



# St. Elias the Prophet Church

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Fr. Dimitrios Pappas, Proistamenos - Frederika Vaupen, Parish Council President - Malcolm Ennis, Bulletin Admin

## Services Schedule

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am

Saturdays (as announced): Vespers - 5:00 pm

Weekdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am

WEEKLY BULLETIN

04/26/2015

## Saints and Feasts



**April 26**

### Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage,

and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Saviour, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).



**April 26**

### Glaphyra the Righteous



April 26

## Basil the Holy Martyr Bishop of Amasea

This Saint was Bishop of Amasia in Pontus, in the days of Licinius (reigned 308-324), fellow Emperor and brother-in-law of Saint Constantine the Great. Licinius' wife Constantia, sister of Saint Constantine, had as handmaid a virgin named Glaphyra. When it became known that Licinius had conceived a sinful desire for her, Constantia secretly sent Glaphyra away to the East. Coming to Amasia, she took refuge with Saint Basileus. When Licinius learned of this, he furiously commanded that both be brought before him. When the soldiers came for them, however, Saint Glaphyra had already departed to the Lord; she is also commemorated this day. Saint Basileus was taken alone to Nicomedia, where he was beheaded. His body was cast into the sea, but through divine revelation was found again and brought back to Amasia.

## Hymns of the Day

### Resurrectional Apolytikion for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος. ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον. Ζωοδότα Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

### Apolytikion for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday in the Second Mode

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

Ὁ εὐσχήμων Ἰωσήφ, ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου καθελὼν τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα, σινδόνι καθαρᾷ, εἰλήσας καὶ ἀρώμασιν, ἐν μνήματι καινῷ κηδεύσας ἀπέθετο, ἀλλὰ τριήμερος ἀνέστης Κύριε, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### Apolytikion for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday in the Second Mode

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Ταῖς Μυροφόροις Γυναίξι, παρὰ τὸ μνήμα ἐπιστάς, ὁ Ἄγγελος ἐβόα. Τὰ μύρα τοῖς θνητοῖς ὑπάρχει ἀρμόδια, Χριστὸς δὲ διαφθορᾶς ἐδείχθη ἀλλότριος, ἀλλὰ κραυγᾶσατε, Ἀνέστη ὁ Κύριος, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### Apolytikion for St. Elias in the First Mode

The incarnate Angel and the Prophets' summit and boast, the second fore-runner of the coming of Christ, Elias, the glorious, from above he has sent down his grace upon Elisha; he doth cast out sickness and also doth cleanse the lepers; and unto all that honor him, streams of cures he poureth forth.

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Ὁ ἑνσαρκὸς ἄγγελος, τῶν Προφητῶν ἡ κρηπίς, ὁ δευτέρος Πρόδρομος τῆς παρουσίας Χριστοῦ, Ἡλίας ὁ ἐνδοξος, ἀνωθεν καταπέμψας, Εἰσαΐω τὴν χάριν, νόσους αποδιώκει, καὶ λεπρούς καθαρίζει, διὸ καὶ τοῖς τιμῶσιν αὐτὸν βρῦει ἰάματα.

### Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατήλθες ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ Ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν, καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς νικητής, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, γυναίξι Μυροφόροις φθεγγόμενος. Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος ὁ τοῖς πεσοῦσι παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.

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*Apolytikion for St. Elias ©*

*Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone © Narthex Press - Northridge, CA*

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Matins Gospel Reading

**Fourth Orthros Gospel**

**The Reading is from Luke 24:1-12**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered in to the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

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#### **Fourth Orthros Gospel Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 24.1-12**

