

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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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
FEBRUARY 25, 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

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‘DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH.’ ACTS 11:26

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

TARASIOS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE;

HIEROMARTYR MARKELLOS, BISHOP OF APAMEA IN SYRIA
TONE 5/ EOTHINON 5

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 الأسقام ويطهر البرص، لذلك يُفيض الأشفية بمكرميته 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 زوارنا الذين يصلون 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 الزوار واستكمال بطاقة معلومات الزوار 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 إلياس. 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 Nuha Sousou**, for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of Nuha Sousou and her children Irene & Nabil, Holly & Andrew, Joanne & Brian, Anthony, Faris & Lisa and their families. **Also being offered in loving memory of Elia, Qustandi & Jalileh, Shukri & Melia, Almaza & Fouad, Hanna, Fawzi, Samira, Suad & Naim, Suhail, Gaby** **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.

appeared to him. Saint Polycarp guided his flock with apostolic zeal, and he was also greatly loved by the clergy. Saint Ignatius the God-Bearer of Antioch (December 20) also had a high regard for him. Setting out for Rome where execution awaited him, he wrote to Saint Polycarp, "This age is in need of you if it is to reach God, just as pilots need winds, and as a storm-tossed sailor needs a port."

The emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180) came to the Roman throne and started up a most fierce persecution against Christians. The pagans demanded that the judge search for Saint Polycarp, "the father of all the Christians" and "the seducer of all Asia."

During this time Saint Polycarp, at the persistent urging of his flock, stayed in a small village not far from Smyrna. When the soldiers came for him, he went out to them and invited them in to eat. He asked for time to pray, in order to prepare himself for martyrdom. His suffering and death are recorded in the "Epistle of the Christians of the Church of Smyrna to the Other Churches," one of the most ancient memorials of Christian literature.

Having been brought to trial, Saint Polycarp firmly confessed his faith in Christ, and was condemned to be burned alive. The executioners wanted to nail him to a post, but he declared that God would give him the strength to endure the flames, so they could merely tie him with ropes. The flames encircled the saint but did not touch him, coming together over his head in the shape of a vault. Seeing that the fire did him no harm, the pagans stabbed him with a dagger. So much blood flowed from this wound that it extinguished the flames. The body of the hieromartyr Polycarp was then cremated. The Christians of Smyrna reverently gathered up what remained of his holy relics, and each year they celebrated the day of his martyrdom.

A story has been preserved about Saint Polycarp by his disciple, Saint Irenaeus of Lyons, which Eusebius cites in his ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY (V, 20):

"I was still very young when I saw you in Asia Minor at Polycarp's," writes Saint Irenaeus to his friend Florinus, "but I would still be able to point out the place where Blessed Polycarp sat and conversed, and be able to depict his walk, his mannerisms in life, his outward appearance, his speaking to people, his companionable wandering with John, and how he himself related, together with other eyewitnesses of the Lord, those things that he remembered from the words of others. He also told what he heard from them about the Lord, His teachings and miracles...."

"Through the mercy of God to me, I then already listened attentively to Polycarp and wrote down his words, not on tablets, but in the depths of my heart. Therefore, I am able to bear witness before God, that if this blessed and apostolic Elder heard something similar to your fallacy, he would immediately stop up his ears and express his indignation with his usual phrase: 'Good God! That Thou hast permitted me to be alive at such a time!'"

During his life the holy bishop wrote several Epistles to the flock and letters to various individuals. The only one that has survived to the present day is his Epistle to the Philipians which, Saint Jerome testifies, was read in the churches of Asia Minor at divine services. It was written by the saint in response to the request of the Philipians to send them some letters of the hieromartyr Ignatius (December 20) which Saint Polycarp had in his possession.

The composer H.I.F. Bibier (1644-1704) has written a Sonata "Scti Polycarpi" for eight trumpets in honor of the Holy Martyr

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On February 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Tarasios the confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; and Hieromartyr Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: *Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

Reader: The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ،

خَلِّصْنِي، يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَسَ.

يَا وَلَدِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَبْتَ تَعْلِيمِي، وَسِرِّي، وَقَصْدِي، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَايَ، وَمَحَبَّتِي، وَصَبْرِي، وَاضْطِهَادَاتِي، وَالْأَمِي، وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي إِنطَاكِيَّةٍ وَأَيُونِيَّةٍ وَلِيسْتَرَةَ، وَأَيَّةَ اضْطِهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ، وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي

الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعِيشُوا بِالتَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمُغْوُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَيَزْدَادُونَ شَرًّا، مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضَلَّلِينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّ أَنْتَ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيَقَنْتَ بِهِ، عَالِمًا

مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتَ، وَأَنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخَلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ

بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، التَّمْلِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانَانِ صَعِدَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ لِيُصَلِّيَا، أَحَدُهُمَا فَرَيْسِيٌّ وَالْآخَرُ عَشَّارٌ. فَكَانَ الْفَرَيْسِيُّ وَاقْفًا يُصَلِّي فِي نَفْسِهِ هَكَذَا، "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْكُرُكَ لِأَنِّي لَسْتُ كَسَائِرِ النَّاسِ الْخَطْفَةِ، الظَّالِمِينَ، الْفَاسِقِينَ، وَلَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْعَشَّارِ. فَإِنِّي أَصُومُ فِي الْأُسْبُوعِ مَرَّتَيْنِ، وَأَعْشِرُ كُلَّ مَا هُوَ لِي." أَمَّا الْعَشَّارُ فَوَقَفَ عَن بُعْدٍ، وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يَرْفَعْ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، بَلْ كَانَ يَقْرَعُ صَدْرَهُ قَائِلًا، "اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْخَاطِيءُ." أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ هَذَا نَزَلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُبَرَّرًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ رَفَعَ نَفْسَهُ اتَّضَع، وَمَنْ وَضَعَ نَفْسَهُ ارْتَفَعَ.

THE DOXASTICON FOR THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN IN TONE EIGHT

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

O Lord, Thou didst reproach the Pharisee when he justified himself, boasting of his deeds; and justified the Publican when he approached humbly, seeking forgiveness with sighs; for Thou dost not draw near to arrogant thoughts, nor turn away contrite hearts. Wherefore, we also kneel before Thee meekly, O Thou Who didst suffer for our sakes. Grant us forgiveness and the Great Mercy.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ.

يَا رَبُّ، لَقَدْ شَجَبْتَ الْفَرَيْسِيَّ لَمَّا بَرَّرَ نَفْسَهُ، مُتَفَاخِرًا بِأَعْمَالِهِ. وَبَرَّرْتَ الْعَشَّارَ لَمَّا تَقَدَّمَ بِتَدَلُّلٍ، مُسْتَمِدًّا الْغُفْرَانَ بِتِنْتَهُدَاتٍ. لِأَنَّكَ لَا تُدْنِي الْأَفْكَارَ الْمُتَعَطِّمَةَ، وَلَا تَزْدُلُ الْقُلُوبَ الْمُنْسَحِقَةَ. لِذَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَجْتُو لَدَيْكَ بِتَوَاضُعٍ، يَا مَنْ تَأَلَّمَ مِنْ أَجْلِنَا، فَاْمَنْحْنَا الْغُفْرَانَ وَالرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

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.

الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

أَنْتِ هِيَ الْفَائِقَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءِ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سُبِيَتْ بِوَاسِطَةِ الْمُتَجَسِّدِ مِنْكَ، وَأَدَمَ دُعِيَ ثَانِيَةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَتَقَتْ، وَالْمَوْتَ أُمِيَتْ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَلِذَلِكَ نُسَبِّحُ هَاتِعِينَ: مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Apostles of the Seventy Archippus and Philemon, and Martyr Apphia

Commemorated on February 19

Saints Archippus, Philemon and Apphia, Apostles of the Seventy were students and companions of the holy Apostle Paul. In the Epistle to Philemon, the Apostle Paul names Saint Archippus as his companion, and mentions him again in the Epistle to the Colossians (Col. 4:17).



Saint Archippus was bishop of the city of Colossae in Phrygia. Saint Philemon was an eminent citizen of this city, and the Christians gathered in his home to celebrate church services. He was also made a bishop by Saint Paul and he went about the cities of Phrygia, preaching the Gospel. Later on, he became archpastor of the city of Gaza. Saint Apphia, his wife, took the sick and vagrants into her home, zealously attending to them. She was her husband's co-worker in proclaiming the Word of God.

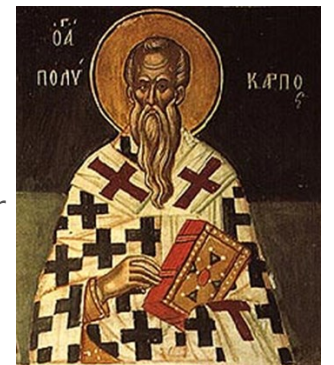
During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Nero (54-68), the holy Apostles Archippus and Philemon and Apphia were brought to trial by the ruler Artocles for confessing faith in Christ. Saint Archippus was brutally slashed with knives. After torture, they buried Saints Philemon and Apphia up to the waist in the ground, and stoned them until they died.

Saint Archippus is also commemorated on November 22.

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Commemorated on February 23

Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who was "fruitful in every good work" (Col. 1:10), was born in the first century, and lived in Smyrna in Asia Minor. He was orphaned at an early age, but at the direction of an angel, he was raised by the pious widow Kallista. After the death of his adoptive mother, Polycarp gave away his possessions and began to lead a chaste life, caring for the sick and the infirm. He was very fond of and close to Saint Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna (February 6). He ordained Polycarp as deacon, entrusting to him to preach the Word of God in church. He also ordained him to the holy priesthood.



The holy Apostle John the Theologian was still alive at this time. Saint Polycarp was especially close to Saint John, and sometimes accompanied him on his apostolic journeys.

Shortly before his death, Saint Bucolus expressed his wish that Polycarp be made Bishop of Smyrna. When Saint Polycarp was consecrated as a bishop, the Lord Jesus Christ