



The Self + Ruled
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CATHEDRAL

*His Eminence, The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All North America*

Beloved in Christ, members of St. Nicholas Cathedral,

Getting Organized to Serve You

I am privileged to work with Fr. Paul Olson, Fr. Andrew Andrews, Archdn. George Shishim and Dn. Eliya Ammari in serving you. We, the Cathedral clergy, are a team, united in ministering to all of you.

We held a joyful and productive meeting last Saturday to organize ourselves, and I summarize here some of the responsibilities that I assigned to my associates. I am the only one serving you full time now, and I am very thankful for the associate clergy for their labors, which they do as volunteers (we only help them with expenses). The listed responsibilities may evolve over time, as needs change and, especially, after Fr. Andrew is able to leave his secular full-time job in northern California, relocate to LA and join us full time.



Please note that it would be inefficient for all the clergy to be together all the time, at every meeting or event. Also, while I have taken on certain responsibilities directly—particularly administration and overall coordination—I also plan to ‘roam’ between the various ministries and to stay in touch with all.

1. Liturgical Services – All Clergy
2. Confessions – Fr. Nabil, Fr. Paul and Fr. Andrew (choose a confessor, and stick with him)
3. Premarital, Marital and Other Counseling – Fr. Nabil and Fr. Paul
4. Cathedral Council – Fr. Nabil (Frs. Paul and Andrew always invited to participate)
5. Church School – Fr. Nabil and Fr. Andrew
6. Adult Instruction (Fall 2020 – schedules to be published next week)
 - a. Class on Liturgy - Fr. Nabil
 - b. Class on Parables (in Arabic) - Dn. Eliya
 - c. Catechism/Enquirers’ Class – Subdn. Seraphim
7. Teen SOYO – Fr. Andrew
8. Young Adults – Kh. Ruth
9. Ladies’ Society – Fr. Nabil
10. Men’s Fellowship – Fr. Andrew

11. Choir/Chanters – Fr. Nabil
12. Altar Society – Fr. Nabil and Subdn. Seraphim
13. Altar Servers – Archdn. George and Subdn. Seraphim
14. Charity Ministry – Fr. Nabil
15. St. Nicholas Camp – Fr. Nabil
16. Camping Program – all clergy
17. Pre-Lent Family Retreat – Fr. Andrew and Dn. Eliya
18. Technology Upgrades – Fr. Nabil, Fr. Paul, Fr. Andrew

The Lord bless and keep you safe!

+Fr. Nabil

V. Rev. Nabil L. Hanna, Dean
(213) 915-6269 or (317) 919-0841 *mobile*
fnabilh@stnicholasla.com *email*

Housekeeping Reminders

1. Parking

Our parking lot has always been reserved for clergy, elderly and families with newborns in strollers. Everyone else should park at the photo lot. Now that we're back to one service and—praise the Lord—greater attendance, it is critical that all able-bodied worshippers show courtesy to the elderly and those with little children.

2. Masks

There have been a few people who have not worn masks during services. This makes other people feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Again, with the blessing of higher attendance, let us practice this important courtesy to others who may have health issues and for everyone's comfort and peace of mind.

3. Communion

It has long been the practice throughout our Archdiocese—out of respect for Communion, independent of any concern for germs—for the faithful to approach the Chalice with their mouths wide open and their heads tilted back. *Remember that you have to do both – a mouth that's open wide but tilted downward doesn't work!* This will allow the priest or deacon to insert the spoon, turn it over in your mouth and pull it out *without* touching your tongue or lips. (We are also looking to get some smaller Communion spoons that are easier to turn over without touching the mouth.)

Upcoming Schedule and Links

Date	Time	Event or Service (click link for service text)	How to Participate
Saturday, Sep. 5	6:00 pm	Great Vespers	Livestream only (church closed)
Sunday, Sep. 6	7:45 am	Divine Liturgy in Spanish	In person outdoors AND livestream
	9:15 am	Matins	In person outdoors AND livestream
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy	In person outdoors AND livestream
Tuesday, Sep. 8 <i>Great Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos</i>	9:00 am	Matins	Livestream only (church closed)
	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Livestream only (church closed)
Saturday, Sep. 12	4:00 pm	Church School Family Kick-off Picnic	Cathedral plaza (see details below)
	6:00 pm	Great Vespers	Livestream only (church closed)
Sunday, Sep. 13 <i>Observance of the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross</i>	7:45 am	Divine Liturgy in Spanish	In person outdoors AND livestream
	9:00 am	Matins	In person outdoors AND livestream
	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy Procession of the Holy Cross	In person outdoors AND livestream
Saturday Sep. 19	6:00 pm	Great Vespers	Livestream only (church closed)
Sunday, Sep. 20	7:45 am	Divine Liturgy in Spanish	In person outdoors AND livestream
	9:00 am	Matins	In person outdoors AND livestream
	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy	In person outdoors AND livestream

Please note that you do NOT need to have a Facebook account to join our services via livestreaming. Also, if you cannot join the services live, they remain on the Facebook site, so you can participate when your schedule allows.

Holy Oblations and Prayer Requests

In loving memory of MANUEL SAAD (12 days) offered by his dear sister, Marie Jabour and his nieces and nephews Robert & Cynthia, Robin & Brian Winn and Family. May his memory be eternal.

Here's our current Cathedral prayer list:

Please include in your daily prayers the following—those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request.)

