

# ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET CHURCH BULLETIN

June 24, 2012

St. Elias the Prophet Church Phone: (505) 466-0015  
46 Calle Electra Fax: (505) 466-0015  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Proistamenos: Rev. Fr. Dimitrios Pappas email: [paradosi@msn.com](mailto:paradosi@msn.com)  
Phone: 505-204-4655

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## Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when circumcised, that which a male his name. Those him Zacharias, father. But the "Not so, but he John." Since the was unable to asked, by means indicate the then asked for a "His name is immediately



he was is, the day on child receives present called the name of his mother said, shall be called child's father speak, he was of a sign, to child's name. He tablet and wrote, John." And

Zacharias'

mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his

showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanán," which means "Yah is gracious."

## GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

### Epistle Reading

Romans 13:11-14;14:1-4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

### Gospel Reading

Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to

him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the

hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion Second Tone**

When you descended to the realm of death  
You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead. All the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, O life giving Christ and our God we give glory.

### **Apolytikion for Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist**

O Prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, all we who with longing now extol they are at a loss to honor thee worthily. For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world

### **Church Apolytikion**

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

### **Apolytikion for the Sweet-kissing Icon**

With longing we honor your most august icon Pure One. O bright and Sweet-kissing Mary bearing Him in your arms, the God Who created all. Grant your flock protection from all need and every danger. Send to us the bright rays of your splendid wonders. Guard this church of the chief Apostles, by your unsleeping prayers.

## **Kontakion**

A protection of Christians unshamable Intercessor to our Holy  
Maker unwavering Reject not The prayerful cries of those who  
are in sin Instead, come to us for you are good Your loving help  
bring unto us Who are crying in faith to you Hasten to intercede  
And speed now to supplicate As a protection for all time  
Theotokos for those who honor you.

## **SERVICES AND INFORMATION**

### **This Week's Liturgical Schedule**

**Sunday, 24 June** St. John the Prodromos

**prosforo Fr. Dimitri Coffee hour Anastasia Stevens**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Friday, 29 June** SS. Peter and Paul **prosforo Fr. Dimitri**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Saturday, 30 June**

No Great Vespers

**Sunday, 1 July**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 8 July**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 15 July**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Thursday, 19 July**

7:00pm Great vespers

**Friday, 20 July** St. Elias the Prophet

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 22 July** Feast day of Church (Picnic)

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 29 July**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 5 August** Transfiguration

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Monday, 6 August**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 12 August**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Wednesday, 15 August** Dormition of the Theotokos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 19 August**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 26 August**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 2 September**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 9 September**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 16 September**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday, 23 September**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

**Sunday.30 September**

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am