

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

fierce attitude against Christians, but Lysimachus was of a different frame of mind from him, since his mother had sought to inspire love for the Christian faith in her son, and she had died a Christian. Lysimachus had discussed with his kinsman Primus how it would be possible to deliver Christians from the hands of the torturer. When the detachment of soldiers approached the convent, its inhabitants hid. There remained only the abbess Bryainē, her helper Thomais and Saint Febronia, who was seriously ill at the time.

It grieved the abbess terribly that her niece might fall into the hands of the torturers, who might defile her. She prayed fervently that the Lord would preserve her and strengthen her in the confession of Christ the Savior. Selinus gave orders to bring him all the nuns of the convent. Primus with the detachment of soldiers found no one, except the two old women and Saint Febronia. He regretted that they had not hidden, and he suggested to the nuns that they flee. But the nuns decided not to leave the place of their labors and they entrusted themselves to the will of the Lord.

Primus told Lysimachus about the particular beauty of Saint Febronia and advised him to take her for himself. Lysimachus said that he would not seduce a virgin dedicated to God, and he asked Primus to hide the other nuns somewhere so that they would not fall into the hands of Selinus. One of the soldiers overheard the conversation and told Selinus. They led Saint Febronia off to the military commander with her hands bound and a chain around her neck. Selinus urged her to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage with Lysimachus. The holy virgin firmly and fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and she would not exchange Him for any mortal man. Selinus subjected her to fierce torture. The saint prayed, "My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!"

They beat the martyr for a long time, and blood flowed from her wounds. In order to intensify the suffering of Saint Febronia, they tied her to a tree and set a fire under it. The tortures were so inhuman, that the people began to demand an end to the torture, since there was no confession of guilt by the girl. Selinus continued to mock and jeer at the martyr, but Saint Febronia became silent. Because of weakness she was unable to utter a word. In a rage Selinus gave orders to tear out her tongue, smash her teeth, and finally, to cut off both hands and feet. The people were unable to bear such a horrid spectacle and they left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods.

Among the crowd was the nun Thomais, who afterwards recorded Saint Febronia's martyrdom in detail, and also her student Hieria. She came forth out of the crowd and in the hearing of all reproached Selinus for his boundless cruelty. He gave orders to arrest her, but learning that Hieria was of illustrious standing whom he could not readily subject to torture, he said, "By your speech you have brought on Febronia even greater torment." Finally, they beheaded the holy Martyr Febronia.

Departing the place of execution, Lysimachus wept and withdrew to his quarters. Selinus made ready to eat, but he was not able to take food, and went off to the quiet of his own chambers. Suddenly, he became like one deranged. Looking up to the heavens, he raved and bellowed like a bull, then fell down and struck his head on a marble column and died. When Lysimachus learned of this, he said, "Great is the God of the Christians, Who has avenged Febronia's blood, so unrighteously shed!" He prepared a coffin, placed the martyr's body in it, and took it to the convent.

Abbess Bryainē fell senseless, seeing the mutilated remains of Saint Febronia. Later, she recovered her senses and gave orders to open the convent gates so that all would be able to come and venerate the holy martyr and glorify God Who had given her such endurance in suffering for Christ. Lysimachus and Primus renounced their idol worship and accepted both Baptism and monasticism. Hieria gave her wealth to the convent and petitioned Abbess Bryainē to accept her at the convent in place of Saint Febronia.

Every year, on the day of the martyric death of Saint Febronia, a solemn feast was celebrated at the convent. During the time of the all-night Vigil the nuns always saw Saint Febronia, at her usual place in church. From the relics of Saint Febronia occurred numerous miracles and healings. The Life of Saint Febronia was recorded by the nun Thomais, an eyewitness to her deeds.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On June 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy, glorious, and all-lauded Twelve Apostles.

