

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Nasr

Deacon Nicholas Mahshie

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For Bulletin Announcements email Dona at steliasny@aol.com **and**

Sheila at sahmaz@twcny.rr.com

For Liturgy Names & Coffee Hour email the above

Saturday: Vespers at 4:30 PM followed by confession

Sunday: Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

Check out our website @ www.sainteliasny.com

**ST. ELIAS
ANTIOCHIAN CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

JANUARY 3, 2021

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA**

**HIS GRACE BISHOP ALEXANDER, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF
OTTAWA , UPSTATE NEY YORK AND EASTERN CANADA**

**V. REV. FR. ELIAS NASR, PASTOR
DEACON NICHOLAS MAHSHIE**

CHURCH: (315) 488-0388

RECTORY: (315) 218-5529
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'DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS N ANTIOCH.' ACTS 11:26

TONE 5/ EOTHINON 8

COHOLY PROPHET MALACHI; MARTYR GORDIOS OF CAPPADOCIA; VENERABLE THOMAS THE
WONDERWORKER OF LESBOS; VENERABLE GENEVIEVE OF PARIS

WELCOME!

We welcome all of our visitors who are praying with us today. We are eager to share with you our spiritual treasures, and invite you to join us for coffee-hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy. If you are a first-time visitor, please take a few minutes to sign our Guest Registry book and complete the white VISITORS INFORMATION CARD which may be found in the Narthex, and return it to an usher. As a friendly reminder, **only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer and recent Confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Holy Communion. However all may come forward at end of Liturgy and receive blessed Holy Bread.** We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to St. Elias. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Elias.

أهلاً بكم!
نرحب بجميع زوّارنا الذين يصلّون معنا اليوم ونحرص على مشاركتكم في كنوزنا الروحية، وندعوكم للانضمام إلينا لتناول القهوة معنا في قاعة الكنيسة بعد القداس الإلهي. إذا كانت هذه أول زيارة لكم، يرجى أخذ القليل من الوقت لتوقيع سجل الزوّار واستكمال بطاقة معلومات الزوّار البيضاء والتي توجد في صحن الكنيسة، وإعادتها إلى أحد مرشدي الكنيسة. وكتذكير ودي، يُسمح فقط للمسيحيين الأرثوذكس الذين أعدوا أنفسهم بشكل صحيح من خلال الصوم والصلاة واعتراف من زمن قريب بالاقتراب من الكأس المقدسة لتناول القربان المقدس. ولكن يُسمح للجميع الاقتراب في نهاية القداس لاستلام الخبز المقدس المبارك. ونحن نتطلع للقائكم والترحيب بكم شخصياً في كنيسة مار الياس. يرجى توجيه الأسئلة إلى الأب الياس مباشرة.

WORSHIPPING THE ALL-HOLY GOD

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

PRAYER ON ENTERING THE CHURCH

I WILL COME INTO THY HOUSE IN THE MULTITUDE OF THY MERCY: AND IN THY FEAR I WILL WORSHIP TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I

We ask that God will help us renew our baptism, lead us to a purity of heart, and to a life of commitment, so we may become mature and ready to be the recipients of the Holy Spirit of God, who transforms us as the new creation.

BLESSINGS OF HOMES:

One of our greatest and most inspiring traditions is blessings of homes, immediately after the Great Blessing of water on the day of the Baptism of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We, orthodox Christians, are the guardians of the true faith; we hold that faith with fear and love, and we are given the opportunity to live this holy faith and reflect on it in our lives, in our homes, and in every corner of our material and physical world. The holy Church keeps the faith alive by keeping this tradition, provided that we do it with utmost faithfulness and devotion; otherwise, blessing homes with holy water becomes an empty ritual, a meaningless worldly event.

Why do we have our homes blessed? We have an opportunity to remind ourselves that the whole world, including our homes, ourselves, our possessions, all our belongings, must be restored and brought to full reality in the light of Christ. When the priest brings the blessed water to our homes, he helps us establish a contact, a dialogue between us and God. Blessed and holy water is a reminder that we, too, must be blessed and consecrated for God's habitation. As God's creatures, we must experience a full restoration of created nature. God's gifts and blessings are not intended to be interpreted as some 'supernatural' power added to our natural water. On the contrary, the whole mission of the Church is to bring a sense of awareness of our natural gifts, natural in the sense of pure, holy, original, as it was intended at the time of creation. When we sip from that holy water, we reminded of our glory and honor, the state of being in the presence of God, as our first parents, Adam and Eve living in paradise, experiencing the natural and harmonious relationship with their Creator.

Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan, 'that He may sanctify us. May He also sanctify this house with this holy water and crush all evil powers from it.' May this prayer which is recited during the short prayer for blessing homes, be a sincere and a genuine way of returning to God, and of receiving His gifts and blessings, so that we may begin 2010 with a sense of hope, trust, and confidence in God and in His Power. **'Bless our homes, O Lord!'**

Due to the Pandemic this year, our normal scheduling for blessing homes has been postponed. Anyone who wishes to have their homes blessed please contact Dona for scheduling.

