

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
JUNE 23, 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

FIFTIETH DAY AFTER PASCHA **THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST**

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 ليطرده الأسقام ويظهر البرص، لذلك يُفِيض 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 مُرشدي 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 المُقدس المُبارك. ونحن نتطلع للقائكم والترحيب بكم شخصياً في كنيسة مار الياس. يرجى توجيه الأسئلة إلى الأب مايكل مباشرة.

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 Antiochian Women** for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the members of the Antiochian Women of St. Elias. **Also being offered in loving memory of the departed members of the Antiochian Women. 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, Jewel Gabriel.
- **Please pray for the speedy recovery of Samir and Jamal Azar.**
- **Please pray for all those** who have suffered and lost loved ones in Palestine and the Middle East.

tations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth..." the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On this day, the eighth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate Holy Pentecost.

On this day—the fiftieth after Great and Holy Pascha—we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the holy Disciples and Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. Numbering about 120, they who followed the Master gathered in Jerusalem in the upper room of a house to await the Lord's promise to send the Holy Spirit. At about the third hour of the day, there came a sound from Heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the house. Cloven tongues immediately appeared, like as of fire, and sat upon the head of each of them. The Apostles began to speak, not with the languages of their ancestors, but with other languages with which the Holy Spirit supplied them, as He inspired them. After the Apostle Peter explained what had happened, 3,000 people joined the Church on the inauguration of the priesthood of grace. The objectives of Pentecost are, namely, the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus Christ, and the completion of the undefiled hope of the Apostles.

By the intercessions of the Holy Apostles, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: *Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
The heavens declare the glory of God.***

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

إِلَى كُلِّ الْأَرْضِ خَرَجَ صَوْتُهُمْ.

السَّمَاوَاتُ تُذَيِّعُ مَجْدَ اللَّهِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ

(11-1:2)

لَمَّا حَلَّ يَوْمَ الْخَمْسِينَ، كَانَ الرُّسُلُ كُلُّهُمْ مَعًا فِي مَكَانٍ وَاحِدٍ. فَحَدَّثَتْ بَعْنَةً صَوْتٌ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، كَصَوْتِ رِيحٍ شَدِيدَةٍ تَعْصِفُ، وَمَلَأَتْ كُلَّ الْبَيْتِ الَّذِي كَانُوا جَالِسِينَ فِيهِ. وَظَهَرَتْ لَهُمْ أَلْسِنَةٌ مُنْقَسِمَةٌ كَأَنَّهَا مِنْ نَارٍ، فَاسْتَقَرَّتْ عَلَى كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْهُمْ، فَأَمْتَلَأُوا كُلُّهُمْ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، وَطَفِقُوا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِلُغَاتٍ أُخْرَى، كَمَا أَعْطَاهُمُ الرُّوحُ أَنْ يَنْطَفِئُوا. وَكَانَ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ رِجَالٌ يَهُودٌ أَنْبِيَاءُ، مِنْ كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ تَحْتَ السَّمَاءِ. فَلَمَّا صَارَ هَذَا الصَّوْتُ، اجْتَمَعَ الْجُمُهورُ، فَتَحَيَّرُوا، لِأَنَّ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ كَانَ يَسْمَعُهُمْ يَنْطَفُونَ بِلُغَتِهِ. فَدَهَشُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ،

وَتَعَجَّبُوا قَائِلِينَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: أَيْسَ هَؤُلَاءِ الْمُتَكَلِّمُونَ كُلُّهُمْ جَلِيلِيِّينَ؟ فَكَيْفَ نَسْمَعُ كُلَّ مَنَّا لَعْنَتَهُ الَّتِي وُلِدَ فِيهَا؟ نَحْنُ الْفَرِثِيِّينَ، وَالْمَادِيِيِّينَ، وَالْعِيلَامِيِّينَ، وَسُكَّانَ مَا بَيْنَ النَّهْرَيْنِ، وَالْيَهُودِيَّةِ، وَكِبَادُوكِيَّةِ، وَبُنْتُسَ وَأَسِيَّةِ، وَفَرِيجِيَّةِ، وَبِمْفِيلِيَّةِ، وَمِصْرَ، وَنَوَاحِي لِيْبِيَّةِ عِنْدَ الْفَيْرَوَانِ، وَالرُّومَانِيِّينَ الْمُسْتَوْطِنِينَ، وَالْيَهُودَ، وَالذَّخْلَاءَ، وَالْكَرِيْتِيِّينَ، وَالْعَرَبَ، نَسْمَعُهُمْ يَنْطَفُونَ بِالسِّنْتِنَا بِعَظَائِمِ اللَّهِ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, many of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our Law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيَّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ (12:8 ;52-37:7)