Even though each one of the Twelve has his own special day of celebration throughout the year, the Church has set aside this day as a festal assembly of all the apostles together and with them, Paul. These are the names and the separate celebration days of the Holy Apostles; and how each one of these most holy and beneficial men in world history ended their earthly life: Peter (June 29, January 16) was crucified upside down. Andrew (November 30) was crucified. James, the son of Zebedee (April 30) was beheaded. John the Theologian (September 26) died in a miraculous, peaceful manner, the only one of "The Twelve" to do so. Philip (November 14) was crucified. Bartholomew (June 11, August 25) was crucified, scraped and beheaded. Thomas (October 6) was pierced with five spears. Matthew the Evangelist (November 16) was burned alive. James, the son of Alphaeus (October 9) was crucified. Thaddeus [Jude] (June 19), the Brother of James was crucified. Simon the Zealot (May 10) was crucified. Matthias (August 9) was stoned and then was beheaded after death. Paul (June 29) was beheaded.

On this day, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints who shone forth throughout all the world, North and South, East and West.

David the Prophet and king, who revered the beloved of God, and respected them because of his great piety, said in the Psalms, "How precious are Thy beloved unto me, O God" (138:17). And the Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, recounted the lives of the saints, when he wrote, "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets us; and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (12:1). Therefore, as Orthodox Christians, we honor the beloved saints of God, respecting them as keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue and benefactors of humanity. We commemorate all of the holy ones every year on this day, as the list of saints ever increases, even though some of their names escape us. Nevertheless, we honor them for their piety and strive to imitate their good works.

By the intercessions of Thine immaculate Mother, O Christ God, and of all Thy Saints from all ages, have mercy and save us, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

***Reader: God is wonderful among His saints.
Bless God in the congregations.***

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay

aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللَّهُ فِي قَدِّيسِيهِ،
فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (2:12- 33:11)

يا إِخْوَةَ، إِنَّ الْقَدِّيسِينَ، بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكِ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، وَسَدَّوْا أَفْوَاهَ الْأَشْوَدِ.
وَأَطْفَأُوا جِدَّةَ النَّارِ وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَّاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَرَاتِ
الْأَجَانِبِ. وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أَمَوَاتَهُنَّ بِالْقِيَامَةِ، وَعُدِّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ
لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةِ أَفْضَلِ. وَأَخْرُورَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ وَالْجَلْدَ وَالْقَيْوَدَ أَيْضًا وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرَجَمُوا وَنُشِرُوا وَامْتَحِنُوا
وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَمٍّ وَمَعَزٍ وَهُمْ مُعْوَزُونَ مُضَايِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا
لَهُمْ، فَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ وَالْجِبَالِ وَالْمَغَاوِرِ وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ لَمْ يَنَالُوا
الْمَوْعِدَ. لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بِدُونِنَا. فَحَنُّ أَيْضًا إِذْ يُحَدِّقُ بِنَا مِثْلَ هَذِهِ
السَّحَابَةِ مِنَ الشُّهُودِ فَلَنَلْقَ عَنَّا كُلَّ ثِقَلٍ وَكُلَّ خَطِيئَةٍ مُحِيطَةٍ بِنَا، وَلِنُسَابِقَ بِالصَّبْرِ فِي الْجِهَادِ الَّذِي أَمَانَا،
نَاطِرِينَ إِلَى رَنِيْسِ الْإِيمَانِ وَمُكْمَلِهِ يَسُوعَ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:36-10:8)

At that time, when Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His Disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." And He called to Him His twelve Disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go now where among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

فَصَلِّ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الرَّمَانِ، لَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ الْجُمُوعَ تَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِمْ، إِذْ كَانُوا مُنْزَعَجِينَ وَمُنْطَرِحِينَ كَعَنَمٍ لَا رَاعِي
لَهَا. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: «الْحَصَادُ كَثِيرٌ وَلَكِنَّ الْقَعْلَةَ قَلِيلُونَ. فَاطْلُبُوا مِنْ رَبِّ الْحَصَادِ أَنْ يُرْسِلَ قَعْلَةً إِلَيَّ
نَمْ دَعَا تَلَامِيذَهُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ وَأَعْطَاهُمْ سُلْطَانًا عَلَى أَرْوَاحِ نَجِسَةٍ حَتَّى يُخْرِجُوهَا، وَيَشْفُوا كُلَّ». «حَصَادِهِ
مَرَضٍ وَكُلِّ ضَعْفٍ. وَأَمَّا أَسْمَاءُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ رَسُولًا فَهِيَ هَذِهِ: الْأَوَّلُ سَمْعَانُ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ بُطْرُسُ،
وَأَنْدَرَاوُسُ أَخُوهُ. يَعْقُوبُ بْنُ زَبْدِي، وَيُوحَنَّا أَخُوهُ. فِيلِبُّسُ، وَبَرْتُولَمَاوُسُ. ثُومَا، وَمَتَّى الْعَشَارُ. يَعْقُوبُ بْنُ
حَلْفَى، وَلَبَّاوُسُ الْمُلقَّبُ دَنَاوُسُ. سَمْعَانُ الْقَانَوِيُّ، وَيَهُودَا الْإِسْحَرْيُوطِيُّ الَّذِي أَسْلَمَهُ. هَؤُلَاءِ الْإِثْنَا عَشَرَ

