

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

AUGUST 11, 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
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'DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH.' ACTS 11:26

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

AFTER-FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON EUPLOS OF CATANIA IN SICILY;
NIPHON, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; NEW-MARTYRS ANA-
STASIOS AND DEMETRIOS OF LESBOS

TONE 6/ EOTHINON 7

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 ليطررد 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 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 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 is being offered by Habib and Milia Alamir** for the continued good health and wellbeing of Habib, Milia, Yara, Naya and all the Alamir Families and the Sankary Families. **Also being offered in loving memory of** the departed members of the Alamir and Sankary 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, 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.

This glory is attained by one who has passed through the glory of the cross. That is, one who has been freed of the hateful ego and from self-love. Rejecting the cross causes a person to seek glory in self-affirmation, and thus his glory remains a worldly glory destined to fail. It does not give him the fullness and satisfaction that he seeks. This is evident in his dissatisfaction with any profit that he gains and in his constant striving for more of what he already has.

"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things" (Phil. 3:18-19). "The things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18). We do not limit the word "eternal" to the life after death, as it also includes earthly life.

Earthly glory is by definition passing, a mirage of the life to come and a cause of perdition. But the promised glory—the glory of man's transfiguration in God's light—is the perfection of the image with the divine likeness, the lasting and original glory, the reason for the creation of man. If this glory does not exist, then what justifies human life? And what makes people bear their personal suffering and the suffering of others? And what gives them the capability to continue with the painstaking effort of life? Life without this divine purpose becomes a heedless passing between strangers who uselessly go along their way, life from the womb to the grave. History becomes merely a succession of vain mirages. Life, the life of every person, is a short series of events with no justification for its past, no meaning to its present, and no possible end to its suffering. Mention of human suffering and the torments of humanity becomes something unbearable.

But we know that this is not the case. God manifests this in His having also become human. He will show His disciples the transformation that will happen to mankind in His kingdom of heaven, when they too will enter into glory. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it... For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works" (Matt. 16:25, 27; cf. Luke 9:24, 26); and also, "But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:27), "till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" (Matt. 16:28).

The transfiguration, then, is a sample of man's natural state. It is the beauty of humanity restored, the beauty of original, undistorted creation. Many knew this beauty, this glory, and experienced it here on earth. The Prophet Moses knew it when his face shined and the Hebrews were not able to look upon him. Many enlightened persons knew it, those who in the purity of their life and their struggle were liberated from the corruption of their fallen nature and became temples for the indwelling of God, such as Saint Seraphim of Sarov and many others.

May God make us worthy to seek this glory. Amen.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On August 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ; and we commemorate the Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplos of Catania in Sicily.

The Emperor Diocletian dispatched Commander Pentagurus to Sicily to exterminate any Christians he found there. Pentagurus did not find a single Christian, for the few that were there, hid from the persecutor and did not reveal themselves. Then someone accused Euplos of taking a book—the Book of the Holy Gospels—to secret Christians and reading to them. They soon brought him to court, hung that book around his neck and led him to prison. After seven days of imprisonment and hunger Euplos was handed over for torture. While they were beating him with iron rods, Euplos mockingly said: "O ignorant one, do you not see that because of God's help, these tortures are for me as a cobweb? If you can, find other harsher tortures, for all of these are as toys." Finally, they led the martyr of Christ out to the scaffold. Then Euplos opened the Holy Gospel and read from it to the people for a long time. Many converted to the Faith of Christ. Euplos was beheaded in the year 304 and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven. His miracle-working relics repose in a village near Naples called Vico della Batonia.

On this day, we also commemorate Niphon, patriarch of Constantinople; and New-martyrs Anastasios and Demetrios of Lesbos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

**Reader: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!**

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good for his edification. For Christ also did not please Himself; but, as it is written: "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me." For whatever was written beforehand was written for our learning, that we might have hope, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, even as Christ has also received you, to the glory of God.

حَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرِّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رُومِيَّةِ. (7-1:15)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، يَجِبُ عَلَيْنَا نَحْنُ الْأَقْوِيَاءُ أَنْ نَحْتَمِلَ وَهَنْ الضُّعْفَاءِ وَلَا نُرْضِيَ أَنْفُسَنَا. فَلْيُرْضِ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ

مِمَّا قَرِيبَهُ لِلْخَيْرِ، لِأَجْلِ الْبُنْيَانِ. فَإِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ لَمْ يُرْضِ نَفْسَهُ، وَلَكِنْ كَمَا كُتِبَ "تَغْيِيرَاتُ مُعْيِرِيكَ وَقَعَتْ

عَلَيَّ." لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَا كُتِبَ مِنْ قَبْلُ، إِنَّمَا كُتِبَ لِتَعْلِيمِنَا، لِيَكُونَ لَنَا الرَّجَاءُ بِالصَّبْرِ وَبِتَعَزِّيَةِ الْكُتُبِ. وَلْيُعْطِكُمْ

إِلَهُ الصَّبْرِ وَالتَّعَزِّيَةِ أَنْ تَكُونُوا مُتَّفَقِي الْأَرَاءِ فِيمَا بَيْنَكُمْ، بِحَسَبِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. حَتَّى إِنَّكُمْ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَقَمِ

وَاحِدٍ تُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ أَبَا رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ، فَلْيَتَّخِذْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً كَمَا اتَّخَذَكُمُ الْمَسِيحُ لِمَجْدِ
اللَّهِ.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقُدَيْسِيِّ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (35-27:9)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازًا، تَبِعَهُ أَعْمِيَانِ يَصِيحَانِ وَيَقُولَانِ: ارْحَمْنَا يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ. فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ

الْبَيْتَ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ الْأَعْمِيَانِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: هَلْ تَوْمَنَانِ أَنِّي أَقْدِرُ أَنْ أَفْعَلَ ذَلِكَ؟ فَقَالَا لَهُ: نَعَمْ، يَا رَبُّ.

