

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

Rev. Fr. Michael Ibrahim

Deacon Nicholas Mahshie

4988 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Church: 488-0388 Cell: 973-641-8463

Church Office e-mail: office@sainteliasny.com

For Bulletin Announcements email Dona at office@sainteliasny.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 7, 2024
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, 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
REV, FR. MICHAEL IBRAHIM
DEACON NICHOLAS MAHSHIE
CHURCH: (315) 488-0388 **FR. MICHAEL-973-641-8463**
DN. NICHOLAS 491-3990
'DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH.' ACTS 11:26

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER & BAPTIST JOHN

NEW-MARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA; VENERABLE
 BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON

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

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.

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 الأَسقام ويظهر البرص، لذلك يُغِيض الأَشْفِيَة بمكرميهِ دائماً"

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. Michael.

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 القدّاس الإلهي. إذا كانت هذه أول زيارة لكم، يرجى أخذ القليل من الوقت لتوقيع سجلّ الزوّار واستكمال بطاقة معلومات الزوّار البيضاء والتي توجد في صحن الكنيسة، وإعادتها إلى أحد مُرشّدي الكنيسة. وكتذكير وديّ، يُسمح فقط للمسيحيين الأرثوذكس الذين أعدّوا أنفسهم بشكل صحيح من خلال الصوم والصلاة واعتراف من زمن قريب بالاقتراب من الكأس المقدسة لتناول القربان المقدس. ولكن يُسمح للجميع الاقتراب في نهاية القدّاس لاستلام الخبز المقدس المُبارك. ونحن نتطلع للقائكم والترحيب بكم شخصياً في كنيسة مار الياس. يرجى توجيه الأسئلة إلى الأب مايكل مباشرةً.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Holy Bread of Oblations today is being offered by the Kammar Family,** for the continued good health and well being of Charles and Mary Kammar, Jim & Hilda Khammar, Jewell Gabriel and families. **Also being offered in loving memory of** Abraham & Emily Kammar, Hilda (Huda) Kammar, Nicholas & Margaret Kammar, Helen & Andrew Sabha, Joe Khammar, Edward & Janet Awad, Charles Gabriel, Ted & June Mermigos, Mary & David Rezak, Jack Rezak, Robert Rezak, Hannah Habeeb and all the deceased members of the Kammar, Habeeb, Rezak, Gabriel, McGinley families. **May their memories be eternal.**
- **Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially Rana, Shadi, Simon Abboud, Janet Saba, Siham Ayoub, Salwa Makhoulouf, Kawthar Shomar, Elias Shamieh, Nada Tadros, Evelyn Gabriel, Eva Phillips.
- **Please pray for all those** who have suffered and lost loved ones in Palestine and the Middle East.

God. Others at the opposite extreme, who worshipped the Mother of God as being God Herself, were also denounced by the Council. He visited the churches of Arabia and Palestine, which were infected with the Arian heresy, to assert the Orthodox teaching about the Most Holy Theotokos. On his return journey Saint Gregory visited Jerusalem and the Holy Places.

In the year 381 Saint Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of Saint Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed.

Together with the other bishops Saint Gregory affirmed Saint Gregory the Theologian as Archpastor of Constantinople.

In the year 383, Saint Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the empress Placilla. Again in 394 Saint Gregory was present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened to resolve church matters in Arabia.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace.

Having reached old age, Saint Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. His sister, Saint Macrina, wrote to him: "You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help." Saint Gregory is known in history as one of the most profound Christian thinkers of the fourth century. Endowed with philosophical talent, he saw philosophy as a means for a deeper penetration into the authentic meaning of divine revelation.

Saint Gregory left behind many remarkable works of dogmatic character, as well as sermons and discourses. He has been called "the Father of Fathers."

Troparion — Tone 4

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Your mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace / through the prayers of the hierarchs Gregory and Dometian.

Troparion — Tone 4

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / your humility exalted you; / your poverty enriched you. / Hierarch Father Gregory, / entreat Christ our God / that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion — Tone 1

You kept watch with the eyes of your soul, holy bishop, / revealing yourself as a watchful pastor for the world. / With the staff of your wisdom and your fervent intercession, / you drove away all heretics like wolves. / You preserved your flock free from harm, most wise Gregory!

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople.

Because John's main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the "day after" to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people for repentance. John prepared himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, the Baptist is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity at the Savior's Baptism.

On this day, we commemorate the New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: *The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.
O God, hear my prayer.***

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

بِفَرْحِ الصِّدِّيقِ بِالرَّبِّ. اِسْتَمِعْ يَا اللهُ لِصَوْتِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ حَدَّثَ إِذْ كَانَ أَبُلُوسُ فِي كُورِنْثُوسَ، أَنَّ بُولُسَ اجْتَنَزَّ فِي النَّوَّاحِي الْعَالِيَةِ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَفْسَسَ،

فَوَجَدَ بَعْضًا مِّنَ التَّلَامِيذِ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَلْ نِلْتُمُ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ لَمَّا آمَنْتُمْ؟» «قَالُوا لَهُ: لَا، حَتَّى إِنَّا لَمْ نَسْمَعْ