Καὶ τὸ μὲν σάββατον ἠσύχασαν κατὰ τὴν ἐντολήν, τῆ δὲ μιᾶ τῶν σαββάτων ὄρθρου βαθέος ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὸ μῆμα φέρουσαι ἃ ἠτοίμασαν ἀρώματα, καὶ τινες σὺν αὐταῖς. εὗρον δὲ τὸν λίθον ἀποκεκυλισμένον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι οὐχ εὗρον τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ διαπορεῖσθαι αὐτάς περὶ τούτου καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄνδρες δύο ἐπέστησαν αὐταῖς ἐν ἐσθήσεσιν ἀστραπτούσας, ἐμφόβων δὲ γενομένων αὐτῶν καὶ κλινουσῶν τὸ πρόσωπον εἰς τὴν γῆν εἶπον πρὸς αὐτάς· τί ζητεῖτε τὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τῶν νεκρῶν; οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε, ἀλλ' ἠγέρθη· μνήσθητε ὡς ἐλάλησεν ὑμῖν ἔτι ὡς ἐν τῇ Γαλιλαίᾳ, λέγων ὅτι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδοθῆναι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων ἁμαρτωλῶν καὶ σταυρωθῆναι, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστῆναι. καὶ ἐμνήσθησαν τῶν ῥημάτων αὐτοῦ, καὶ ὑποστρέψασαι ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου ἀπήγγειλαν ταῦτα πάντα τοῖς ἑνδεκα καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς λοιποῖς. ἦσαν δὲ ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ Μαρία καὶ Ἰωάννα καὶ Μαρία Ἰακώβου καὶ οἱ λοιπαὶ σὺν αὐταῖς, αἱ ἔλεγον πρὸς τοὺς ἀποστόλους ταῦτα. καὶ ἐφάνησαν ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν ὡσεὶ λῆρος τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν, καὶ ἠπίστουν αὐταῖς. ὁ δὲ Πέτρος ἀναστὰς ἔδραμεν ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, καὶ παρακύψας βλέπει τὰ ὀθόνια κείμενα μόνα, καὶ ἀπήλθε πρὸς ἑαυτὸν, θαυμάζων τὸ γεγονός.

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## Epistle Reading

### **The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7**

IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

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### **Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 6:1-7**

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χήραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἀρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἐπτά, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἀγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσωμεν. Καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλῆθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἀγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικόνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχείᾳ, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠὔξανεν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολλοὶ τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

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## Gospel Reading

### **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

#### **The Reading is from Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8**

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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### **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

#### **Κατὰ Μάρκον 15.43-47, 16.1**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτής, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλοι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἐδωρήσατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδὸνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνελίησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσήφ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. καὶ λίαν πρῶτὴ τῆς μιᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατειλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· τίς ἀποκλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρηνὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

The second [Sunday after Pascha] is dedicated to the women who visited the tomb of Christ, hoping to anoint his body with myrrh, but they found an empty tomb instead. In many ways, this reflects the content of every Sunday and every Divine Liturgy: we come to church to celebrate the sacrifice of Christ, which takes place on the altar, a symbol of the tomb of Christ. Our testimony, every time, is that the tomb is empty, a reflection of the revelation to the Myrrh bearers.

**Rev. Dr. Andreas Andreopoulos**

*Gazing on God: Trinity, Church and Salvation in Orthodox Thought and Iconography. Cambridge: James Clarke & Co., 2013, 55-56.*

And these [the women] first see Jesus; and the sex that was most condemned, this first enjoys the sight of the blessings, this most shows its courage. And when the disciples had fled, these were present.

**St. John Chrysostom**

*Homily 88 on Matthew 27, 4th Century*

## Services and Information

Welcome to all visitors! Please join us for fellowship immediately following the Liturgy in the Social Hall. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians. However, all present are welcome to partake of the antidoron (or blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the service. Those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please see Fr. Dimitri Pappas after the service. Visit the church web site: <http://steliasnm.org/>.

