

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
MAY 12, 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

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"
GERMANOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; EPIPHANIOS,
BISHOP OF CYPRUS

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 ويطهر البرص، لذلك يُفِيض الأَشْفِيَة بمكرميهِ دائماً"

A virtuous mother is so needed to instill in her children the faith we received from the saints. As Gibran Kahlil Gibran wrote, "The mother is everything - she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness. She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness. He who loses his mother loses a pure soul who blesses and guards him constantly."

On this Mother's Day, we salute all mothers and those who are in heaven, we ask for their intercession. For those still on earth, we pray that God gives them a long and healthy life. If your mother has blessed you much, thank her. And if your mother has failed you, the best Mother's Day gift you can give is to forgive her.

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

Women of faith, in Holy Scripture, are considered to be “pillars of support” (Proverbs 9:1) and “faithful”. (1 Tim 3:11) This equality is well put in the mouth of St. Paul, when he said, “Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.” (1 Cor. 11:11-12) Since St. Paul gives this profound image of husbands and wives to be like Christ and the Church and the wife is to be like the Holy Church without distinction, Blessed Augustine once wrote, “He who does not have the church as his mother, does not have God as his father.”

I can only speak to what my own mother contributed to my life and the lives of my siblings. I vividly recall that by the age of two, any time the church bells rang to signal a service, my mother would take me to church with her. I confess that being so young, I didn’t understand what the worship was all about, and despite being disruptive during the service, as young children are apt to be, I still felt secure and happy within the boundaries of the church. This experience left a longstanding impression on me that caused me to learn a lifetime of lessons as a son, a young man, a husband, a father, a grandfather and of course as a priest.

The lessons instilled by a mother are those emphasized in 2 Peter that says that the seeds which are implanted in our hearts, minds and souls can produce virtues or thorns. A mother’s words can either heal or scar her children. They can encourage or defeat. They can raise up, or put down. These virtues, whether good or bad determine what a child will be like as an adult, as unique individuals. We are a reflection of our parents’ attitudes, yet we bear on ourselves God’s image and likeness. Though we inherit genetics from our parents, we are original and individual in God’s eyes. All the schooling we acquire and the careers we undertake hinge on the lessons we received from our mother. She is the scale which balances life’s experiences. We either love or hate, are generous or greedy based on lessons we learn as children. Even though my mother was illiterate, she taught me the prayers of the Church which she knew by heart. I could summarize what the gospel teaches, what St. Peter insists makes a good life, and about being dedicated as a Christian based on things I learned from my mother, not through her words, but through her actions. She personified this idea from 2 Peter 1:5 “But also, for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, godliness to brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”

The calling of mothers is of self-giving for the sake of the family. St. John Chrysostom states, “A mother experiences more than one death, even though she herself will only die once. She fears for her husband; she fears for her children; again she fears for the women and children who belong to her children....For each of these, whether for loss of possessions, bodily illness or undesired misfortune, she mourns and grieves no less than those who suffer.” Our image of mothers in the Holy Church is the Virgin Mary. John of Damascus describes her calling to motherhood, “O Mother of God! If I place my confidence in thee, I shall be saved; if I am under thy protection, I have nothing to fear; for the fact of being thy client is a possession of a certainty of salvation which God grants only to those whom He intends to save.” This should be the mission of every mother.

The Bible, and especially Proverbs 6:20-23, advises us in this way, "My child, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light and correction and instruction are the way to life." An old Arab proverb says that "Heaven bows before a mother's feet. The Book of Proverbs 31:1 also states, "Who can find a virtuous mother, she is more precious than jewels." As Henry Ward Beecher stated, "The mother's heart is the child's first school room."

Today, we are in need of the Church to raise women of faith. Who would take a bullet for you? Or catch a hand grenade? Or step in front of a train for you? Or pray that God will take her instead of her child, but a mother? “A mother’s love is something that no one can explain. It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain. It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may, for nothing can destroy it or take that love away.” (Helen Steiner Rice)

As an adult, a man learns how to love his wife and children through the way he loves his mother and the way his mother loves him. A woman learns from the sacrifices of her mother. No one can teach decency, character and dignity but a mother. As children, our bodies are nourished through our mother’s milk and as we grow, our souls are nourished in the same way through the kindness, compassion and generosity she feeds us.

We are dealing with a new reality of moms and dads both working to meet life’s demands and needs. The question to be asked, “Who can teach decency and respect, form character and dignity, but a mother?

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On May 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Germanos, patriarch of Constantinople; and Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior’s side.