بُجُودِ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ . «قَالَ: «فَبِأَيِّ مَعْمُودِيَّةٍ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ؟» فَقَالُوا: «بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ يُوْحَنَّا». فَقَالَ بُولُسُ: «إِنَّ يُوْحَنَّا عَمَدَ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ التَّوْبَةِ قَائِلًا لِلشَّعْبِ أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِالَّذِي يَأْتِي بَعْدَهُ أَيُّ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ . «فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا اعْتَمَدُوا بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، وَوَضَعَ بُولُسُ يَدَيْهِ عَلَيْهِمْ فَحَلَّ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَطَفِقُوا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِلُغَاتٍ وَيَتَنَبَّأُونَ. وَكَانُوا كُلُّهُمْ نَحْوَ اثْنَيْ عَشَرَ رَجُلًا. ثُمَّ دَخَلَ الْمَجْمَعِ، وَكَانَ يُجَاهِرُ مُدَّةَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَشْهُرٍ يُفَاوِضُهُمْ وَيُقْنِعُهُمْ بِمَا يَحْتَسُّ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقُدُسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ رَأَى يُوْحَنَّا يَسُوعَ مُقْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ: «هُوَذَا حَمَلُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يَرْفَعُ حَطِيئَةَ الْعَالَمِ! هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي قُلْتُ عَنْهُ: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي رَجُلٌ قَدْ صَارَ قَبْلِي، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مُنْقَدِّمِي. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ. لَكِنْ لِكَيْ يُظَهَرَ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ، جِئْتُ أَنَا أَعْمِدُ بِالْمَاءِ». وَشَهِدَ يُوْحَنَّا قَائِلًا: «إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ الرُّوحَ مِثْلَ حَمَامَةٍ قَدْ نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَاسْتَقَرَّ عَلَيْهِ. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ، لَكِنْ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي لِأَعْمَدَ بِالْمَاءِ، هُوَ قَالَ لِي: إِنَّ الَّذِي تَرَى الرُّوحَ يَنْزِلُ وَيَسْتَقَرُّ عَلَيْهِ، هُوَ الَّذِي يُعْمَدُ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَأَنَا قَدْ عَانَيْتُ وَشَهِدْتُ أَنَّ هَذَا هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ».

THE DOXASTICON OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE SIX

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Thou hast come from the suffering of barrenness, O Baptizer, an angel and a dweller in the wilderness from the age of swaddling clothes, appearing as the seal of all the Prophets; for He Whom they beheld in sundry manners, foretelling Him by symbols, thou wast worthy to baptize in the Jordan. And thou didst hear from heavenly a fatherly voice testifying to His Sonship; and thou didst see the Spirit in the likeness of a dove attracting the voice of the One baptized. Wherefore, O thou who art greater than all the Prophets, cease not to intercede for our sakes, who celebrate thy memorial in faith.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.

لَقَدْ وَاقَيْتُ أَيُّهَا الصَّابِغُ مِنَ الْأَوْجَاعِ الْعُقْرِيَّةِ، مَلَكَاً وَسَاكِنًا الْقَفْرَ مُنْذُ عَهْدِ الْأَقْمِطَةِ، وَظَهَرْتَ خَاتِمَةَ جَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ. فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ الَّذِي شَاهَدَهُ أَوْلِيكَ بِأَنْوَاعٍ مُخْتَلِفَةٍ، وَسَبَقُوا فَكَّرُوا بِهِ بِرُمُوزٍ، قَدْ اسْتَأْهَلْتَ أَنْتَ أَنْ تُعْمِدَهُ

فِي الْأَرْدُنِّ. وَسَمِعْتَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ صَوْتًا أَبَوِيًّا، شَاهِدًا بِبُنُوتِهِ. وَرَأَيْتَ الرُّوحَ بِهَيْئَةِ حَمَامَةٍ، مُجْتَذِبًا الصَّوْتِ إِلَى الْمُصْطَبِغِ. فَيَا مَنْ هُوَ أَعْظَمُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ كَافَّةً، لَا تَنْزَلَ مُتَشَفِّعاً مِنْ أَجْلِنَا، نَحْنُ الْمُقِيمِينَ تَذَكَّرَكَ بِإِيمَانٍ.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

أَنْتِ هِيَ الْفَائِزَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءِ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سَبَيْتِ بِوَاسِطَةِ الْمُتَجَسِّدِ مِنْكَ، وَآدَمَ دُعِيَ ثَانِيَّةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَتَقَتْ، وَالْمَوْتَ أَمِيَتْ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَلِذَلِكَ نُسَبِّحُ هَاتِيئِينَ: مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa

Commemorated on [January 10](#)

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger brother of [Saint Basil the Great](#) (January 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes were at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year 372, he was consecrated by Saint Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia.

Saint Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother Saint Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his See and sent to Ancyra.

In the following year Saint Gregory was again deposed in absentia by a council of Arian bishops, but he continued to encourage his flock in Orthodoxy, wandering about from place to place. After the death of the emperor Valens (378), Saint Gregory was restored to his cathedra and was joyously received by his flock. His brother Saint Basil the Great died in 379.

Only with difficulty did Saint Gregory survive the loss of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral oration for him, and completed Saint Basil's study of the six days of Creation, the Hexaemeron. That same year Saint Gregory participated in the Council of Antioch against heretics who refused to recognize the perpetual virginity of the Mother of

