

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u> | <u>ANNIVERSARY</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 | Aida Khalaf | 1 |
| 8 | Victoria Saba | 21 |
| 8 | Gassana Hinn | 17 |
| 9 | Ismat Jahshan | 6 |
| 9 | Nicholas Charles Saba | 13 |
| 9 | Alvin Daher | 16 |
| 11 | Kathrine Hinnawi | 30 |
| 12 | Odette Bechbache | 4 |
| 13 | Ralph Salem | 18 |
| 14 | Samir Tarazi | 5 |

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **August 11:** in loving memory of Nahida Irbib from Nadim Irbib and family
- **September 22:** in loving memory of Ernest Younes from his family
- **October 13:** in loving memory of Yvonne Younes from her family
- **ONE-YEAR Memorial for Aida Khalaf** offered by her children Elie, Toufic and Chady Kalouche. May her memory be eternal.
- **Congratulations** to Josephine & Paul Vincent Healy for the churching of their son John Michael Healy.
- **Engaged get together:** Thursday, July 18th at 7:30 PM in the basement.
- **Ushers for July 14:** Lana Dabbagh, Nuha Nims, Mounir Ayad and Souheil El-Achhab
- **Ushers for July 21:** Edward Abboud, Nahla Dahdaly, Issa Besharat and Colette El-Hajj
- Please, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Attiah, Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Isabelle, Nassar, Adel, Valentine, Lucy, Adele and Nina. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.
- **Fr. George resumed blessing homes. Please call Father to schedule**
- **Wine and Holy Bread Donations:** if you like to donate towards the wine or holy bread, please see the office. \$350 for Holy Bread, and \$300 for wine.

Love Is above Everything by Fr. Andrew Lemeshonok

A person cannot love anyone without God. When we look through the eyes of natural vision (natural for our state of spiritual life), we see sins in people. So, we just cannot love anyone who has so much sins and untruth within them. But when God touches us, we start to see in a person his true essence, his beauty as of a creature made by the love of God. Our attitude to anyone depends on the fact whether we see God in them.

To learn how to love, you need to humble yourself and to understand, once and for all, that without God you cannot and will never be able to love. That is, we constantly need God's help, which is abundantly given to us in the Church, in its sacraments. In the greatest sacrament of Holy Communion. Love in the Chalice washes away sins of everyone the Church is praying for — the living and the dead. We start to love, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, or rather, God's love abides in us. But how can we become like God? For this, it is necessary that the whole life be spent on the work of getting church-ed, work of meekness and obedience, work of revival of the love that our forefathers lost in Paradise. Therefore, the saints say the Church is Heaven, where the laws of God's love are already valid. Everyone goes to the Chalice! And there are no first and last ones. Everyone is invaluable for God, and the Lord gives Himself, His Love till the end. A person who has realized his sinfulness and grieved for it, receives greater grace at Confession than a person who has not sinned, but who does not see his guilt, his own darkening, and his own isolation from God.

To love a person is not easy. God is not always with us, because we do not hold Him in our sinful body, thoughts, and life. We stumble and fall again, and it's not easy to get up. Self-love and vanity do not allow us to realize that we are nothing without God. It seems to us that we know everything and we can do everything. But we part from this illusion when the Love of our God touches us. Then we start to see clearly and to grieve for the fact that we isolate ourselves from God by listening to sin and living in it. However, as long as man exists on earth, it is possible for him to receive the love of God.

New Testament is the testament of Love. Not the testament of Law, where a person is told: "Do not touch, do not do, do not look." But the testament of Love: love each other. The Gospel of Apostle John the Theologian (if we read it carefully, we can notice this) is all about love. When John the Theologian was already a 100-year-old washy elder, he was repeating only one thing: "Children, love each other." Everything else disappears: knowledge, prophecies, and the miracles we are looking for. There is love — and it is above everything.

However, to indulge the sins of a husband or to spoil a child is not love, but man-pleasing, that is sin. Love is when I can reproach and be strict with loved ones. Love is when I am compassionate to a person. Of course, it's easier for a mother to tell to her child: "Take some money, go buy yourself something and get away from me." And it's so hard to tell instead: "Be patient, you must learn to ask God for help". Love is not to fulfill any desire of loved one or to serve them blindly indulging their sins. Love is, first of all, a gift from God, it is an inner pain, it is a caring attitude to a person, to his soul, to his life. It is understanding. Love is when you can give up what you want or like for the sake of your loved one. For example, you want to go somewhere, but a person who is near to you, needs attention and care. And even if I'm not interested in what this person is talking about, I will listen to, because I want to love him. Love comes when a person forces himself to make some efforts. This is not a fairy tale with a happy end, love is a cross. "It is very difficult for me to bear the infirmities of this person, the devil prevents me from doing this, but I will try anyway. God help me! Help me to learn how to love, help me to accept people as they are, and to understand that their weaknesses are my weaknesses". That is love. That is how God loves us.

