

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 أوّل 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 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 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

- **Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially Janet Saba, Salwa Makhoul, 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.

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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For Bulletin Announcements email at office@sainteliasny.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

JULY 26, 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

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

THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS MARTYR PARASKEVA OF ROME & EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

*HIEROMARTYRS HERMOLAUS, HERMIPPUS, AND
HERMOCRATES OF NICOMEDIA*

TONE 7/ EOTHINON 8

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 بمكرميه دائماً

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On July 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Righteous Martyr of Christ, Paraskeva of Rome.

Born in Rome of Christian parents, she was brought up from her earliest youth in the Christian faith and gave herself wholeheartedly to the fulfilling of God's commandments in her life. When her parents died, Paraskeva gave all her goods away to the poor and received the monastic habit. As a nun, she preached the truth of Christ with ever more burning zeal, neither hiding from anyone nor fearing persecution. Paraskeva was brought to trial before the Emperor Antoninus then ordered a white-hot helmet placed on her head. But God saved her miraculously and she escaped and left Rome. She again began to go from city to city to bring the pagans to the true Faith. In two more cities she was brought before princes and judges and tortured for her Lord, performing on these occasions great miracles by the power of God and quickly recovering from her wounds. The pagans ascribed her recovery to the power and mercy of their gods. Paraskeva once said to a prince who was torturing her: "It is not your gods, O Prince, who heal me, but my Christ, the true God." She was finally beheaded by a Prince Tarasius. She suffered for Christ in the second century and received her heavenly reward.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates of Nicomedia. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

path. They spent their time in unceasing prayer and strict fasting, encouraging one another in their struggle against temptation.

After a while, with God's help, the temptations stopped. The monks were told by God that Simeon's mother and John's wife had died, and that the Lord had vouchsafed them the blessings of Paradise. After this Simeon and John lived in the desert for twenty-nine years, and they attained complete dispassion (apathia) and a high degree of spirituality. Saint Simeon, through the inspiration of God, considered that now it was proper for him to serve people. To do this, he must leave the desert solitude and go into the world. Saint John, however, believing that he had not attained such a degree of dispassion as his companion, decided not to leave the wilderness.

The brethren parted with tears. Simeon journeyed to Jerusalem, and there he venerated the Tomb of the Lord and all the holy places. By his great humility the holy ascetic entreated the Lord to permit him to serve his neighbor in such a way that they should not acknowledge him. Saint Simeon chose for himself the difficult task of foolishness for Christ. Having come to the city of Emesa, he stayed there and passed himself off as a simpleton, behaving strangely, for which he was subjected to insults, abuse and beatings. In spite of this, he accomplished many good deeds. He cast out demons, healed the sick, delivered people from immanent death, brought the unbelieving to faith, and sinners to repentance.

All these things he did under the guise of foolishness, and he never received praise or thanks from people. Saint John highly esteemed his spiritual brother, however. When one of the inhabitants of the city of Emesa visited him in the wilderness, asking for his advice and prayers, he would invariably direct them to "the fool Simeon", who was better able to offer them spiritual counsel. For three days before his death Saint Simeon ceased to appear on the streets, and he enclosed himself in his hut, where there was nothing except for bundles of firewood. Having remained in unceasing prayer for three days, Saint Simeon fell asleep in the Lord. Some of the city poor, his companions, had not seen the fool for some time. They went to his hut and found him dead.

Taking up the dead body, they carried him without church singing to a place where the homeless and strangers were buried. While they carried the body of Saint Simeon, several of the inhabitants heard a wondrous church singing, but could not understand from whence it came.

After Saint Simeon died, Saint John also fell asleep in the Lord. Shortly before his death, Saint Simeon saw a vision of his spiritual brother wearing a crown upon his head with the inscription: "For endurance in the desert."

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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

# Venerable Simeon of Emessa the Fool-For-Christ, and his fellow ascetic Venerable John

Commemorated on July 21

The Monks Simeon, Fool-for-Christ, and his Fellow-Ascetic John were Syrians, and they lived in the sixth century at the city of Edessa. From childhood they were bound by close ties of friendship. The older of them, Simeon, was unmarried and lived with his aged mother. John, however, although he was married, lived with his father (his mother was dead) and with his young wife. Both friends belonged to wealthy families. When Simeon was thirty years old, and John twenty-four, they made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord. On the journey home the friends spoke of the soul's path to salvation. Dismounting their horses, they sent the servants on ahead with the horses, while they continued on foot.



