

*St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church*

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**For Liturgy Names & Coffee Hour** email the above

**Saturday:** Vespers at 5:00 PM followed by confession

**Sunday:** Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

**Check out our website @ [www.sainteliasny.com](http://www.sainteliasny.com)**

**ST. ELIAS**  
**ANTIOCHIAN CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 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**  
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**'DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH.' ACTS 11:26**

**BEGINNING OF THE INDICATION:**  
**ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR**  
***RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE STYLITE; SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS***  
***AT MIASINAE***

**TONE 1 / EOTHINON 10**

**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 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 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 المقدس 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**

- **Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially Simon Abboud, Janet Saba, Siham Ayoub, Salwa Makhlof, Kawthar Shomar, Elias Shamieh, Nada and Rima Tadros, Evelyn Gabriel.
- **Please pray for all those** who have suffered and lost loved ones in Palestine and the Middle East.

# The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

Commemorated on [August 29](#)

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.



## THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On September 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Beginning of the Indiction—the Ecclesiastical (Church) New Year.

The First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325 decreed that the Church year should begin on September 1. The month of September was, for the Hebrews, the beginning of the civil year, the month of gathering the harvest and of the offering of thanks to God. It was on this feast that the Lord Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth, and opened the book to read from the Prophet Isaiah, as found in today's Liturgy Gospel reading. The month of September is also important in the history of Christianity, because Emperor Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith, in September. Following this victory, Constantine granted freedom of confession to the Christian Faith throughout the Roman Empire.

On this day we also commemorate the miracle wrought by the Most-holy Theotokos at Miasinae Monastery. The Virgin's holy icon had been cast into Lake Zaguru so that the iconoclasts would not desecrate it. It miraculously arose intact from the lake's depths after many years in 864.

On this day we also commemorate our righteous Father Simeon the Stylite. He was born in Syria of peasant parents. At the age of eighteen, Simeon left home and was tonsured a monk. He undertook the most difficult ascetic practices, including a strict fast for forty days. Simeon eventually took upon himself a form of asceticism that was previously unknown. He stood day and night on a pillar, in unceasing prayer. At first, his pillar was six cubits (7.5 feet) high; Simeon eventually raised it to forty cubits (60 feet) high. The saint worked many great miracles, healing infirmities by word and prayer, comforting those in need, instructing others, and reproaching some who held heretical beliefs. Simeon lived to be 103 years old. He reposed in the Lord on September 1, 459. His pillar and the cathedral named in his honor still stand outside of Aleppo, Syria.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## THE EPISTLE

**Priest: Let us attend.**

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

**Reader: The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-7)**

Timothy, my son, first of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

عَظِيمٌ هُوَ رَبُّنَا وَعَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ قُوَّتُهُ.

سَبِّحُوا الرَّبَّ فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ.

فَضْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الْأُولَى إِلَى تِيموثَاوُسَ.

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، أسألُ قبْلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ أَنْ تُقَامَ تَضَرُّعَاتٌ، وَصَلَوَاتٌ، وَتَوَسُّلَاتٌ، وَتَشْكُرَاتٌ مِنْ أَجْلِ

جَمِيعِ النَّاسِ، مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمُلُوكِ وَكُلِّ ذِي مَنْصِبٍ، لِنَقْضِي حَيَاةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً، هَادِئَةً، فِي كُلِّ تَقْوَى وَعَفَافٍ. فَإِنَّ

## Ecclesiastical New Year + September 1

"O Word of the Father from before the ages, Who, being in the form of God, broughtest creation into being out of nothing; Thou Who hast put the times and seasons in Thine own power: Bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness; give peace unto Thy churches, victory unto Thy faithful hierarchs, fruitfulness unto the earth, and Great Mercy unto us."

Father Joseph Huneycutt, Dean of the East Texas Deanery in the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America, and the pastor of St. Joseph Orthodox Church in Houston, writes:

"It seems odd saying 'Happy New Year' in September, but that's when the Church marks Her annual beginning. September 1st is, for the Church, the first day of a new year. A pious tradition of the Church holds that Jesus of Nazareth began preaching the good news of His mission on September 1st. When our Lord entered the synagogue, He was given the book of the Prophet Isaiah to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

*And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing' (Luke 4:18-21)."*

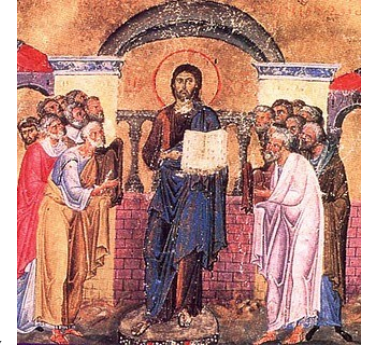
Tradition also holds that it was during the month of September that the Hebrews entered the promised land. And, the custom of beginning a new year with autumn was common in Biblical and Mediterranean lands because the summer harvest was completed, the crops were stored, and it was a time when people began preparing for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time for a new beginning. This is evident in the services for the New Year as the Church beseeches God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth.

As we begin this new year it should be noted that the church calendar is loaded with important events, especially the 12 great feasts, the four fasts, and Pascha. Also, each day of the church year is set aside to honor saints; many of whom died on that particular date. Similar to our personal calendars where we mark the earthly birthdays of family and friends, the Church remembers the saints on their "heavenly birthday" — the day they passed from this life to Paradise.