حِينَئِذٍ لَمَسَ أَعْيُنَهُمَا قَائِلًا: كَايْمَانِكُمَا فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمَا. فَانْفَتَحَتْ أَعْيُنُهُمَا. فَانْتَهَرَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: انظُرَا، لَا يَعْلَمُ

أَحَدٌ. فَلَمَّا خَرَجَا، شَهَرَاهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا. وَبَعَدَ خُرُوجِهِمَا، قَدَمُوا إِلَيْهِ أَحْرَسَ بِهِ شَيْطَانٌ. فَلَمَّا أُخْرِجَ

الشَّيْطَانُ، تَكَلَّمَ الْأَحْرَسُ. فَتَعَجَّبَتِ الْجُمُوعُ قَائِلِينَ: لَمْ يَظْهَرْ قَطُّ مِثْلُ هَذَا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَمَا الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَقَالُوا:

إِنَّهُ بِرَبِّيسِ الشَّيَاطِينِ يُخْرِجُ الشَّيَاطِينِ. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ كُلَّهَا وَالْقُرَى، يُعَلِّمُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ، وَيَكْرِزُ

بِبَشَارَةِ الْمَلَكُوتِ، وَيَشْفِي كُلَّ مَرَضٍ وَكُلَّ ضَعْفٍ فِي الشَّعْبِ.

Meditations on the Feast of the Transfiguration

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Ispër)

The Feast of the Transfiguration is the feast of glory. It is the feast of glorification, of man's glorification by his return to how he was in paradise, before the fall of Adam and Eve. Indeed, it is the return to the perfection of glory that they would have attained had they not fallen.

If man was created just to live and act for some number of years on earth, what is the meaning of his life? He was created for divine glory. He was created to put on this glory.

Seeking for glory is the deepest and most deeply-rooted need in man's heart. It is the need that is constantly attached to his nature. Even children long for glory (even if un-

knowingly), as when they want to stand out. Adults find in it a motive for excelling and for great deeds or, if they are wicked, a motive for evil deeds.

Man cannot be satisfied with his situation and accept it. He constantly longs for something better. Man is better than his situation, even if he doesn't know this. Within him is a beauty that he covers with ugliness. But he senses this beauty and feels it in special cases. He strives for it by seeking glory, but while he is far from God, he continues to long for it, no matter what glories he achieves.

There is glory, and then there is glory: the glory of the world and the glory of the kingdom, the glory of man and the glory of God, momentary glory and eternal glory, outward glory and inner glory, glory established upon the cross and glory established on the crucifixion of others, glory that comes through the cross and glory that rejects the cross. Do you know what kind of glory you desire?

The glory that God has promised us is to "partake in the inheritance of the saints" (Col. 1:12). It is the glory of holiness, which God has made possible for us through the cross. "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18), and "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17). Therefore, Moses and Elijah spoke with Him "of His exit which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31).

The word exit, in Greek exodos, indicates His death. Christ's death is intimately tied to the glory of the transfiguration because Christ is glorified in His death (cf. John 12:23). In the annual liturgical cycle, the Feast of the Transfiguration comes forty days before the Feast of the Cross, demonstrating the connection that exists between Christ's glory and the cross. The word exodos reveals that Christ's passion is the realization of the Passover of the Old Testament and the true exodus from slavery to salvation.

The unveiling of this divine glory likewise confirms that Christ's imminent death is, not something forced on Him by outside powers, but rather a free offering of love, for no soldier would have been able to resist such a glory when Jesus was arrested, had Christ not remained silent (cf. Matt. 26:53). We chant in the kontakion for the feast, "Your disciples, insofar as they were able, beheld Your glory, so that when they should see You crucified, they would remember that Your suffering was voluntary."

The account of the event of the transfiguration is preceded by the Lord's speaking to His disciples about His impending passion and of the value of self-denial for salvation. The account begins with the words, "After this discussion." This is an indication of the connection between the cross and the resurrection. The event of the transfiguration was an anticipatory revelation of Christ's glory in order to strengthen the disciples who saw Him and to make firm their faith in their teacher and His being the Messiah. The Gospel recounts that the Lord took His chief disciples (Peter, James and John), so that they might see this glory of His.

The apolytikion for the feast says, "When You were transfigured on the mountain O Christ God, You revealed Your glory to the disciples as much as they were able." This confirms that the disciples saw to the degree that they were able to see. The Holy Spirit had not rested upon them yet.