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Saturday Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy at 4:00 pm

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Parish Office Tel: 561.499.3161
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Eli Khouri & Carmen Hajj
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www.stnicholasmelkite.org
Confessions: By Appointment

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Antiphon Prayer: O Lord, our God, You have granted the holy martyrs that their relics would be spread throughout the world, including this church, to bring forth the grace of healing from diseases. Make us worthy, through the intercession of your Saints, to offer You the Spiritual Sacrifice and guide us on the way of Salvation. For You are Good and the Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the Holy Relics: Victorious witnesses of the Lord, blessed is the earth that received your blood, and holy are the heavenly places that opened to your souls. You have vanquished the enemy in battle and proclaimed Christ with courage. We beg you to intercede with Him who is all good, that He may save our souls.

Message From Father Gabriel...

“Arise and Go Forward!” ©

In today’s gospel, Jesus, knowing the thoughts of the Scribes after healing the paralyzed man, said “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?” He was referring to the doubt he saw deep within them. As they were doubting Him, Jesus tells us a powerful message- *to stop living the life of Emotional paralysis, by continuing to Doubt and Worry, and to Arise with Courage having Faith to start moving forward in the Light.*

Often times we get stuck in a place where moving forward becomes impossible. We limit ourselves with our *Self-Limiting Beliefs* and the *Self-Limiting Company* we keep. Our belief system is a powerful mechanism which causes us to question every aspect of ourselves, our strengths, our possibilities, our successes and our creativity. Possible failures are viewed as blockages instead of stepping stones or learning curves. And possible scars from past hurts are viewed as irreversible instead of character build-ups and resilience-makers. We focus on how we cannot do something versus how we can do something different! *Our Self-Limiting Beliefs limit all of the possibilities that lay ahead.* We doubt our present situations and consequently doubt the future endeavors we would have created.

The friends we keep say a lot about who we are as individuals. We all have unique characteristics and strengths, but we tend to form friendships and partnerships with people who have similar life goals, visions, qualities, and morals. When you surround yourself with people who are always negative or even have conscious or hidden desires to hold you back, it’s no wonder why you feel like you’re “stuck in the mud.” *The Self-Limiting Company you keep helps to remind you of your past failures or hurts and why you won’t achieve a goal or shouldn’t even bother to think about it.* They increase your own Self-limiting thoughts and create new ones to hold you back and keep you paralyzed in your own fear and doubt.

What Jesus is reminding us with the message is to **Make a Stand For Yourself- “Get Up...and Go.”** Have courage to *have Faith in yourself.* You need to start recognizing your Self-Limiting Beliefs and the Self-Limiting Company you keep, and chose to make a transformation. It takes courage to change your focus and eliminate any toxic people around you. But once you change your belief system to *Self-Increasing Beliefs* and the people around you to *Self-Improving Company*, you will begin to see positive effects in your life. Creativity, Love and Care breeds Positivity and Advancement allowing you to *Arise and Go Forward.*

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe enough shadows to blind those who don’t.” (Blaise Pascal)

Special Offerings

BLESSINGS & WELLBEING of:

- . The Dacken Family that they may find comfort
- . Lorraine Yabroudy & Mimi Samaan, Francis & Johnpaul McIntoch, Michael & Eva Sica, Maurice Rahal, Aldo & Sylvie Lombardo, Albert Ghanoum, George Ged, Bob Shaheen, Gaby Zakkour, Emil Kasses, Dr. Bishara Faris, Marilyn Barbary, Anthony Antaki, Samira Ajlouny
- . All who helped make the Golf Tournament a great success
- BIRTHDAY:** Andrew Dagher & Marty Ged
- WED-ANNIV:** Mona & Jalil Karam, Nelson & Maria Morciglio

Liturgy Memorials

- . Adele Dacken, by the Community
- . Bill Toole
- . Eliza Bahi
- . Badie Kattoura
- . Lorraine & James Oussani, Sr.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION - Regular class