- office to check for the date and sign up.
- **For Announcements, Oblations and Trisagions for the Bulletin**, the deadline is Tuesday evening. Please send your emails to church: steliasny@aol.com and to Sheila: sahmaz@twcny.rr.com
- **Please keep your church pledges up-to-date.** We thank all those who have increased their offering. May God reward you with abundance. **Reminder**– you are able to make your church contributions on our website via PayPal.
- **Please remember to make a reservation** for attending church services by going to the church website www.sainteliasny.com
- **Upon entering church** please remember to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer and get your temperature taken. Remember to social distance.
- **Just a reminder that the PLC this year** is still scheduled from July 1-4, 2021 and will be hosted by St. Mary Montreal...so far it has not been cancelled...the convention has been cancelled. A decision regarding the PLCs will be taken early next year pending the situation with the corona.
- **Deadline for the Cornerstone:** As soon as possible. Please send your articles to Diane.
- **Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Parish Council.** Chairperson– Habib Alamir, Vice Chair– Mai Makhoulf, Treasurer– Faris Sousou, Secretary– Sheila Mazur. May God grant them many years.
- **Swearing in of Parish Council officers and members– January 10th.**

SCHEDULE/DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday	1/5	Evening Liturgy– Theophany @ 6:00 PM Blessing of the Waters following the service
Wednesday	1/20	Parish Council Meeting @7:00 PM

'Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his path straight.' *Isaiah 40:3*
In his preaching and prophecies, St. John the Baptist repeated these words, calling the Jews to repent and become purified for the Kingdom of God was about to appear. How can the human person become prepared to receiving the Kingdom, if man does not have a pure heart and a contrite spirit?

We have to understand that God is not subject to our conception and imagination. God appears himself to us in different measures and according to our abilities and transparencies so we may actually begin to relate to God's self-revelation. In fact, because of His great love and absolute condescension we can address God as 'Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God' without any division and confusion in this tri-unity of the Godhead. We learn this, note from our intellectual investigations, but from God Himself, who revealed Himself to us.

When we pray and offer praises and thanksgiving to God we ask him to shine his light in our hearts. The Lord Jesus Christ has revealed the image of God the Father in his divine Incarnation. Our faith in God does not come to us by accident; neither is it a mere imagination or the working of our mind. The words of Isaiah remain to be a strong challenge, indeed, inviting to us to cleanse ourselves and purify our hearts so we may receive the revelation of the triune Godhead.

may glorify thee forever, One Divine Power worshipped in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER ON LEAVING THE CHURCH

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

O Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house.

When you enter the church, please remember that the church is a place of worship. Please do not disturb others as they worship God.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES.

FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

During the Little Entrance:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Entrance Hymn:

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee: Alleluia

هَلُمُّوا لِنَسْجُدَ وَنَزْكَعَ لِلْمَسِيحِ، مَلِكِنَا وَإِلَهِنَا. خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ. لِئُرْتَلَّ لَكَ. هَلْلُوبِيَا.

After the Little Entrance:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

لِنُسَبِّحَ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدَ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلْأَبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَرْزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلِّصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سُرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُوَ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمَلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(Joseph was amazed**)**

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

اسْتَعِدِّي يَا زَبُولُونَ وَتَهَيَّبِي يَا نَفْثَالِيمَ، وَأَنْتِ يَا نَهَرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ قِفْ وَمُمْسِكَا عَنْ جَرِيكِ، وَأَقْبِلِ السَّيِّدَ بِفَرَحٍ آتِيَا لِيَعْتِمِدَ. إِطْرَبْ يَا آدَمُ وَابْتَهِّجْ مَعَ الْأُمِّ الْأُولَى، وَلَا تُخْفِيَا ذَاتَكُمَا كَمَا اخْتَفَيْتُمَا فِي الْفِرْدَوْسِ قَدِيمًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَمَّا رَأَى كَمَا عُرَاةً، ظَهَرَ لِنَيْبِسِكُمَا الْخُلَّةَ الْأُولَى. الْمَسِيحُ ظَهَرَ مُرِيدًا أَنْ يُجِدِدَ الْخَلِيقَةَ كُلَّهَا.

TROPARION OF THE PATRON SAINT OF THE CHURCH TONE 4:

O Angelic of body the founder and corner stone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the advent of Christ, O Elias, venerable and glorious, thou didst send grace from heaven to thy disciple Elisha to dispel diseases and to purify lepers wherefore he abounds with healing to all those who honor him.