إِلَى طَرِيقِ أُمَّمٍ لَا تَمُضُوا، وَإِلَى مَدِينَةٍ لِلْسَامِرِيِّينَ لَا تَدْخُلُوا. بَلِ اذْهَبُوا «أَرْسَلَهُمْ يَسُوعُ وَأَوْصَاهُمْ قَائِلًا:
بِالْحَرِيِّ إِلَى خِرَافِ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلِ الصَّالَةِ. وَفِيمَا أَنْتُمْ ذَاهِبُونَ اكْرُرُوا قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّهُ قَدْ اقْتَرَبَ مَلَكُوتُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ. اشفُوا مَرَضَى. طَهَّرُوا بَرُصًا. أَقِيمُوا مَوْتَى. أَخْرِجُوا شَيَاطِينَ. مَجَانًا أَخَذْتُمْ، مَجَانًا أَعْطُوا.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE SYNAXIS IN TONE EIGHT

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

As ye passed throughout creation filling it with light, O disciples of the Savior, with your teachings ye burnt up the error of the idols like wood, and ye saved the nations, catching them in your nets and drawing them up from the deep of ignorance unto divine knowledge. And now intercede with Christ, that He be gracious unto us in the Day of Judgment.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.

يا تَلَامِيذَ الْمُخَلَّصِ، لَقَدْ أَنْزَلْتُمْ الْخَلِيقَةَ الَّتِي طَفَقْتُمُوهَا، وَأَحْرَقْتُمْ صَلَالَةَ الْأَصْنَامِ مِثْلَ مَادَّةٍ. وَبِتَعَالِيمِكُمْ
اصْطَدَنْتُمْ الْأُمَّمَ مِنْ عُمَقِ الْعِبَاوَةِ، وَأَرْشَدْتُمُوهُمْ، مُخَلِّصِينَ، إِلَى الْمَعْرِفَةِ الْإِلَهِيَّةِ. فَالآنَ تَشْفَعُوا إِلَى
الْمَسِيحِ، لِكَيْ يَكُونَ لَنَا رَحِيمًا فِي يَوْمِ الدِّينُونَةِ.

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 الْفَائِقَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءَ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سُبِيَتْ بِوِاسِطَةِ الْمُتَجَسِّدِ مِنْكَ،
وَأَدَمَ دُعِيَ ثَانِيَةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَقَّتْ، وَالْمَوْتُ أُمِيَتْ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَذَلِكَ نَسْبِخُ هَاتِفِينَ:
مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهْنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis

Commemorated on June 25

The Virgin Martyr Febronia suffered during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). She was raised at a monastery in the city of Sivapolis (Assyria). The head of the women's monastery was the abbess Bryainē, the aunt of Saint Febronia. Being concerned about her niece's salvation, she assigned her a stricter form of life than the other nuns. According to their monastic rule, on Fridays the sisters put aside their other duties and spent the whole day in prayer and the reading of Holy Scripture. The abbess usually assigned the reading to Saint Febronia.

News of her pious life spread throughout the city. The illustrious young widow Hieria, a pagan, began to visit her, and under the influence of her guidance and prayer she accepted holy Baptism, bringing her parents and kinsfolk to the Christian Faith.

Diocletian sent a detachment of soldiers to Assyria under the command of Lysimachus, Selinus and Primus for the destruction of Christians. Selenos, the uncle of Lysimachus, was noted for his

