

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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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 4, 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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
THE HOLY SEVEN SLEEPING YOUTHS OF EPHESUS;
RECOVERY OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR EUDOKIA OF
PERSIA

TONE 5/ EOTHINON 6

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 ويظهر البرص، لذلك يُفيض الأشفية بمكرمه 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 زوّارنا الذين يصلّون معنا اليوم ونحرص على مشاركتكم في كنوزنا الروحية، وندعوكم للانضمام إلينا لتناول القهوة معنا في قاعة الكنيسة بعد القدّاس 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 القدّاس 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 Louis & Toni Rezak** for the continued good health and wellbeing of their children, grandchildren & spouses and great grandchildren. **Also being offered in loving memory of David, Mary, Robert, Jack & Deanna Rezak. Laurice (Rezak) Karim, Joseph, Minnie & Marion Mathar. Abraham & Emily Kammar.** 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 Makhlof, 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.

that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it. Mary did this better than anyone. As Fr. Thomas Hopko has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.

When the assumption of thine undefiled body was being prepared, the Apostles gazed on thy bed, viewing thee with trembling. Some contemplated thy body and were dazzled, but Peter cried out to thee in tears, saying, I see thee clearly, O Virgin, stretched out, O life of all, and I am astonished. O thou undefiled one, in whom the bliss of future life dwelt, beseech thy Son and God to preserve thy people unimpaired.

Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord (First of the three "Feasts of the Savior" in August)

Commemorated on [August 1](#)

The origin of this Feast is explained in the Greek *Horologion* of 1897: "Because of the illnesses which occur during the month of August, it was customary at Constantinople to carry the Precious Wood of the Cross in procession throughout the city for its sanctification, and to deliver it from sickness."

On the eve (July 31), the Cross was removed from the imperial treasury and placed it upon the Holy Table of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (which is dedicated to Christ, the Wisdom of God). From August 1 until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there was a procession throughout the entire the city, and then the Cross was placed where all the people could venerate it.

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus on August 1, 988. In the "The order of services for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," which was compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is a similar explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Precious Cross there is a Cross Procession with the Sanctification of Water, for the enlightenment of the people, in all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus is preserved in the Chronicles of the XVI century: "The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and of all Rus took place on August 1."

In the current practice of the Russian Church, the service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1 takes place either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called "the Savior of the Water." Along with the Blessing of Water, there may also be a Blessing of Honey (thus it is also called "the Savior of the Honey)," because on this day, the newly-gathered honey is blessed and tasted.



THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On August 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Exacustodian, Jamblichus, Martinian, Dionysius, John and Constantine, who rose from the sleep of death.

The Roman Emperor Decius came to Ephesus in 250 and arranged a boisterous celebration in honor of the lifeless idols, as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers and sons of influential elders, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices and they earnestly prayed to the one true God to save the Christian people. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside Ephesus called Celion and hid in a cave, which Decius commanded to be sealed. However, God, according to His far-reaching Providence, caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers, Theodore and Rufinus, secret Christians, built in that wall a copper sarcophagus with lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men and their martyric deaths. After 184 years, during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger, there was a great dispute about the resurrection. Emperor Theodosius prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to mankind. At that time of turmoil some shepherders of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, removed stone after stone from that cave. The youths then awakened from their sleep young and healthy. The news of this miracle was spread abroad on all sides so that even Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and with delight conversed with the youths. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the universal resurrection.

THE EPISTLE

Priest: Let us attend.

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

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ

خَلِّصْنِي يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية. (14-6:12)

يا إخوة، إذ لنا مواهبٌ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ بِاخْتِلَافِ النِّعْمَةِ الْمُعْطَاةِ لَنَا، فَمَنْ وَهَبَ النُّبُوَّةَ فَلْيَنْتَبِأْ وَفَقًّا

لِلْإِيمَانِ، وَمَنْ وَهَبَ الخِدْمَةَ فَلْيَلْزِمِ الخِدْمَةَ، وَالْمُعَلِّمُ التَّعْلِيمَ، وَالْوَاعِظُ الوَعْظَ، وَالْمُتَّصِدِّقُ البَسَاطَةَ،

وَالْمُدَبِّرُ الاجْتِهَادَ، وَالرَّاحِمُ البَشَاشَةَ. وَلْتَكُنِ المَحَبَّةُ بلا رِيَاءٍ. كونوا ماقْتِنِينَ لِلشَّرِّ وَمُلْتَصِقِينَ بِالخَيْرِ. مُحِبِّينَ

بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا حُبًّا أَحْوِيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرَ مُتْكَاسِلِينَ فِي الاجْتِهَادِ، حَارِزِينَ بِالرَّوْحِ،

عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ فِي الرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الضِّيقِ، مُوَظِّبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، مُؤَاسِنِينَ الْقَدِيسِينَ فِي
اِحْتِيَاجَاتِهِمْ، عَاكِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَاقَةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. بَارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهُدُونَكُمْ، بَارِكُوا، وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (8-1:9)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَاَزَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَإِذَا بِمُخْلَعٍ مُلْقَى عَلَى سَرِيرٍ قَدَمُوهُ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: "ثِقْ يَا بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ "هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ." فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: "لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ فَأَمْشِ؟ وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ قُمْ، أَحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَأَذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ الْجُمُوعُ، تَعَجَّبُوا وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

THE SIXTH EOTHINON DOXASTICON IN TONE SIX

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

Since Thou art the true peace of God to man, O Christ, Thou didst give Thy peace to Thy Disciples after Thy Resurrection. Thou didst show them frightened when they thought that they were beholding a spirit. But Thou didst remove the anxiety of their souls when Thou didst show them Thy hands and feet; and yet they were in doubt. But when Thou didst take food with them, reminding them of Thy preaching, Thou didst open their minds to understand the books. And Thou didst make with them the eternal covenant, blessed them, and rose, ascending into heaven. Wherefore, with them, do we worship Thee; O Lord, glory to Thee.

المَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ سَلَامُ اللَّهِ الْحَقِيقِيِّ لِلنَّاسِ، مَنَحْتَ تَلَامِيذَكَ سَلَامَكَ مِنْ بَعْدِ قِيَامَتِكَ، وَأَظْهَرْتَهُمْ فَرِحِينَ، لَمَّا ظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ يَرَوْنَ رُوحاً. إِلَّا أَنَّكَ أَرَلْتَ انزِعَاجَ نَفُوسِهِمْ لَمَّا أَرَيْتَهُمْ يَدَيْكَ وَرِجْلَيْكَ. وَمَعَ ذَلِكَ لَبِثُوا مُرْتَابِينَ. لَكِنْ لَمَّا تَتَاوَلْتَ مَعَهُمْ طَعَاماً، وَدَكَّرْتَهُمْ بِوَعْدِكَ، فَتَحْتَ أَذْهَانَهُمْ لِيَفْهَمُوا الْكُتُبَ. وَوَعَدْتَهُمْ بِالْمَوْعِدِ الْأَبْوِيِّ، وَبَارَكْتَهُمْ، وَارْتَقَيْتَ صَاعِداً إِلَى السَّمَاءِ. لِذَلِكَ مَعَهُمْ نَسْجُدُ لَكَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

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.

الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الدهرين. آمين.

أَنْتِ هِيَ الْفَائِزَةُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْبَرَكَاتِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْعَذْرَاءِ، لِأَنَّ الْجَحِيمَ قَدْ سُبِّبَتْ بِوَاسِطَةِ الْمُتَجَسِّدِ مِنْكَ، وَأَدَمَ دُعِيَ ثَانِيَةً، وَاللَّعْنَةُ بَادَتْ، وَحَوَاءَ انْعَتَقَتْ، وَالْمَوْتُ أُمِيتَ، وَنَحْنُ قَدْ حَيِينَا. فَلِذَلِكَ نُسَبِّحُ هَاتِيْنِ: مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، يَا مَنْ هَكَذَا سُرَّ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Why Fast for Dormition?

Daniel Manzuk

It would be a gross understatement to say that much has been written about the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Yet very little has been written about the fast that precedes it.

Every Orthodox Christian is aware and generally knows the reason behind the fasts for Pascha and Christmas. But while they may know of the Dormition Fast, few follow it, and more than a few question why it is there, neither knowing its purpose. First, given the pervasive misunderstanding of the purpose of fasting itself, a refresher on its purpose is always a good idea. There is a perception that we should fast when we want something, as though the act of fasting somehow appeases God, and seeing us "suffer" gets Him to grant our request. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is not our fasting that pleases God, it is the fruits of our fast (provided we fast in the proper mind set, and do not merely diet) that please Him. We fast, not to get what we want, but to prepare ourselves to receive what God wants to give us. The purpose of fasting is to bring us more in line with another Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and away from their sister Martha, who in the famous passage was "anxious and troubled about many things." Fasting is intended to bring us to the realization of "the one thing needful." It is to help us put God first and our own desires second, if not last. As such it serves to prepare us to be instruments of God's will, as with Moses in his flight from Egypt and on Mt. Sinai, as well as our Lord's fast in the wilderness. Fasting turns us away from ourselves and toward God. In essence it helps us become like the Theotokos, an obedient servant of God, who heard His word and kept it better than anyone else has or could.

So why do we fast before Dormition? In a close-knit family, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned. The Church, through the Paraklesis Service, gives us the opportunity to come to that deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt. Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leaves more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ, and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ's retort to the woman who stated