في اليومِ الْآخِرِ الْعَظِيمِ مِنَ الْعِيدِ، كَانَ يَسُوعُ وَاقِفًا، فَصَاحَ قَائِلًا: إِنَّ عَطِشَ أَحَدٌ فَلْيَأْتِ إِلَيَّ وَيَشْرَبْ. مَنْ آمَنَ بِي، كَمَا قَالَ الْكِتَابُ، سَتَجْرِي مِنْ بَطْنِهِ أَنْهَارُ مَاءٍ حَيٍّ، إِنَّمَا قَالَ هَذَا عَنِ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ مُزْمِعِينَ أَنْ يَقْبَلُوهُ إِذْ لَمْ يَكُنِ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسَ بَعْدَ. لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَكُنْ بَعْدَ قَدْ مُجِدِّدًا، فَكَثِيرُونَ مِنَ الْجَمْعِ لَمَّا سَمِعُوا كَلَامَهُ، قَالُوا: هَذَا بِالْحَقِيقَةِ هُوَ النَّبِيُّ. وَقَالَ آخَرُونَ: هَذَا هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ، وَآخَرُونَ قَالُوا: أَلَعَلَّ الْمَسِيحَ مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ يَأْتِي؟ أَلَمْ يَقُلِ الْكِتَابُ إِنَّهُ مِنْ نَسْلِ دَاوُدَ، مِنْ بَيْتِ لَحْمَ، الْقَرْيَةِ حَيْثُ كَانَ دَاوُدُ، يَأْتِي الْمَسِيحُ؟ فَحَدَّثَتْ شِقَاقٌ بَيْنَ الْجَمْعِ مِنْ أَجْلِهِ، وَكَانَ قَوْمٌ مِنْهُمْ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُمَسِّكُوهُ، وَلَكِنْ لَمْ يُلْقِ أَحَدٌ عَلَيْهِ يَدًا، فَجَاءَ الْخُدَّامُ إِلَى رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَالْفَرِيسِيِّينَ، فَقَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ لَهُمْ: لِمَ لَمْ تَأْتُوا بِهِ؟ فَأَجَابَ الْخُدَّامُ: لَمْ يَتَكَلَّمْ قَطُّ إِنْسَانٌ هَكَذَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانِ! فَأَجَابَهُمُ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ: أَلَعَلَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا قَدْ صَلَّلْتُمْ، هَلْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الرُّؤَسَاءِ أَوْ مِنَ الْفَرِيسِيِّينَ آمَنَ بِهِ؟ أَمَّا هَؤُلَاءِ الْجَمْعُ، الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْرِفُونَ النَّامُوسَ، فَهُمْ مَلْعُونُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ نِيقُودِيمُوسُ، الَّذِي كَانَ قَدْ جَاءَ إِلَيْهِ لَيْلًا، وَهُوَ وَاحِدٌ مِنْهُمْ: أَلَعَلَّ نَامُوسَنَا يَدِينُ إِنْسَانًا إِنْ لَمْ يَسْمَعْ مِنْهُ أَوَّلًا، وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فَعَلَ؟ أَجَابُوا وَقَالُوا لَهُ: أَلَعَلَّكَ أَنْتَ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ؟ إِنْ بَحَثْنَا وَانظُرْنَا، إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَقُمْ نَبِيٌّ مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ. ثُمَّ كَلَّمَهُمْ أَيْضًا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: أَنَا هُوَ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ، مَنْ يَتَّبِعُنِي فَلَا يَمَشِي فِي الظَّلَامِ، بَلْ يَكُونُ لَهُ نُورُ الْحَيَاةِ.

THE DOXASTICON OF PENTECOST IN TONE SIX

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالابْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ السَّمَاوِيِّ، الْمُعَزِّي، رُوحَ الْحَقِّ، الْحَاضِرُ فِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَالْمَالِيُ الْكُلِّ، كُنْزُ الصَّالِحَاتِ، وَرَازِقُ الْحَيَاةِ، هَلُمَّ وَاسْكُنْ فِيْنَا وَطَهِّرْنَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَنَسٍ، وَخَلِّصْ أَيُّهَا الصَّالِحُ نَفُوسَنَا.

HOLY PENTECOST

Commemorated on [June 23](#) Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expect-

