



# 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

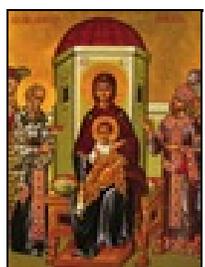
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WEEKLY BULLETIN

03/28/2015

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## Saints and Feasts



**March 28**

### 5th Saturday of Lent: The Akathist Hymn

About the year 626, the Persians, Avars, and Slavs came with a great host and besieged the imperial city of Constantinople while the Emperor Heraclius and the main body of the Byzantine army were absent in the East. Enemy ships filled the sea, especially the Golden Horn, and on land the adversaries were ready for attack with foot-soldiers, horses, and engines of war. Though the citizens courageously withstood them, yet they were few in number and would be unable to repulse the attack of such a great host. Hence, they could not count on any other means of salvation, except the protection of the Theotokos. And truly, suddenly a violent tempest broke up all the ships and submerged them, and the bodies of the invaders were cast out near the Blachernae quarter of the city where the famous Church of the Theotokos stood. Taking courage from this, the people went forth from the city and repulsed the remaining forces, who fled out of fear. In 673, the city was miraculously delivered yet again, this time from an invasion of the Arabs. Then in 717-718, led by the Saracen general Maslamah, the Arab fleet laid siege once more to the city. The numerical superiority of the enemy was so overwhelming that the fall of the Imperial City seemed imminent. But then the Mother of God, together with a multitude of the angelic hosts, appeared suddenly over the city walls. The enemy forces, struck with terror and thrown into a panic at this apparition, fled in disarray. Soon after this, the Arab fleet was utterly destroyed by a terrible storm in the Aegean Sea on the eve of the Annunciation, March 24, 718. Thenceforth, a special "feast of victory and of thanksgiving" was dedicated to celebrate and commemorate these benefactions. In this magnificent service, the Akathist Hymn is prominent and holds the place of honour. It appears that even before the occasion of the enemy assaults mentioned above, the Akathist Hymn was already in use as the prescribed Service for the Feast of the Annunciation, together with the kontakion, "When the bodiless one learned the secret command," which has the Annunciation as its theme. It was only on the occasion of the great miracle wrought for the Christian populace of the Imperial City on the eve of the Annunciation in 718 that the hymn "To thee, the Champion Leader" was composed, most likely by Saint Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Historians have ascribed the Akathist Hymn to Patriarch Sergius of Constantinople (638), to Saint George the Confessor, Bishop of Pisidia (818), or even to Saint Photius the Great (891), all of whom lived either at the time of or after the above-mentioned sieges. However, it appears most likely from its language, content, and style that the true composer of the Akathist Hymn is Saint Romanus the Melodist (6th century).



**March 28**

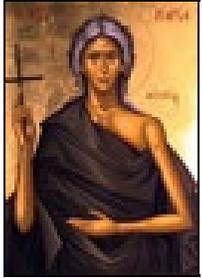
### Stephen the Wonderworker



**March 28**

### **Hilarion the New**

Saint Hilarion took up the monastic life from his youth and lived in seclusion. Later, as Abbot of the Monastery of Pelecete in Asia Minor (believed to be in Bithynia, not far from Triglia), he suffered much from the Iconoclasts, and reposed in the year 754.



**March 29**

### **Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

## **Hymns of the Day**

### **Apolytikion for 5th Sat. of Lent: The Akathist Hymn in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

When the bodiless one learned the secret command, in haste he came and stood before Joseph's dwelling, and spake unto the Maiden who knew not wedlock: The One Who hath bowed the Heavens by His descent is held and contained unchanging wholly in thee. Seeing Him receiving the form of a servant in thy womb, I stand in awe and cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.

Τὸ προσταχθὲν μυστικῶς, λαβὼν ἐν γνώσει, ἐν τῇ σκηνῇ τοῦ Ἰωσήφ, σπουδῇ ἐπέστη, ὁ Ἀσώματος λέγων τῇ Ἀπειρογάμῳ· ὁ κλίνας τῇ καταβάσει τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, χωρεῖται ἀναλλοιώτως ὅλος ἐν σοί. Ὅν καὶ βλέπων ἐν μήτρᾳ σου, λαβόντα δούλου μορφὴν, ἐξίσταμαι κραυγάζειν σοι, χαῖρε, Νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε!