Passing through Jordan, they saw monasteries on the edge of the desert. Both of them were filled with an irrepressible desire to leave the world and spend their remaining life in monastic struggles. They turned off from the road, which their servants followed to Syria, and they prayed zealously that God would guide them to the monasteries on the opposite side. They besought the Lord to indicate which monastery they should choose, and they decided to enter whichever monastery had its gates open. At this time the Lord informed Igumen Nikon in a dream to open the monastery gates, so that the sheep of Christ could enter in.

In great joy the comrades came through the open gates of the monastery, where they were warmly welcomed by the igumen, and they remained at the monastery. In a short while they received the monastic tonsure.

After remaining at the monastery for a certain time, Simeon desired to intensify his efforts, and to go into the desert to pursue asceticism in complete solitude. John did not wish to be left behind by his companion, and he decided to share with him the work of a desert-dweller. The Lord revealed the intentions of the companions to Igumen Nikon, and on that night when Saints Simeon and John intended to depart the monastery, he himself opened the gates for them. He prayed with them, gave them his blessing and sent them into the wilderness.

When they began their life in the desert, the spiritual brothers at first experienced the strong assaults of the devil. They were tempted by grief over abandoning their families, and the demons tried to discourage the ascetics, subjecting them to weakness, despondency and idleness. The brothers Simeon and John remembered their monastic calling, and trusting in the prayers of their Elder Nikon, they continued upon their chosen

## THE EPISTLE

**Priest:** Let us attend.

**Reader:** *God is wondrous in His saints.*

*Bless God in the congregations.*

**Reader:** The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللَّهُ فِي قَدِّيسِيهِ. فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ. (5:4-23:3)

يا إخوة، قَبْلَ أَنْ يَأْتِيَ الْإِيمَانُ كُنَّا مَحْفُوظِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ مُغْلَقًا عَلَيْنَا مِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِيمَانِ الَّذِي كَانَ مُرْمَعًا إِعْلَانُهُ. فَالنَّامُوسُ إِذَا كَانَ مُؤَدِّبًا لَنَا يُرْشِدُنَا إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ، لِكَيْ نُبَرَّرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ، فَبَعْدَ أَنْ جَاءَ الْإِيمَانُ، لَسْنَا بَعْدَ تَحْتَ مُؤَدِّبٍ. فَأَنْتُمْ كُلُّكُمْ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. لِأَنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ بِالْمَسِيحِ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ، الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ لَبِسْتُمْ. لَيْسَ يَهُودِيٌّ وَلَا يُونَانِيٌّ، لَيْسَ عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، لَيْسَ ذَكَرٌ وَلَا أُنْثَى، فَأَنْتُمْ كُلُّكُمْ وَاحِدٌ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فَإِذَا كُنْتُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، فَأَنْتُمْ إِذَا نَسَلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَوَرِثَةُ بَحْسَبِ الْمَوْعِدِ. وَأَقُولُ: إِنَّ الْوَارِثَ مَا دَامَ طِفْلًا فَلَا فَرْقَ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْعَبْدِ مَعَ كَوْنِهِ مَالِكِ الْجَمِيعِ، لَكِنَّهُ تَحْتَ أَيْدِي الْأَوْصِيَاءِ وَالْوُكَلَاءِ إِلَى الْوَقْتِ الَّذِي حَدَدَهُ الْأَبُ. هَكَذَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا حِينَ كُنَّا أَطْفَالًا كُنَّا مُتَعَبِّدِينَ تَحْتَ أَرْكَانِ الْعَالَمِ، فَلَمَّا حَانَ مِلْءُ الزَّمَانِ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ مَوْلُودًا مِنْ امْرَأَةٍ، مَوْلُودًا تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِيَقْتَدِيَ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِنَنَالَ التَّنَبِّيَّ.