### Services Schedule (unless otherwise noted)

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am

Weekdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am

Saturdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am; Vespers - 5:00 pm

### April 2015

26 April (Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women) prosphoron and coffee hour, Anastasia Stevens.

### GOC Links

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver <<http://www.denver.goarch.org>>

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America <<http://www.goarch.org>>

Orthodox Calendar <<http://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar>>

Orthodox Observer <<http://www.goarch.org/news/observer>>

### Parish News and Events

#### Church Meetings

Parish Council meeting — The next Parish Council meeting will be on Sunday, April 19, after the Divine Liturgy.

#### Annual Greek Festival

Mark your calendars! Friday and Saturday, 19 and 20 June. The Festival will be held at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, downtown Santa Fe. Come enjoy Greek food, dancing, auction, raffle, fun for all!

#### Donations Needed for Silent Auction

Items are needed for the silent auction at our 2015 Santa Fe Greek Festival. Any item is appreciated—gift certificates, art, pottery, home accessories, vacations, appliances, wine tastings, etc. Please think not only of items you might have, but items friends might donate. Ask restaurants and shops you frequent for items or gift certificates. The church is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. Contact Tonya Boone at [tboone@ekkoranch.com](mailto:tboone@ekkoranch.com) for silent auction donation forms and information.

#### 2015 Stewardship

We thank all of our members who have made a stewardship pledge to our parish of St. Elias the Prophet. Through your continued and loving support, the Parish Council and Fr. Dimitrios Pappas are able to serve as caretakers and deal with the needs and priorities that face our church. We ask that you complete your 2015 pledge card for the New Year and return it to the church at your convenience.

#### Recycling for St. Elias

The church can recycle your used toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges and receive a donation for their value. When it's time to get a new cartridge, please bring the used one to church, in its packing if possible, and we will recycle it. Every bit that we recycle means more funds for our parish. Please help with this free and painless way to raise money and protect the environment.

### **Albertson's Community Partners Cards**

Wallet and key-ring size Albertson's Community Partners cards are available on the table in the back of the church. When you shop at Albertson's, give the checker your card to scan, and the church will get money back for every dollar you spend.

### **The iconographers have completed their work for this year**

Next summer the iconographers Maria Sigala and Niko Spanopoulos will complete the beautiful iconography begun years ago. If you would like to be part of this historic endeavor please call Fr. Dimitrios or send your donations to the church. Thank you to all of those who have already donated.

## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America News**

### **Archdiocese Co-Sponsors Event at U.N. for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women**

**03/23/2015**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/panelon%20women%20atun-03232015>

A panel discussion titled, Trafficking & Migration, Girls & Women: Human Rights Have No Borders, took place March 9, 2015, at the United Nations and brought together migration and trafficking experts. The event was co-sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council (the Greek Orthodox presence in the United Nations) and the Salesians of Don Bosco (Society of St. Francis de Sales, a Roman Catholic religious institute).

### **Schedule of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for Mar. 20 - April 2, 2015**

**03/20/2015**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/adschedule-03-20-2015>

### **Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day**

**03/19/2015**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/annunciationencyclical2015>

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, is a day when we celebrate a truly amazing and miraculous revelation. At the event of the Annunciation, the messenger of God appeared before Mary and announced the divine plan for our salvation through the birth of Christ. The words of the Archangel Gabriel revealed how God's promises would be fulfilled and the ancient prophecies affirmed.

### **Archbishop's Encyclical for Greek Independence Day Parade**

**03/16/2015**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/greekparadeencyclical-03162015>

Our annual gathering for the Greek Independence Day Parade is a celebration of our cherished ideals, a commemoration of those who sacrificed for the sake of liberty, and a witness of the strength of our faith and heritage. This year, as you probably know, our Parade will be held on Sunday, March 29, and I invite you to join with us as we march down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, New York.

## **Message from Archbishop Demetrios**

### **Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day**

**03/19/2015**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/annunciationencyclical2015>

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, is a day when we celebrate a truly amazing and miraculous revelation. At the event of the Annunciation, the messenger of God appeared before Mary and announced the divine plan for our salvation through the birth of Christ. The words of the Archangel Gabriel revealed how God's promises would be fulfilled and the ancient prophecies affirmed.