ORTHROS ON SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019; TONE 3 / EOTHINON 4
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

APOSTLE AQUILA OF THE SEVENTY; JOSEPH THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA; PETER, BISHOP OF CRETE; VENERABLE ONESIMOS OF MAGNESIA AND NICODEMUS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

الشماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّتِ بُولُسَ وَالْمَطْرَانَ يُوْحَنَّا وَفَكِّ
 أَسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمَيْنِ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ نَطْلُبُ.
 الجوقة: يَا رَبُّ ارْحَمْنَا.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

- *During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant the apolytikia in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

لَتَفْرَحِ السَّمَاوِيَّاتُ وَتَبْتَهِجِ الْأَرْضِيَّاتُ، لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ صَنَعَ
 عِزًّا بِسَاعِدِهِ، وَوَطِئَ الْمَوْتَ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَصَارَ بَكْرًا
 الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأَنْقَذَنَا مِنْ جَوْفِ الْجَحِيمِ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ
 الْعُظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْفَائِقُ التَّسْبِيحِ، يَا مَنْ أَسَّسْتَ
 آبَاءَنَا الْقَدِيسِينَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ كَوَاكِبَ لَامِعَةٍ، وَبِهِمْ هَدَيْتَنَا
 جَمِيعًا إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ الْحَقِيقِيِّ، يَا جَزِيلَ الرَّحْمَةِ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ
 غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ. لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنِّ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ
 الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنْتَ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ
 الصَّارِحِينَ نَحْوِكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بَادِرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ، وَأَسْرِعِي
 فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا بِمُكْرَمِيكَ.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهُ آبَائِنَا،

لَأَنَّكَ عَدْلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تَيْطُسَ.

يَا وَلَدِي تَيْطُسَ، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَإِيَّاهَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ تُقَرَّرَ

those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

حَتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ فِي الْقِيَامِ بِالْأَعْمَالِ الْحَسَنَةِ، فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. * أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَدْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُمَاحَكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. * وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةَ بَعْدَ الْإِنْذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرِضْ عَنْهُ. * عَالِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اعْتَسَفَ، وَهَوَّ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضِي بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. * وَمَتَى أَرْسَلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أَرْتِيمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. * أَمَّا زِينَاةٌ مُعَلِّمُ النَّامُوسِ وَأَبْلُوسُ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَأَهِّبِينَ لِيَلَّا يُعْوِزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. * وَلِيَتَعَلَّمْ دُونَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الصَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمِرِينَ. * يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ، سَلِّمْ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النَّعْمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Fathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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, until 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.”

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَى الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ
وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ
قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، لَا يُمْكِنُ أَنْ تُخْفَى مَدِينَةٌ وَاقِعَةٌ عَلَى جَبَلٍ. * وَلَا يُوقَدُ سِرَاجٌ وَيُوضَعُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ، لَكِنْ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ لِيُضِيَءَ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. * هَكَذَا فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِيَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الصَّالِحَةَ، وَيُمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. * لَا تَظُنُّوا أَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَحْلَ النَّامُوسِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، إِنِّي لَمْ آتِ لِأَحْلَ لَكِنْ لِأَتَمِّمْ. * الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّهُ إِلَى أَنْ تَزُولَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ، لَا يَزُولُ حَرْفٌ وَاحِدٌ أَوْ نُقْطَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ مِنَ النَّامُوسِ حَتَّى يَتِمَّ الْكُلُّ. * فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَحُلُّ وَاحِدَةً مِنْ هَذِهِ الْوَصَايَا الصَّغَارِ وَيُعَلِّمُ النَّاسَ هَكَذَا، فَإِنَّهُ يُدْعَى صَغِيرًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ؛ وَأَمَّا الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ وَيُعَلِّمُ، فَهَذَا يُدْعَى عَظِيمًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

• The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers—**especially the 630 of the Fourth Ecumenical Council whom we commemorate today**—of *Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; **of the Apostle Aquila of the Seventy; Joseph the Confessor, archbishop of Thessalonica; Peter, bishop of Crete; Venerable Onesimos of Magnesia and Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain**, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Pronunciation Guide

Aquila: ah-KWEE-lah

Onesimos: oh-nee-SEE-mohs

These texts have been prepared by St George Antiochian Orthodox Church

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GRAND RAPIDS: YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE!

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