## GOSPEL

**Priest:** The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides

women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

فَصَلَ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدَّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (22-14:14)  
فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَبْصَرَ يَسُوعُ جَمْعًا كَثِيرًا، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَبْرَأَ مَرَضَاهُمْ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ الْمَسَاءُ، دَنَا إِلَيْهِ تَلَامِيذُهُ وَقَالُوا: "إِنَّ الْمَكَانَ قَفَرٌ، وَالسَّاعَةُ قَدْ فَاتَتْ. فَاصْرِفِ الْجُمُوعَ لِيَذْهَبُوا إِلَى الْقَرْىِ وَيَبْتَاعُوا لَهُمْ طَعَامًا." فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: "لَا حَاجَةَ لَهُمْ إِلَى الذَّهَابِ. أَعْطُوهُمْ أَنْتُمْ لِيَأْكُلُوا." فَقَالُوا لَهُ: "مَا عِنْدَنَا هَهُنَا إِلَّا خَمْسَةُ أَرْغَفَةٍ وَسَمَكَتَانِ." فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "هَلُمَّ بِهَا إِلَيَّ إِلَى هَهُنَا." وَأَمَرَ بِجُلُوسِ الْجُمُوعِ عَلَى الْعُشْبِ. ثُمَّ أَخَذَ الْخَمْسَةَ الْأَرْغَفَةَ وَالسَّمَكَتَيْنِ، وَنَظَرَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، وَبَارَكَ، وَكَسَرَ، وَأَعْطَى الْأَرْغَفَةَ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ، وَالتَّلَامِيذُ لِلْجُمُوعِ. فَأَكَلُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ وَشَبِعُوا، وَرَفَعُوا مَا فَضَلَ مِنَ الْكَسْرِ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ قُفَّةً مَمْلُوءَةً. وَكَانَ الْآكِلُونَ خَمْسَةَ آلَافِ رَجُلٍ، سِوَى النِّسَاءِ وَالصِّبْيَانِ. وَلِلْوَقْتِ اضْطَرَّ يَسُوعُ تَلَامِيذَهُ أَنْ يَدْخُلُوا السَّفِينَةَ وَيَسْبِقُوهُ إِلَى الْعَبْرِ، حَتَّى يَصْرِفَ الْجُمُوعَ.

**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 الْمَزْدُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنْ أَصَوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكُنَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَتَيْكَ صَالِحَةً، نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بِأَدْرِ إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأُسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا بِمُكْرَمِيكِ.

**Martyr Christina of Tyre**  
Commemorated on July 24

The Martyr Christina lived during the third century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many wanted to marry her. Christina’s father, however, envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan priestess. To this end he placed her in a special dwelling where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them. Two servants attended Christina.

In her solitude, Christina began to wonder who had created this



beautiful world. From her room she was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the Creator of all the world. She was convinced, that the voiceless and inanimate idols in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, and combined it with fasting.

One time Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her about her future suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols standing in her room and threw them out the window. In visiting his daughter Christina’s father, Urban, asked her where all the idols had disappeared. Christina was silent. Then, having summoned the servants, Urban learned the truth from them.

In a rage the father began to slap his daughter’s face. At first, the holy virgin remained quiet, but then she told her father about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols with her own hands. Urban gave orders to kill all the servants in attendance upon his daughter, and he gave Christina a fierce beating and threw her in prison. Having learned about what had happened, Saint Christina’s mother came in tears, imploring her to renounce Christ and to return to her ancestral beliefs. But Christina remained unyielding. On another day, Urban brought his daughter to trial and urged her to offer worship to the gods, and to ask forgiveness for her misdeeds. Instead, he saw her firm and steadfast confession of faith in Christ.

The torturers tied her to an iron wheel, beneath which they lit a fire. The body of the martyr, turning round on the wheel, was scorched on all sides. They then threw her into prison.

An angel of God appeared at night, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father, seeing her unharmed, gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. In terror, her father imputed this to sorcery and decided to execute her in the morning. That night he himself suddenly died. Another governor, Dion, was sent in his place. He summoned the holy martyr and also tried to persuade her to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he again subjected her to cruel tortures. The holy martyr was for a long while in prison. People began to flock to her, and she converted them to the true faith in Christ. Thus about 300 were converted.

In place of Dion, a new governor Julian arrived and resumed the torture of the saint. After various torments, Julian gave orders to throw her into a red-hot furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyr alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle take place, many believed in Christ the Savior, and the torturers executed Saint Christina with a sword.