direct result of our having submitted in all humility to a life of repentance. When you do this Christ changes you. If you simply go through the motions of your Orthodox faith, you are no better off than the Pharisees whom Christ condemned.

*** DILUTED MEDICINE! ***

By: Fr. Barnabas Powell

A German doctor named Samuel Christian Hahnemann was dissatisfied with the medicines of his day. He lived in a day before the discovery of vaccines, the germ theory, and systematic medical testing. He is said to be the father of homeopathy medicines and developed the idea that if you diluted the basics of a disease then you could cure the disease in a person. As you can imagine, modern medical science rejects homeopathy as a viable treatment option. But what caught my interest was the idea of diluting medicine. While I don't pretend to understand all the science of medicines, I have discovered, on my own, that diluted medicines aren't as effective as the full dose. I tried it once when I couldn't afford my prescription, so I cut the medicine in half. Yeah, oh well, back to the drawing board. So, if diluted medicines don't really heal our physical diseases, why do we suppose that diluted spiritual "medicines" will heal our inner lives? Things that make you go "Hmmm."

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Matthew 5:14-19:

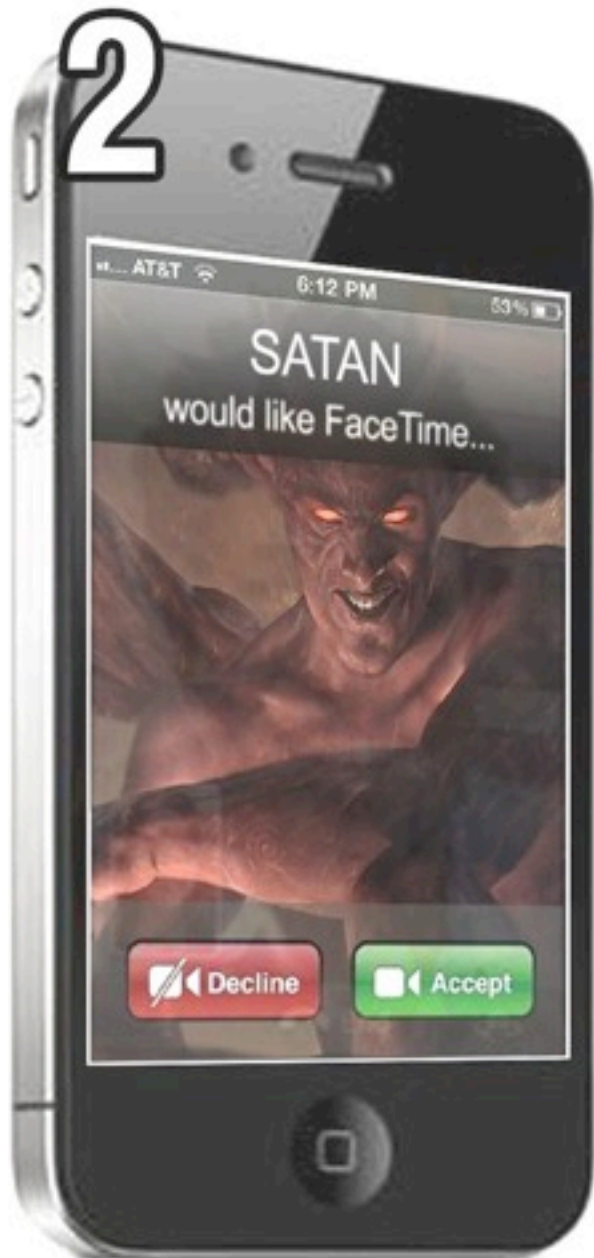
The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus makes it clear that His faithful followers will be the light of the world. They will be a "city set on a hill that cannot be hid." Notice, He doesn't say we should try to be the light of the world or a city that can't be hid. He simply declares that His true followers "will BE" this obvious to the whole world. And this insight, this reality, flows from His clear wisdom He declares when He says that He hasn't come to destroy the law and the prophets, to destroy the past, but to fulfill them! You see, your fidelity to the wisdom of the faith that transcends time and space, your active participation in the Life of the Faith MAKES YOU the light of the world. This active participation in regular liturgies, daily prayers, generous giving, and willingness to share this faith with others sets you free to be what Christ says you are: The Light of the world. And this very purposeful Orthodoxy is the spiritual medicine at full potency and not the diluted "medicine" that simply makes other immune to the fullness of the faith. Today, have you ever wondered why some find it so easy to abandon the Orthodox Church? Could it be that they have been "inoculated" by a diluted witness of the Faith? How sad that we insist on potent medicines for our physical ailments but accept watered down "medicines" for our souls. No wonder we grieve when our children make choices that cause them to drift further from the Faith we've known our whole lives. And yet, all is not lost. No, we can, and must, abandon the diluted witness of a Faith used more as a cultural decoration rather than the center of our very existence. We must be willing to go to Him Who offers us the full potency of wisdom, faith, and love to "become by grace what Christ is by nature." Will you join me today in daring to be Orthodox on Purpose and watch as this "Light of the World" calls wounded people to the only "city" where they can get medicine for their lives that truly makes us well?

Prayer is born of Love! (By: Abbot Tryphon)

If we find fault in others, our self-indulgent attitude keeps us from having a successful interaction with God. Prayer is born of love, while fault-finding, idle talk and self-indulgence are the death of prayer. Love and prayer are interconnected because both involve God, and if we love God we are given the power to keep our mind on Him both day and night. Nothing keeps us from Him, and nothing hinders our communion with Him. Even the distractions and temptations of the world fade away as nothing, for as God's love grows in us, so does love of our neighbor grow.

PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY AT PRAYER-TIME AND HAVE A FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATION WITH JESUS ONLY!



CHURCH RAFFLE

** AUGUST 25 2015 **

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE SEE
PAUL MASSAD OR ANY
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

60th Anniversary **CEDARS HOME**
Gala Banquet - September 11 2015
Hyatt Regency Mntl - **Tickets \$125**
Beverly Aziz Courey 514-342-7338
Geoff Kalil 514-718-1771
Richard Rossy 514-733-1529

SATURDAY: VESPERS (7:00PM)
CONFESSION BY APPOINTMENT

SUNDAY:
ORTHROS AT 9:00AM
DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:30AM



MET. BOULOS YAZIGI
& MET. YOUHANNA IBRAHIM
ABDUCTED BY TERRORISTS IN SYRIA
ON APRIL 22, 2013
THE INTERNATIONAL SILENCE CONTINUES
DURING THE GENOCIDE OF THE
CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST.
WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THEM ALL!