

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 at office@sainteliasny.com **and**
Sheila at sahmaz@twcny.rr.com

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

ST. ELIAS

ANTIOCHIAN CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2025

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 315-491-3990

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

*VENERABLE-MARTYR NIKON OF SICILY AND WITH HIM
199 DISCIPLES*

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

TONE 6/ 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 زوارنا 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 مرشدي الكنيسة. وكتذكير وديّ، يُسمح فقط للمسيحيين الأرثوذكس الذين أعدوا 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 المبارك. 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 today is being offered by Habib and Milia Alamir** , for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of Habib, Milia, Yara and Naya. Faisal and Nahla, Rafik and Rwaida, George, Suha and family, Andre, Zeina and family, Ibrahim, Rita, and family, Shady , Mary and family. **Also being offered in loving memory of All the Departed ones from** 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 Janet Saba, Salwa Makhoulouf, 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.

for her son. His wife also grieved with her in-laws.

Saint Alexis dwelt in Edessa for seventeen years. Once, the Mother of God spoke to the sacristan of the church where the saint lived: "Lead into My church that Man of God, worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven. His prayer rises up to God like fragrant incense, and the Holy Spirit rests upon him." The sacristan began to search for such a man, but was not able to find him for a long time. Then he prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos, beseeching Her to clear up his confusion. Again a voice from the icon proclaimed that the Man of God was the beggar who sat in the church portico.

The sacristan found Saint Alexis and brought him into the church. Many recognized him and began to praise him. The saint secretly boarded a ship bound for Cilicia, intending to visit the church of Saint Paul in Tarsus. But God ordained otherwise. A storm took the ship far to the West and it reached the coast of Italy. The saint journeyed to Rome and decided to live in his own house. Unrecognized, he humbly asked his father's permission to settle in some corner of his courtyard. Euphemianus settled Alexis in a specially constructed cell and gave orders to feed him from his table.

Living at his parental home, the saint continued to fast and he spent day and night at prayer. He humbly endured insults and jeering from the servants of his father. The cell of Alexis was opposite his wife's windows, and the ascetic suffered grievously when he heard her weeping. Only his immeasurable love for God helped the saint endure this torment. Saint Alexis dwelt at the house of his parents for seventeen years and the Lord revealed to him the day of his death. Then the saint, taking paper and ink, wrote certain things that only his wife and parents would know. He also asked them to forgive him for the pain he had caused them.

On the day of Saint Alexis' death in 411, Archbishop Innocent (402-417) was serving Liturgy in the presence of the emperor Honorius (395-423). During the services a Voice was heard from the altar: "Come unto Me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt.11:28). All those present fell to the ground in terror.

The Voice continued: "On Friday morning the Man of God comes forth from the body; have him pray for the city, that you may remain untroubled." They began to search throughout Rome, but they did not find the saint. Thursday evening the Pope was serving Vigil in the Church of Saint Peter. He asked the Lord to show them where to find the Man of God.

After Liturgy the Voice was heard again in the temple: "Seek the Man of God in the house of Euphemianus." All hastened there, but the saint was already dead. His face shone like the face of an angel, and his hand clasped the paper, and they were unable to take it. They placed the saint's body on a cot, covered with costly coverings. The Pope and the Emperor bent their knees and turned to the saint, as to one yet alive, asking him to open his hand. And the saint heard their prayer. When the letter was read, the righteous one's wife and parents tearfully venerated his holy relics.

The body of the saint was placed in the center of the city. The emperor and the Pope carried the body of the saint into the church, where it remained for a whole week, and then was placed in a marble crypt. A fragrant myrrh began to flow from the holy relics, bestowing healing upon the sick.

The venerable relics of Saint Alexis, the Man of God, were buried in the church of Saint Boniface. The relics were uncovered in the year 1216.

The Life of Saint Alexis, the Man of God, was always very popular in Russia.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On March 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-martyr Nikon of Sicily and with him 199 disciples.

On this same day, the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. 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 Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (6:5-14:4)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِذْ لَنَا رَئِيسُ كَهَنَةٍ عَظِيمٍ قَدْ اجْتَاَزَ السَّمَاوَاتِ، يَسُوعُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، فَلَنَنْتَمَسَكَ بِالْإِعْتِرَافِ. لِأَنَّ لَيْسَ لَنَا رَئِيسُ كَهَنَةٍ غَيْرُ قَادِرٍ أَنْ يَرْتِي لِأَوْهَانِنَا، بَلْ مُجَرَّبٌ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مِثْلَنَا مَا خَلَا الْخَطِيئَةَ. فَلَنُقْبَلْ إِذَنْ بِثِقَةٍ إِلَى عَرْشِ النِّعْمَةِ، لِنَنَالَ رَحْمَةً وَنَجِدَ ثِقَةً لِلْإِعَاثَةِ فِي أَوَانِهَا. فَإِنَّ كُلَّ رَئِيسِ كَهَنَةٍ مُنْخَذٍ مِنَ النَّاسِ يُقَامُ لِأَجْلِ النَّاسِ فِيمَا هُوَ لِلَّهِ، لِيُقَرَّبَ تَقَادِمًا وَدَبَائِحَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا، فِي إِمْكَانِهِ أَنْ يُشْفِقَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَجْهَلُونَ

سَهِّلِي لِي مَنَاهِجَ الْخَلَاصِ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، فَإِنِّي قَدْ دَنَسْتُ نَفْسِي بِخَطَايَا سَمِجَةٍ، وَأَفْنَيْتُ عُمْرِي كُلَّهُ بِالتَّوَانِي. لَكِنِّ بِشَفَاعَاتِكَ، نَقِّنِي مِنْ كُلِّ رَجَاسَةٍ.