أيها الملاك بالجسم قاعدة الأنبياء وركنهم، السابق الثاني لحضور المسيح، إلياس المجيد الموقر، لقد أرسلت النعمة من العلى لأليشع ليطرد الأسقام ويطهر البرص، لذلك يُفيض الأشفية بمكرميته دائماً"

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(On this day Thou hast appeared**)**

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

اليوم حَضَرَ الرَّبُّ فِي مَجَارِي الْأُرْدُنِّ، هَاتِفًا نَحْوَ يوحَنَّا قَائِلًا: لَا تَجْرَعْ مِنْ تَعْمِيدِي، لِأَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَخْلَصَ آدَمَ الْمَجْبُولَ أَوَّلًا.

Today's Reader : TBA

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.**

Reader: The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ.

الْبَيْتِكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَيْهِ.

فُصِّلْ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَسَ.

يَا وَادِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، تَبَقِّظْ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَاحْتَمِلِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ، وَاعْمَلْ عَمَلَ الْمُبَشِّرِ، وَأَوْفِ خِدْمَتَكَ أَمَا أَنَا فَقَدْ أَرِيقَ السَّكِبُ عَلَيَّ وَوَفْتُ أَنْجِلَالِي قَدْ اقْتَرَبَ وَقَدْ جَاهَدْتُ الْجِهَادَ الْحَسَنَ، وَأَتَمَمْتُ شَوْطِي، وَحَفِظْتُ الْإِيمَانَ وَإِنَّمَا يَبْقَى مَحْفُوظًا لِي إِكْلِيلُ الْعَدْلِ الَّذِي يَجْزِينِي بِهِ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الدِّيَانِ الْعَادِلِ، لَا إِيَّايَ فَقَطُّ، بَلْ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ يُجِبُّونَ ظَهْرَهُ أَيْضًا.

Priest: Peace be to you Reader.

PLEASE STAND!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Next Sunday's Reader: TBA

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy

way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

فُصِّلْ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمْذِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ-

بَدَأَ إِنْجِيلَ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ "هَاءَنْذَا مُرْسِلٌ مَلَائِكِي أَمَامَ وَجْهِكَ

يُهَيِّئُ طَرِيقَكَ قَدَامَكَ صَوْتُ صَارِخٍ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ: أَعِدُّوا طَرِيقَ الرَّبِّ وَاجْعَلُوا سُبُلَهُ قَوِيْمَةً" كَانَ يوحَنَّا يُعَمِّدُ

فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَيَكْرُزُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ التَّوْبَةِ لِعُفْرَانَ الْخَطَايَا وَكَانَ يَخْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُ أَهْلِ بَلَدِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَأُورُشَلِيمَ

فَيَعْتَمِدُونَ جَمِيعُهُمْ مِنْهُ فِي نَهْرِ الْأُرْدُنِّ، مُعْتَرِفِينَ بِخَطَايَاهُمْ وَكَانَ يوحَنَّا يَلْبَسُ وَبَرَ الْإِبِلِ وَعَلَى حَقْوِيهِ

مِنْطَقَةً مِنْ جِلْدٍ، وَيَأْكُلُ جَرَادًا وَعَسَلًا بَرِّيًّا وَكَانَ يَكْرُزُ قَائِلًا: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي مَنْ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي، وَأَنَا لَا

أَسْتَحِقُّ أَنْ أَنْحِي وَأَحْلَّ سَيْرَ جِذَائِهِ أَنَا عَمَدْتُكُمْ بِالْمَاءِ، وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَيَعْمِدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.

MEGALYNARION:

It is truly meet ...

Koinonikon (Communion Hymn)

Praise ye the Lord from the Heavens; praise ye Him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Holy Bread of Oblations today is being offered by Ester Totari and family** for spiritual and physical well being of Ester and family. **Also being offered in loving memory of** beloved husband Nasser. May his memory be eternal.
- **Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially, Violette Humsi, Salwa Makhlof, Evelyn Gabriel.
- **Father Elias and the Parishioners of St. Elias Church** extend their condolences to John, Sophia, Samira, Tina, Nuha and Lillian and to all the Tadros family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Arkad Tadros, on Sunday, December 27, 2020 in Florida. May her memory be eternal and long life to the family.
- **Father Elias and the Parishioners of St. Elias Church** extend their condolences to Rita Shehaber and to Fadi and Fareed and the Shehaber and Nesheiwait families on the falling asleep in the Lord of dearly beloved husband and father, Mazen. May his memory be eternal. Mazen & his wife Rita have supported St. Elias for many years by working the Mideast Festival, attending the Hafliis, as well as our annual Thanksgiving dinners.
- **SUNDAY HOLY BREAD:** Jan. 10th Kammar family; Jan.17th, OPEN; Jan. 24th 40 day memorial for Nabeeha Mahshie
- **THE COFFEE SPONSOR CHART FOR 2021** is posted by the coat rack. If you would like to sponsor the Holy Bread during this COVID-19 period, please call the