Liturgically, the church year begins and ends with the Mother of God. The first great feast of the year, September 8, honors her birth; the last great feast of the year, August 15, remembers her falling asleep. Between these two great feasts the Church marks 10 other major Feasts and Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. The dates for Palm Sunday, Pascha, Ascension, and Pentecost vary each year. The Apostles' Fast can vary in length. It begins on the Monday after All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with the feast on June 29. Each parish also celebrates its "altar feast" on the day set aside for its patron saint, feast, or name.

The wall calendars that most parishes make available each fall include many of the daily saints and readings for the year. Also, most people have their own patron saint — or "nameday" — to remember, as well as other favorite and family saints' days.

Why not start the new ecclesiastical year off right? Mark your personal calendar with the feasts, fasts, and saints days of the Church. Make a resolution to participate in the liturgical cycle of the Church. Unlike mundane New Year's resolutions, marking your calendar, keeping the feasts and fasts, and embarking for a new life within the annual life of the Church, is a wonderful way to sanctify time. Let's all join together in making this an 'acceptable year of the Lord!'"



هَذَا حَسَنٌ وَمَقْبُولٌ لَدَى اللَّهِ مُخَلِّصِنَا، الَّذِي يُرِيدُ أَنْ جَمِيعَ النَّاسِ يَخْلُصُونَ وَإِلَى مَعْرِفَةِ الْحَقِّ يَبْلُغُونَ. لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ وَاحِدٌ، وَالْوَسِيطُ بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَالنَّاسِ وَاحِدٌ، وَهُوَ الْإِنْسَانُ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ، الَّذِي بَدَّلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنِ الْجَمِيعِ، وَهُوَ شَهَادَةٌ فِي أَوْنَتِهَا، نُصِبْتُ أَنَا لَهَا كَارِزاً وَرَسُولاً (الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَا أَكْذِبُ) مُعَلِّماً لِلْأُمَّمِ فِي الْإِيمَانِ وَالْحَقِّ.

### GOSPEL

#### **Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (4:16-22)**

At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and He went to the synagogue, as His custom was, on the Sabbath day. And He stood up to read; and there was given to Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor and to heal the broken hearted. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And Jesus closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of Him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقُدِّيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمْلِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَتَى يَسُوعُ إِلَى النَّاصِرَةِ حَيْثُ كَانَ قَدْ تَرَبَّى وَدَخَلَ كَعَادَتِهِ إِلَى الْمَجْمَعِ يَوْمَ السَّبْتِ وَقَامَ

لِيَقْرَأَ. فَدَفَعَ إِلَيْهِ سِفْرَ أَشْعِيَاءَ النَّبِيِّ. فَلَمَّا فَتَحَ السِّفْرَ، وَجَدَ الْمَوْضِعَ الْمَكْتُوبَ فِيهِ: "إِنَّ رُوحَ الرَّبِّ عَلَيَّ،

وَلِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ مَسَحَنِي وَأَرْسَلَنِي لِأُبَشِّرَ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَأَشْفِيَ مُنْكَسِرِي الْقُلُوبِ، وَأُنَادِيَ لِلْمَآسُورِينَ بِالتَّخْلِيَةِ، وَلِلْعُمْيَانِ

بِالْبَصَرِ، وَأَطْلِقَ الْمُهْمَشَّيْنَ إِلَى الْخَلَاصِ، وَأُكْرِرَ بِسَنَةِ الرَّبِّ الْمَقْبُولَةِ." ثُمَّ طَوَى السِّفْرَ وَدَفَعَهُ إِلَى الْخَادِمِ

وَجَلَسَ. وَكَانَتْ عُيُونُ جَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْمَجْمَعِ شَاخِصَةً إِلَيْهِ. فَجَعَلَ يَقُولُ لَهُمْ: "الْيَوْمَ تَمَّتْ هَذِهِ الْكِتَابَةُ الَّتِي

تُلِيَتْ عَلَيَّ مَسَامِعِكُمْ." وَكَانَ جَمِيعُهُمْ يَشْهَدُونَ لَهُ وَيَتَعَجَّبُونَ مِنْ كَلَامِ النِّعْمَةِ الْبَارِزِ مِنْ فَمِهِ.

### THE DOXASTICON FOR THE INDICTION IN TONE EIGHT

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

O Thou Who hast framed all things by Thine ineffable wisdom, O Christ God and Word, and hast established times and seasons for our sakes: Bless the works of Thy hands, and gladden our faithful hierarchs with Thy might, granting them strength against heresies, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

الْمَجْدُ لِلآبِ وَالِابْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُّوسِ.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، يَا مَنْ رَتَّبَ الْخَلِيقَةَ كُلَّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ غَامِضَةِ الْوُصْفِ، وَسَبَقَ فَوَضَعَ لَنَا أَوْقَاتاً وَأَزْمِنَةً، بَارِكْ

أَعْمَالَ يَدَيْكَ، وَأَبْهَجْ جَمِيعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَنْصُرْهُمْ عَلَى أَعْدَائِهِمْ خَلَاصِهِمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحٌ وَحَدَاكَ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.