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, March 13th at 7:00 pm

Epistle of the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 1:10-2:4

Prokimenon - You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reading - You in the beginning, O Lord, did found the earth, and the heavens are works of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall continue; and they shall all grow old as does a garment, and as clothing shall you change them, and they shall be changed. But you are the same, and your years shall not fail (Ps. 101: 26-28). Now, to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool at your feet"(Ps.109:1)? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for service, for the sake of those who shall inherit salvation? That is why we should all the more earnestly observe the things we have heard, lest perhaps we drift away. For if the word spoken by angels proved to be valid, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? For it was first announced by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard it.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the Evangelist 2:1-12 (Healing of the Paralytic)

At that time Jesus entered Caparnaum, and it was reported that he was at home. And immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even around the door. And he spoke the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four. And since they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was, and, having made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the Paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Now some of the Scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man blaspheme in this way? Who can forgive sins, beside God?" And at once Jesus, knowing in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet, and walk'? But that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house." And immediately he arose and, taking up his pallet, went forth in the sight of all, so that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "Never did we see anything like this!"

فصل من بشارة القديس مرقس الإنجيلي البشير 2:1- 12

في ذلك الزمان، دخل يسوع كفرناحوم. وسمع أنه في بيت، ففي الحال اجتمع خلق كثير بحيث لم يبقى موضع يسع ولا عند الباب، وكان يخطبهم بالكلمة. فأتوا إليه بمخلع يحملهُ أربعة. وإذ لم يقدرُوا أن يقتربوا إليه بسبب الجمع، كشفوا السقف حيث كان، وبعد ما نقبوه دلوا الفراش الذي كان المخلع مضطجعا عليه. فلما رأى يسوع إيمانهم قال للمخلع: يا بني مغفورة لك خطاياك. وكان قوم من الكتبة جالسين هناك يفكرون في قلوبهم: ما بال هذا يتكلم هكذا بالتجديف؟ من يقدر أن يغفر الخطايا إلا الله وحده؟ فلوقت علم يسوع بروحه أنهم يفكرون هكذا في أنفسهم. فقال لهم: لماذا تفكرون بهذا في قلوبكم؟ ما الأيسر: أن يقال للمخلع مغفورة لك خطاياك. أم أن يقال قم احمل فراشك وامشي؟ ولكن لكي تعلموا ان ابن الانسان له سلطان على الارض ان يغفر الخطايا، قال للمخلع: لك أقول قم احمل فراشك واذهب الى بيتك. فقام للوقت وحمل فراشه وخرج أمام الجميع، حتى دهشوا كلهم ومجدوا الله قائلين: ما رأينا قط مثل هذا.

SECOND COLLECTION

St. Nicholas' Parish Council has carefully studied the church's ongoing expenses. Many volunteers help with much work on an ongoing basis; *To share this collective stewardship, we find it necessary to have a:*

2nd collection on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month to go toward the

BUILDING FUND MORTGAGE Commitment

Monthly 2nd Collections: March 1st & 15th

If you wish to make arrangement to pay by Credit Card, please contact Samir Risk @ 954.561.5138

Thank you for responding positively !!!

I tell you, keep asking, and it will be given you. Keep seeking, and you will find. Keep knocking and it will be opened to you. Luke 11:9

St. Nicholas 12th Annual Golf Tournament Congratulations on A Super Successful Tournament!!!

Our Church 12th annual Golf Tournament took place Friday, Feb. 28, we had a wonderful turnout, it was enjoyed by all participants, great sponsorships, awesome contests and prizes, outstanding silent auction items.

Heartfelt thanks to All those who donated their time & talents to make the event a memorable one.