(TONE SIX) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
If I think upon the multitude of my evil deeds, wretch that I am, I tremble for the terrible Day of Judgment. But, trusting the compassion of Thy mercy, I shout to Thee like David, Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.

إِيذِيومالون بالحن السادس

يَا رَحِيمٌ، اِرْحَمْنِي يَا اللَّهُ كَعِظِيمِ رَحْمَتِكَ، وَكَمِثْلِ كَثْرَةِ رَأْفَاتِكَ امْحُ مَاثِمِي.

إِذَا تَصَوَّرْتُ كَثْرَةَ أَفْعَالِي الرَّدِيئَةِ أَنَا الشَّقِيّ، فَإِنِّي أَرْتَعِدُ مِنْ يَوْمِ الدِّينُونَةِ الرَّهيبِ. لَكِنِّي إِذْ أَنَا وَاثِقٌ بِتَحَنُّنِكَ، أَهْتَفُ إِلَيْكَ مِثْلَ دَاوُدَ: اِرْحَمْنِي يَا اللَّهُ، بِحَسَبِ عَظِيمِ رَحْمَتِكَ.

Venerable Alexis the Man of God

Commemorated on March 17

Saint Alexis was born at Rome into the family of the pious and poverty-loving Euphemianus and Aglais. The couple was childless for a long time and constantly prayed the Lord to grant them a child. And the Lord consoled the couple with the birth of their son Alexis.

At six years of age the child began to read and successfully studied the mundane sciences, but it was with particular diligence that he read Holy Scripture. When he was a young man, he began to imitate his parents: he fasted strictly, distributed alms and beneath his fine clothing he secretly wore a hair shirt. Early on there burned within him the desire to leave the world and serve God. His parents, however, had arranged for Alexis to marry a beautiful and virtuous bride.

On his wedding night, Alexis gave her his ring and his belt (which were very valuable) and said, "Keep these things, Beloved, and may the Lord be with us until His grace provides us with something better." Secretly leaving his home, he boarded a ship sailing for Mesopotamia.

Arriving in the city of Edessa, where the Icon of the Lord "Not-made-by-Hands" (August 16) was preserved, Alexis sold everything that he had, distributed the money to the poor and began to live near the church of the Most Holy Theotokos under a portico. The saint used a portion of the alms he received to buy bread and water, and he distributed the rest to the aged and infirm. Each Sunday he received the Holy Mysteries.

The parents sought the missing Alexis everywhere, but without success. The servants sent by Euphemianus also arrived in Edessa, but they did not recognize the beggar sitting at the portico as their master. His body was withered by fasting, his comeliness vanished, his stature diminished. The saint recognized them and gave thanks to the Lord that he received alms from his own servants.

The inconsolable mother of Saint Alexis confined herself in her room, incessantly praying

وَيَضِلُّونَ، لِكُونِهِ هُوَ أَيْضاً مُتَلَبِّساً بِالضُّعْفِ. وَلِهَذَا يَجِبُ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يُقَرَّبَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا لِأَجْلِ نَفْسِهِ كَمَا يُقَرَّبُ لِأَجْلِ الشُّعْبِ. وَلَيْسَ أَحَدٌ يَأْخُذُ لِنَفْسِهِ الْكِرَامَةَ، بَلْ مَنْ دَعَا اللَّهَ كَمَا دَعَا هَارُونَ. كَذَلِكَ الْمَسِيحُ لَمْ يَمَجِّدْ نَفْسَهُ لِيَصِيرَ رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةٍ، بَلِ الَّذِي قَالَ لَهُ "أَنْتَ ابْنِي وَأَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ." كَمَا يَقُولُ فِي مَوْضِعٍ آخَرَ "أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَق."

GOSPEL

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقَسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (1:9-34:8)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبِعَنِي فَلْيُكْفَرْ بِنَفْسِهِ وَيَحْمِلْ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبِعْنِي، لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفْسَهُ يُهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِ وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ يُخَلِّصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يَنْتَفِعُ الْإِنْسَانُ لَوْ رَجَحَ الْعَالَمَ كُلَّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطِي الْإِنْسَانُ فِدَاءً عَنِ نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَحْيِي بِي وَبِكَلَامِي فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ الْخَاطِئِ. يَسْتَحْيِي بِهِ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ مَتَى أَتَى فِي مَجْدٍ أَبِيهِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ قَوْماً مِنْ الْقَائِمِينَ هَهُنَا لَا يَذُوقُونَ الْمَوْتَ حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ قَدْ أَتَى بِقُوَّةٍ.

LENTEN TROPARIA

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

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver; for my soul goeth early to the temple of Thy holiness, coming in the temple of my body, wholly polluted. But because Thou art compassionate, purify me by the compassion of Thy mercies.

طَرُوبَارِيَّاتِ الصُّومِ، بِاللَّحْنِ الثَّامِنِ

الْمَجْدُ لِلَّابِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقَدَسِ.

إِفْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ التَّوْبَةِ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ، لِأَنَّ رُوحِي تَبْتَكِرُ إِلَى هَيْكَلِ قُدْسِكَ، آتِيَاءً بِهَيْكَلِ جَسَدِي مُدْنَساً بِجُمْلَتِهِ. لَكِنِّ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ مُنْعَطِفٌ، نَقِّنِي بِتَحَنُّنِ مَرَايِمِكَ.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prepare for me the way of salvation, O Theotokos; for I have profaned myself with coarse sins, and consumed my whole life with procrastination. But by thine intercessions purify thou me from all abomination.

الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