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means “in place of Pascha” because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ’s Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, “Peace be unto you.” Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior’s wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. Then Thomas immediately cried out, “My Lord and my God!” But Jesus tells His Disciples, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: *Great is our Lord, and great is His strength.
Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.***

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

عَظِيمٌ هُوَ رَبُّنَا وَعَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ قُوَّتُهُ.

سَبِّحُوا الرَّبَّ فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، جَرَتْ عَلَى أَيْدِي الرُّسُلِ آيَاتٌ وَعَجَائِبُ كَثِيرَةٌ فِي الشَّعْبِ. وَكَانُوا كُلُّهُمْ يَنْفَسُ وَاحِدَةً فِي رَوَاقِ سُلَيْمَانَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْآخَرِينَ يَجْتَرِئُ أَنْ يُخَالِطَهُمْ، لَكِنْ كَانَ الشَّعْبُ يُعَظِّمُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمَاعَاتٌ مِنْ رِجَالٍ وَنِسَاءٍ يَنْصَمُونَ بِكَثْرَةِ مُؤْمِنِينَ بِالرَّبِّ. حَتَّى إِنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا يَخْرُجُونَ بِالْمَرْضَى إِلَى الشُّوَارِعِ، وَيَضَعُونَهُمْ عَلَى فُرُشٍ وَأَسِرَّةٍ، لِيَقَعَ وَلَوْ ظِلُّ بَطْرُسَ، عِنْدَ اجْتِيَازِهِ، عَلَى بَعْضِ مِنْهُمْ. وَكَانَ يَجْتَمِعُ

أَيْضًا إِلَى أورشليمَ جُمُهورِ المُدنِ التي حَولَها، يَحْمِلُونَ مَرَضِي وَمُعَدِّينَ مِنْ أَرْواحِ نَجِسَةٍ، فَكانوا يُشْفَوْنَ جَمِيعُهُمْ. فَقامَ رَئيسُ الكَهَنَةِ وَكُلُّ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَهُمُ مِنْ شِيعَةِ الصَّدُوقِيِّينَ، وَامْتَلَأوا غَيْرَةً. فَالَقُوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَلَى الرُّسُلِ وَجَعَلُوهُمْ فِي الحَبْسِ العامِّ. فَفَتَحَ ملائِكُ الرَّبِّ أَبْوابَ السِّجْنِ لَيْلاً، وَأَخْرَجَهُمْ، وَقَالَ: امضُوا وَقِفُوا فِي الهَيْكَلِ، وَكَلِّمُوا الشَّعْبَ بِجَمِيعِ كَلِماتِ هَذِهِ الحِياةِ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشارةِ القَدِيسِ يوحنا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ. (20:19-31)

لَمَّا كانَتْ عَشِيَّةُ ذَلِكَ اليَوْمِ، وَهُوَ أَوَّلُ الأَسبوعِ والأَبْوابِ مُعَلَّقةٌ حَيْثُ كانَ التَّلَامِيذُ مُجْتَمِعِينَ حَولًا مِنَ اليَهُودِ، جاءَ يَسوعُ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ". فَلَمَّا قالَ هَذَا أَراهُمْ يَدِيهِ وَجَنبَهُ، فَفَرَحَ التَّلَامِيذُ حِينَ أبصَرُوا الرَّبَّ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ ثانِيَةً: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ، كما أرسَلني الآبُ كَذَلِكَ أنا أرسَلُكُمْ". وَلَمَّا قالَ هَذَا نَفَخَ فِيهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "خُذُوا الرُّوحَ القُدُسَ. مَنْ عَفَرْتُمْ حَطاياَهُمْ تُعْفَرْ لَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ حَطاياَهُمْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ". أَمَّا تُوماُ أَحَدُ الاثني عَشَرَ الَّذي يُقالُ لَهُ التَّوَامُ فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَهُمْ حِينَ جاءَ يَسوعُ، فَقالَ لَهُ التَّلَامِيذُ الآخَرُونَ: "إِنَّا قَدْ رَأينا الرَّبَّ"، فَقالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنْ لَمْ أَعاينَ أَثرَ المَساميرِ فِي يَدِيهِ، وَأَصْغَعَ إصْبَعِي فِي أَثرِ المَساميرِ، وَأَصْغَعَ يَدِي فِي جَنْبِهِ لا أؤمنُ". وَبَعْدَ ثمانيةِ أَيامٍ كانَ تَلَامِيذُهُ أَيْضًا داخِلًا وَتوماُ مَعَهُمْ، فَأتى يَسوعُ والأَبْوابُ مُعَلَّقةٌ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ"، ثُمَّ قالَ لِتوما: "هاتِ إصْبَعَكَ إِلى هَهُنا وَعاينِ يَدِي، وَهاتِ يَدَكَ وَصْغِعْها فِي جَنْبِي، وَلا تُكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤمِنٍ بَلْ مُؤمِنًا". أَجابَ توماُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَالهِي". قالَ لَهُ يَسوعُ: "لأنَّكَ رَأيتَنِي يا توما أمنتَ؟ طوبى لِلَّذينَ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا". وَأَياتٍ أُخَرَ كَثيرةٌ صَنَعَ يَسوعُ أَمامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ لَمْ تُكْتَبَ فِي هَذَا الكِتابِ. وَأَمَّا هَذِهِ، فَقدَ كُتِبَتْ لِتُؤمِنُوا بِأَنَّ يَسوعَ هُوَ المَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللهِ، وَلِكِي تُكونَ لَكُمْ، إِذا آمَنْتُمْ، حَياةً بِاسمِهِ.