Thank you to All our **Sponsors, Donors, Underwriters, participants**, and particularly to our **Corporate Title Sponsor:**

Ged Lawyers for their continuous support.
A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to the Tournament Co-Chairs, Donna DeMato & Dr. Nick Fakhoury, the Tournament Committee & Volunteers for an outstanding job, their unsurpassed dedication & tireless efforts and the dedicated Volunteers especially:
Tony & Camille Ajakie, Cesar Bravo, Benji Bravo, Norma Dagher, Salam Dagher, Joumana Dagher, George Deeb, Denise Faris, Glen Ged, George & Marva Ged, Marty Ged, Sonia Hanna, Gloria Hosh, Mona Karam, Laila Kattoura, Eli Khouri, Aldo & Sylvie Lombardo, Michael Masrieh, Nelson Morciglio, Anita Nabhan, Jim Oussani, Samir & Mona Risk, Linda Russo, Angelo & Francesca Sama, Lucy Sama and especially
Fr. Gabriel for his leadership!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, April 5:** Palm Sun. Bake Sale
- Holy Week & Easter, April 8, 9, 10, 11, 12**
- Saturday, April 25:** Spring Hafleh???
- Sunday, May 17:** Father Gabriel's Birthday

Mediterranean Food Festival

After weighing in on the coronavirus and the many risks that come with it... we find it wise and necessary to postpone the food festival to a later date that will be determined once things are under control or back to normal. Please share the info with your friends.

CHURCH FINANCIAL CORNER

February 2020 Financial Summary
Total Income - Gen. Collection & Bldg Fund- 36,260*

Expenses: Mortgage Payment: \$12,500

Operating Expenses: \$15,023

Total Expenses: \$27,523 Surplus: \$8,737

*Deposits from the Golf Tournament Registrations boosted this month Building Fund income.

For any questions, please contact Samir Risk: Risksamf@gmail.com

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS

Relics play an important role in our Church, because they point to one of the most basic beliefs mentioned in the Creed, the ultimate resurrection of all flesh in the age to come. Major relics, such as intact bodies, skulls or major body parts are often carried in procession for solemn veneration. Such relics, like noteworthy icons, are often sent from one local Church to another to increase people's reverence for them and for what they represent.



Thus, in 2017, relics of St Nicholas were sent from Bari to Moscow, with the blessing of Pope Francis. The relics remained in Russia for two months where over one million Orthodox Christians lined up to venerate them. Many churches have fragments of relics from the bodies or garments of the Saints. They may be encased in reliquaries or embedded in icons for veneration. Icons are also encased in the holy tables of consecrated churches, a reminder of the first centuries when the Liturgy was frequently served at martyrs' graves. In the Byzantine Churches, such relics are sewn into each antimimension placed under the chalice and disks during the Divine Liturgy. Thus, every Liturgy is served over the remains or belongings of a saint. Reverence for relics, like our veneration of icons, is particularly timely during the Great Fast, as it reminds us of the divine life dwelling in those who truly live the Christian life. In the sanctified remains of the Saints, we see that the state of deification which they attained during this life is prolonged in their bodies after death. The energy of their sanctification does not forsake the body after death; it remains, sometimes in a manifest way, in anticipation of the transfigured bodies of the Saints in the life of the age to come.

LITURGY OFFERING

For Liturgy Offering, Mass Scheduling & Special Intentions, kindly submit request 2 weeks in advance with your stole offering in an envelope and give it to Carmen.

Memorial Mass Cards are available.
Email: Carmen@stnicholasmelkite.org

ONLINE BULLETIN

You can always read the weekly Bulletin on the Church Website - www.stnicholasmelkite.org

BULLETIN ADS RENEWAL

Courtesy reminder - Kindly renew your bulletin ads and pay your annual renewal dues to: **Dr. Nick Fakhoury or Carmen**. We do accept Credit Cards.

Thank you for your continuous support!

CHURCH ICONS ADOPTION

"O Lord, Safeguard the fullness of your Church and Sanctify those who love the beauty of your HOUSE"
For Icon adoption availability, please inquire with: **Jim Oussani Jr. (917) 474.2156**

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