

**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 Ladies Officers.** Please pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of the Ladies Officers of St. Elias. **Also being offered in loving memory of** the departed Ladies Officers of St. Elias. **May their memory be eternal.**
- **Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially Gary (Chip) George, Janet Saba, Salwa Makhlof, 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.



	Sermonette	Epistle Arabic	Epistle English	Ushers
<b>March 29</b>	Gloria Dayeh <i>(Arabic)</i>	Rania Habib	Lisa Gabriel	Dalal Al Jeries Ghada Al Jeries

*St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church*

*Rev. Fr. Michael Ibrahim*

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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**

**MARCH 29, 2026**

**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**

**CHURCH: (315) 488-0388**

**FR. MICHAEL-973-641-8463**

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

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

## COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

*MARTYR MARK, BISHOP OF ARETHUSA, MARTYR CYRIL THE DEACON OF HELIOPOLIS AND THOSE WITH THEM; MARTYRS JONAH AND BARACHISIOS OF PERSIA AND THOSE WITH THEM*

**TONE 1 / EOTHINON 9**

### 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 ويطهر البرص، لذلك يُفيض الأشفية بمكرميته دائماً

### THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On March 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyr Mark, bishop of Arethusia, Martyr Cyril the deacon of Heliopolis and those with them; and Martyrs Jonah and Barachisios of Persia and those with them.

On this same day, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!" Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to

Pautila, learning that Saint Matrona had been to church, asked, "Why won't you come to our synagogue, instead of attending the Christian church?" Saint Matrona boldly answered, "Because God is present in the Christian church, but He has departed from the Jewish synagogue." Pautila went into a rage and mercilessly beat Saint Matrona, tied her up, and shut her in a dark closet. In the morning, Pautila discovered that Saint Matrona had been freed of her bonds by an unknown Power.



In a rage Pautila beat the martyr almost to death, then bound her even more tightly and locked her in the closet. The door was sealed so that no one could help the sufferer. The holy martyr remained there for four days without food or water, and when Pautila opened the door, she again found Saint Matrona free of her bonds, and standing at prayer.

Pautila flogged the holy martyr and left the skin hanging in strips from her body. The fierce woman locked her in the closet again, where Saint Matrona gave up her spirit to God.

Pautila had the holy martyr's body thrown from the roof of her house. Christians took up the much-suffered body of the holy martyr and buried it. Later, Bishop Alexander of Thessalonica built a church dedicated to the holy martyr. Her holy relics, glorified by many miracles, were placed in this church.

The judgment of God soon overtook the evil Pautila. Standing on the roof at that very place where the body of Saint Matrona had been thrown, she stumbled and fell to the pavement. Her body was smashed, and so she received her just reward for her sin.

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### **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 يصلون 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 سجل الزوار واستكمال بطاقة معلومات الزوار البيضاء والتي توجد في صحن الكنيسة، وإعادتها إلى أحد مرشدي الكنيسة. وكتذكير ودي، 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 القداس لاستلام الخبز المقدس المبارك. ونحن نتطلع للقائكم والترحيب بكم شخصياً في كنيسة مار إلياس. يرجى توجيه الأسئلة إلى الأب مايكل مباشرة.

the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Saints Sebastian, Photinos and Ios□s be blinded and locked up in prison, and Saint Photini and her five sisters Anatol□, Photó, Photida, Paraskev□ and Kyr-  
iak□ were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. Saint Photin□ converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinos and Ios□s, who had been blinded, had recovered their sight, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then commanded the Saints to be crucified, and their naked bodies to be beaten with straps. On the fourth day the Emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants became blind. An Angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The Saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

Enraged, Nero ordered that the skin to be flayed from Saint Photini's body, and then to throw her into a well. Sebastian, Photinos and Ios□s had their legs amputated, and they were thrown to dogs. Then their was skin flayed off. Saint Photini's sisters also suffered terrible torments. Nero ordered soldiers to cut off their breasts, and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the Emperor prepared the most painful execution for Saint Photida. Her feet were tied to the tops of two trees which had been bent to the ground. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright, tearing the martyr apart. The Emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photini was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. The courageous Photini spat in the Emperor's face. Mocking him she said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols which are as blind as you are?"

After hearing such words, Nero ordered that the martyr be thrown into the well again. There she surrendered her soul to God (+ ca. 66).

In Greek usage Saint Photini is commemorated on February 26.

In Constantinople there were two churches dedicated to Saint Photini, where many miracles occurred, especially the healing of eye diseases.

The head of Saint Photini is kept at Grigoriou Monastery on Mount Athos.

## Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica

Commemorated on March 27

The Holy Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica suffered in the third or fourth century. She was a slave of the Jewish woman Pautila (or Pantilla), wife of one of the military commanders of Thessalonica. Pautila constantly mocked her slave for her faith in Christ, and tried to convert her to Judaism. Saint Matrona, who believed in Christ from her youth, still prayed to the Savior Christ, and secretly went to church unbeknownst to her vengeful mistress.

come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary's lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

Through her intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### THE EPISTLE

**Priest: Let us attend.**

**Reader: *Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous***

**Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)**

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا.