THE DOXASTICON OF THOMAS SUNDAY 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.

Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Jesus, the King, the Word, and only Son of the Father, Thou didst appear to Thy Disciples, the doors being shut, granting them Thy peace. And to the Disciple who believed not Thou didst show the marks, saying, Reach out and probe My hands, feet and incorruptible side. But he, being convinced, cried out unto Thee, saying, My Lord and my God, glory to Thee.

المَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ القُدُسِ. الآنَ وَكُلَّ أوانٍ وَإلى دَهْرِ الداهِرِينَ. آمين.

مِنْ بَعْدِ ثمانيةِ أَيامٍ لِقِيامَتِكَ يا يَسوعُ المَلِكُ، وَكَلِمَةُ الآبِ الوَحيدِ، ظَهَرْتَ لِتَلَامِيذِكَ والأَبْوابِ مُعَلَّقةً،

وَمَنْحَنَّهُمْ سَلامَكَ. وَلِلتَّلْمِيذِ الَّذي لَمْ يُؤمِنَ، أَرَيْتَ الرُّسومَ قائِلًا: هَلُمَّ فَتَشِّ اليَدَيْنِ وَالرَّجْلَيْنِ وَالجَنْبَ البَرِيءِ

مِنَ الفَسادِ. أَمَّا هُوَ فَافْتَنَعَ، وَهَتَفَ إِليكَ: رَبِّي وَالهِي المَجْدُ لَكَ.

40 Days of Feasting, 50 Days of Celebration

We fasted for forty days during Great Lent; now we feast for forty days, until Ascension. During the Paschal season, we do not fast, even on Wednesdays and Fridays. Symbolic of how Christ's Resurrection has opened Heaven, the doors and curtains of the ikonostasis remain open. The Paschal candle also remains lit. We stand at all services from the Glorious Feast of Pascha until the feast of Pentecost (50 days after Pascha). We do not kneel until the beginning of the Vespers of the Great Feast of Pentecost, at which we kneel and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to send the Holy Spirit also upon us, to empower us to do His will in all aspects of our lives (often called the "Kneeling Prayers").

Christ is Risen!

Truly He is Risen!

Mother's Day always falls during the 40 days of Pascha.

A Reflection for Mother's Day By Fr. George H. Shalhoub

This Sunday, people throughout the United States and many places around the world will gather to honor their mothers. Many mothers will receive flowers, breakfast in bed, dinners and other acts of affection. For those who may be away from their children, they will have to be content with a phone call or a card in the mail. But, no matter how admirable this day has become for us in today's society, honoring one's mother should not be reduced to a one day activity, because mothers provide the foundation upon which we build our lives.

God gives every created human being a mother here on earth because He loves us. And even after our earthy mother precede us to Heaven, we still have our eternal mother (the Virgin Mary) who always keeps us in the shelter of her wings. As the late Mikhail Naimy stated, "Love is the law of God. You live that you may learn to love. You love that you may learn to live. No other lesson is required of Man."

It is a well-known fact that Christian scripture states that the role of instructing children belongs to their father. (Eph. 6:4) However, for many of us, especially those of us who come from the Middle East, this duty belongs to the mother.

What do mothers contribute to their children? Since God is the founder of the first family and every family on the face of this earth, the family is obligated to worship, praise and honor Him and keep His commandments. Therefore, the mother and father are an image of God to their children, and each has a different function, role and duty within the life of the family.

St. Paul stated in Ephesians, Chapter 5, that women are to be like the Holy Church: blameless and without reproach; and husbands are to be the image of Christ: serving and giving of his life to the Church. We do not enter into a debate of who is more important, more educated or makes more money. No one is greater than the other. Both were crowned, in the Sacrament of Marriage, with glory and honor and are, in God's eyes, equal in creation.