Living

All those suffering from injury and homelessness from fires in California, hurricanes in the South and the explosion in Beirut

Rescue workers, firemen, physicians, nurses and all the healthcare professionals on the front lines of the pandemic

All those suffering from illness, violence and want in this country and throughout the world

Lila

Departed

Those who perished in the explosion in Beirut

Victims of the pandemic and victims of violence everywhere

To offer Holy Oblations and Memorials and for any announcements to be included in the bulletin, please email Cathedral@stnicholasla.com or contact the Cathedral office at (213) 382-6269 by Wednesday noon.

You may make donations for Beirut Relief online directly at antiochian.networkforgood.com/projects/106179-financial-aid-following-beirut-explosion.

St. Nicholas Cathedral Sunday School Kick-Off!



When: Saturday September 12, 2020
@ 4:00 PM

Where: St. Nicholas Cathedral
2300 West 3rd. Street
Los Angeles CA, 90057

Come and Meet our New Priests:

Father Nabil Hanna

Father Andrew Andrews

Everyone is welcome for an
Afternoon of fun for the whole family!

Games for all Ages!
Camp-Style Vespers Outside!
Pizza Dinner!



COVID-19 Requirements:
FaceCovering and Social distancing.



For More Info Contact Tania Matar (818)903-0953 taniamatta@sbcglobal.net

**If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms please do not come to the event.
All participants are responsible for their own safety and health.*

The first major feast in the new Church year (that began September 1) is the Nativity of the Theotokos – the Virgin Mary’s birthday – which we celebrate on Tuesday, September 8.

Mary’s birth is the beginning, or ‘prelude,’ to our salvation in Jesus Christ.



THE STORY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY

Mary, the All Holy mother of Jesus the Savior, was miraculously born of the pious old and barren parents Joakim and Anna in the city of Nazareth. Both of them diligently prayed imploring God to give them a child. They made a vow to give the fruit of the womb back to serve God. The Lord God answered their prayer and granted them a baby girl whom they called Mary. The pious parents took good care of their child until the age of three, when they fulfilled their vow by presenting her to the Temple in compliance with their vow.

The story of the birth of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospel. But it is mentioned in the Church Holy Tradition where Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus and the Blessed Jeronimos and others mentioned it in their writings.

During the days and years of her stay at the Temple, the priests took care of the needs of the child Mary, like Samuel of the Old Testament. When she grew up to the age when her stay at the temple was not allowable, they discussed her future in the Temple taking into consideration not to anger God, as Mary was totally different from other girls. One day, the Chief Priest totally vested with his holy vestment entered the Temple behind the Curtain praying and requesting God’s guidance how to deal with this decent up growing maiden. All of a sudden he was inspired to call upon the elders of the Tribe of Judah of the house of David to come to the Temple having their staffs in their hands. For the one with whom the Lord shows a miracle; that one would be assigned by God to take care of her and protect her. When they arrived, Zakaria, the Chief priest explained to them the reason of his invitation and asked that every one of them has his name written on his own staff. Then placing their staffs at the Temple he prayed saying: "O Lord point out to us the man whom you want and see befitting to be the guardian of Mary." They left the staffs at the Temple all the night.

In the morning, the chief priest entered into the Temple with the priests and all the men to find the staff of Joseph blossoming and a dove flew from above and stood on it. All of them at that time were sure that that was the choice of God. And from that moment Joseph received her from the Chief Priest and became her guardian under the cover of being her fiancé’.

Joseph was already an old man and had been a widower for some good time. Also, he had four boys: James, Yussi, Shimon, and Judah. And two girls Salome and Mariam. These children of Joseph were called the brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph submitted himself to the will of God and became Mary’s fiancé’. That is to say to protect her virginity for the fulfillment of the secret of all ages which is above the comprehension of man. Thus she was not given to him in marriage.

Mary lived at the house of her fiancé, Joseph the righteous praying, meditating and reading the Holy Scriptures, and doing handwork.

The house became to her like a Temple which she did not leave at all until after the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to her while she was praying and said: "Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women....." He announced to her the good news of giving birth to the Savior of the world JESUS. (Luke 1) "Saint Afodios testified that after the fourth month in her stay in the house of Joseph in Nazareth that the great hour came for the incarnation of God the Word. The hour of the fullness of time which the world was expecting for several centuries had to be fulfilled, in which the act of our salvation had to start.

It is important to note at the time of the annunciation that Mary, while still she was staying at Joseph's house she made it very clear to Gabriel, the Archangel, that she knew NO MAN, how then could she become pregnant? Had she been in realty, engaged to Joseph, she would have assumed that when she becomes married to him the possibility of becoming pregnant would be achieved. But the Angel explained to her how she is to bear the infant Jesus. (Luke 26 to the end of the chapter.)

This incident happened at the sixth month of the pregnancy of Saint Elizabeth with

John the forerunner. The Angel who announced this joyous news to Mary was the same one who informed Zakaria that his wife would become pregnant with John.

After the annunciation Mary visited her relative Elizabeth in Jerusalem where she stayed for three months.

The Jews never believed that prophets would come out of the Galilean district; even Nazareth was not respected in those days. "Could the Christ come out of Galilee" the Jews said and they never believed that out of Nazareth would come out something good. This was the fulfillment of God's first promise to Adam and Eve and the whole human race when they violated His commandment. God the most compassionate Creator gave His promise to send the Savior of mankind. This promise included the prophecy about the all holy and most Blessed Virgin Mary of whom shall come "The One who would smash the head of the serpent". That was the joyful announcement about the Mother of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This is a brief account about the life of our Holy Mother, the Theotokos on earth.

by Elen Saleh

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