



St. Elias the Prophet Church

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Services Schedule

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

Saturdays: Vespers - 5:00 pm

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

WEEKLY BULLETIN

2014-03-02

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Third Tone

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for the Church

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.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

Saints and Feasts

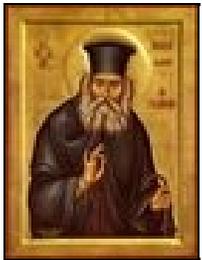


March 02
Hesychius the Martyr

Holy martyr Hesychius lived during the reign of king Maximian in 302. He was the first and the leader in the royal palace and the Senate, because he was magistrianus by office. When Maximian ordered that all Christians who were royal soldiers ought to be deprived of their belts (which were a sign of their royal merit) and live as civilians and without honour, many Christians preferred to live without any outward honour due to this illegal order than to be honoured and lose their soul. St. Hesychius was numbered with these Christians as well. When the king heard this, he ordered that the saint ought to be stripped of the expensive clothes, which he used to wear, and be dressed with a shabby mantle without sleeves woven from hair and to be as disgraced and disdained as to consort with women.

When this had been carried out, the king invited him and asked him: "Aren't you ashamed, Hesychius, that you lost the honour and office of magistrianus and that you have been debased to this kind of life? Or maybe you don't know that the Christians, whose way of life you preferred, have no power to restore you to your previous great honour and office?" The saint replied: "Your honour, o king, is temporary but the honour and glory which Christ gives is eternal and without end." Because of these words the king got angry and ordered his men to tie a great millstone around the saint's neck and then to throw him in the middle of river Orontus, which lies in Coele Syria and which is commonly called Oronge. Thus, the blessed man received the crown of martyrdom from the Lord.

Saints and Feasts



March 02
Our Holy Father Nicholas Planas

Saints and Feasts



March 02
Forgiveness Sunday

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Third Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from Mark 16:9-20

At that time, Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, and he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the 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

Forgiveness Sunday

The Reading is from Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Wisdom of the Fathers

Henceforward then we must be free from our listlessness; "for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."[*] You see how he puts the Resurrection now close by them. For as the time advances, he means, the season of our present life is wasting away, and that of the life to come waxes nearer. If then thou be prepared, and hast done all whatsoever He hath commanded, the day is salvation to thee...Yes, for the day is calling us to battle-array, and to the fight. Yet fear not at hearing of array and arms. For in the case of the visible suit of armor, to put it on is a heavy and abhorred task. But here it is desirable, and worth being prayed for. For it is of Light the arms are! Hence they will set thee forth brighter than the sunbeam, and giving out a great glistening, and they place thee in security: for they are arms, and glittering do they make thee: for arms of light are they!...It is the deadly kind of passions then that he is for extinguishing, lust, namely, and anger. Wherefore it is not themselves only, but even the sources of them that he removes. For there is nothing that so kindles lust, and inflames wrath, as drunkenness, and sitting long at the wine...

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 25 on Romans 13, 4th Century

Here it were well to sigh aloud, and to wail bitterly: for not only do we imitate the hypocrites, but we have even surpassed them.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 20 on Matthew 6, 4th Century

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. . . We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.

His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia

20th Century

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America News

Patriarchal Catechetical Homily on the occasion of the beginning of Great Lent 02/27/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/lentenpatriarchal-02272014>

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Beginning of Great Lent 2014 02/27/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/encyclicallent2014>

On this journey we are led by the prayers and services of the Church to reflect on our struggles and our spiritual challenges. We are called into the holiness of worship and the presence of God, so that we might see our weaknesses and the aspects of our lives that are contrary to His divine and saving will. However, Lent is not a time of despair, hopelessness and defeat. It is a season of grace.

Schedule of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for Feb. 28 - Mar. 10, 2014 02/26/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/adschedule-02-26-2014>

Archdiocese supports the earthquake stricken Kefalonia and a day-care center for children in Cyprus 02/25/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/kefalonia-and-cyprus-02252014>

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America has sent on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America \$25,000 of financial assistance to the Holy Metropolis of Kefalonia, for the relief of those adversely affected by the catastrophic earthquakes of Jan. 26 and Feb. 3, 2014 and the many aftershocks that still continue on the island.

Archdiocese Supports Recovery Efforts in the Philippines 02/25/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/archdiocesesupportsrecoveryeffortsinthephilippines02252014>

NEW YORK – Through a recent grant to IOCC, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is providing financial support to people in the Philippines who have suffered extensive damage to their homes as a result of Typhoon Haiyan.

**Schedule of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for Feb. 23 - Mar. 1, 02/21/2014
2014**

<http://www.goarch.org/news/adschedule-02-21-2014>

Contact: Stavros Papagermanos Tel.: 212-570-3530 Email: pressoffice@goarch.org

FAITH Endowment Announces Summer 2014 Financial Aid Travel Grants to Ionian Village 02/21/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/faithgrants-for-ionianvillage-02212014>

Continuing for the eighth consecutive year, "FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism" will once again sponsor a series of financial aid travel grants this summer to campers participating in the Ionian Village Summer Camp program. FAITH provides full and partial scholarships to those participants that qualify.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Meet with Pope Francis in Jerusalem May 24-26, 2014 02/20/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/jerusalem-first%20anmnt-02202014>

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, will meet with Pope Francis May 24-26, 2014 in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

New Annotated Guide to the Sunday Gospel Readings 02/07/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/sundaygospelreadings-02072014>

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) has launched an ongoing project to create an easy to use annotated guide to the Triodion, Great Lent, and Holy Week Gospel readings.

Message from Archbishop Demetrios

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Beginning of Great Lent 2014 02/27/2014

<http://www.goarch.org/news/encyclicallent2014>