إِبْتَهَجُوا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (14-11:9)

يَا إِخْوَةٌ، إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ إِذْ قَدْ جَاءَ رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةٍ لِلْخَيْرَاتِ الْمُسْتَقْبَلَةِ، فَبِمَسْكَنِ أَعْظَمٍ وَأَكْمَلٍ غَيْرِ مَصْنُوعٍ بِأَيْدٍ، أَي لَيْسَ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْخَلِيقَةِ. وَلَيْسَ بِدَمِ ثِيُوسٍ وَعَجُولٍ بَلْ بِدَمِ نَفْسِهِ دَخَلَ الْأَقْدَاسَ مَرَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَوَجَدَ فِدَاءً أَبَدِيًّا. لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ كَانَ دَمُ ثِيرَانٍ وَثِيُوسٍ وَرَمَادُ عِجَلَةٍ يُرَشُّ عَلَى الْمُنَجِّسِينَ فَيُقَدِّسُهُمْ لِتَطْهِيرِ الْجَسَدِ، فَكَمْ بِالْأَحْرَى دَمُ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِالرُّوحِ الْأَرْلِيِّ قَرَّبَ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّهِ بِلا عَيْبٍ، يُطَهِّرُ صَمَائِرَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ الْمَيِّتَةِ لِتَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ الْحَيَّ.

### GOSPEL

**Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (10:32-45)**

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those

for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (45-32:10)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَخَذَ يَسُوعُ تَلَامِيذَهُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ وَابْتَدَأَ يَقُولُ لَهُمْ مَا سَيُعْرِضُ لَهُ. "هُوَذَا نَحْنُ

صَاعِدُونَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَإِنَّ الْبَشَرَ سَيُسَلِّمُ إِلَى رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَالْكَتَبَةِ، فَيَحْكُمُونَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْمَوْتِ وَيُسَلِّمُونَهُ إِلَى

الْأُمَمِ. فَيَهْرَأُونَ بِهِ، وَيَبْصُقُونَ عَلَيْهِ، وَيَجْلِدُونَهُ، وَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ يَقُومُ." فَذَنَا إِلَيْهِ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوْحَنَّا

ابْنَا زَبْدَى قَاتِلَيْنِ: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنَا مَهْمَا طَلَبْنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: "مَاذَا تُرِيدَانِ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُمَا؟" قَالَا

لَهُ: "أَعْطِنَا أَنْ يَجْلِسَ أَحَدُنَا عَنْ يَمِينِكَ وَالْآخَرُ عَنْ يَسَارِكَ فِي مَجْدِكَ." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "إِنَّكُمَا لَا تَعْلَمَانِ

مَا تَطْلُبَانِ. أَسْتَطِيعَانِ أَنْ تَشْرَبَا الْكَأْسَ الَّتِي أَشْرَبْتُهَا أَنَا، وَأَنْ تَصْطَبِغَا بِالصَّبِغَةِ الَّتِي أَصْطَبِغُ بِهَا أَنَا؟"

فَقَالَا لَهُ: "نَسْتَطِيعُ." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "أَمَّا الْكَأْسُ الَّتِي أَشْرَبْتُهَا فَتَشْرَبَانِيهَا، وَبِالصَّبِغَةِ الَّتِي أَصْطَبِغُ بِهَا

فَتَصْطَبِغَانِ. وَأَمَّا جُلُوسُكُمَا عَنْ يَمِينِي وَعَنْ يَسَارِي فَلَيْسَ لِي أَنْ أُعْطِيَهُ إِلَّا لِلَّذِينَ أُعِدُّ لَهُمْ." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ

الْعَشْرَةَ، ابْتَدَأُوا يَغْضَبُونَ عَلَى يَعْقُوبَ وَيُوْحَنَّا. فَدَعَاهُمُ يَسُوعُ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "قَدْ عَلِمْتُمْ أَنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ رُؤَسَاءَ

الْأُمَمِ يَسُودُونَهُمْ، وَعُظَمَاءُهُمْ يَتَسَلَّطُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلَا يَكُونُ فِيكُمْ هَكَذَا. وَلَكِنْ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ

كَبِيرًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خَادِمًا. وَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ أَوَّلًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لِلْجَمِيعِ عَبْدًا. فَإِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ بَلْ

لِيُخْدَمَ، وَلِيَبْدُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ."

### **ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

قِنْدَاقِ بِاللَّحْنِ الثَّانِي

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنْ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا

نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِنَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنْتِ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بِإِدْرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ

وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا بِمَكْرَمِيكَ.

## **Martyr Photini the Samaritan Woman, her sons, and those with them**

Commemorated on March 20

The Holy Martyr Photini (Photin□/Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinos) and Ios□s; and her sisters Anatol□, Photó, Photida, Paraskev□, Kyriak□, Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian.

The holy Martyr Photini was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the Emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photini lived in Carthage with her younger son Ios□s, and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed as military commander of the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to Saint Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the Emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

Saint Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." Saint Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately he regained his sight. After witnessing the miracle Saint Sebastian's servants were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, shall be vanquished."

The Lord said to Saint Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinos, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage Saint Sebastian to persevere until the end. All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photini. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

In Rome the Emperor ordered the Saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then Nero ordered that the joints of the martyrs' fingers be broken. During their torments,