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Τὴ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράφω σοὶ ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε, Ἄλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, ἐκ παντοίων μὲ κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοί, Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

### **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 ἐνσαρκος ἄγγελος, τῶν Προφητῶν ἡ κρηπίς, ὁ δεύτερος Πρόδρομος τῆς παρουσίας Χριστοῦ, Ηλίας ὁ ἐνδοξος, ἀνωθεν καταπέμψας, Ελισαίῳ τὴν χάριν, νόσους αποδιώκει, καὶ λεπρούς καθαρίζει, διὸ καὶ τοῖς τιμῶσιν αὐτὸν βρῦει ἰάματα.

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*Apolytikion for 5th Sat. of Lent: The Akathist Hymn in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone © Holy Transfiguration Monastery - Brookline, MA  
Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone © Narthex Press - Northridge, CA  
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## **Gospel and Epistle Readings**

### **Matins Gospel Readings**

### **Epistle Reading**

**The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:1-7**

BRETHREN, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

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### Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 9:1-7

Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιοῦματα λατρείας, τὸ τε ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη, ἐν ᾗ ἦ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἣτις λέγεται ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη ἅγια ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον, καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περικεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ᾗ στάμνος χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα, καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα, καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης· ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστιν νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτως κατεσκευασμένων, εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίσαιον οἱ ἱερεῖς, τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες· εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἑνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἁγνοημάτων·

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## Gospel Reading

### 5th Saturday of Lent: The Akathist Hymn The Reading is from Luke 1:39-49, 56

In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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### 5th Saturday of Lent: The Akathist Hymn Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 1.39-49, 56

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκεῖνας, ἀναστᾶσα δὲ Μαριάμ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ταύταις ἐπορεύθη εἰς τὴν ὄρεινὴν μετὰ σπουδῆς εἰς πόλιν Ἰούδα, καὶ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον Ζαχαρίου καὶ ἠσπάσατο τὴν Ἐλισάβετ. καὶ ἐγένετο ὡς ἤκουσεν ἡ Ἐλισάβετ τὸν ἀσπασμὸν τῆς Μαρίας, ἐσκίρτησε τὸ βρέφος ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ αὐτῆς· καὶ ἐπλήσθη Πνεύματος Ἁγίου ἡ Ἐλισάβετ καὶ ἀνεφώνησε φωνῇ μεγάλῃ καὶ εἶπεν· εὐλογημένη σὺ ἐν γυναιξὶ καὶ εὐλογημένος ὁ καρπὸς τῆς κοιλίας σου. καὶ πόθεν μοι τοῦτο ἵνα ἔλθῃ ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ Κυρίου μου πρὸς με; ἰδοὺ γὰρ ὡς ἐγένετο ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ ἀσπασμοῦ σου εἰς τὰ ὦτά μου, ἐσκίρτησε τὸ βρέφος ἐν ἀγαλλιάσει ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ μου. καὶ μακαρία ἡ πιστεύουσα ὅτι ἔσται τελείωσις τοῖς λελαλημένοις αὐτῇ παρὰ Κυρίου. Καὶ εἶπε Μαριάμ· Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρί μου, ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπεινώσει τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ. ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μακαριοῦσί με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί· ὅτι ἐποίησέ μοι μεγαλεῖα ὁ δυνατὸς καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ. Ἔμεινε δὲ Μαριάμ σὺν αὐτῇ ὡσεὶ μῆνας τρεῖς καὶ ὑπέστρεψεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτῆς.

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## Wisdom of the Fathers

Daniel called you a spiritual mountain; Isaiah, the Mother of God; Gideon saw you as a fleece, and David called you a sanctuary; another called you a gate. And Gabriel, in his turn, cries out to you: 'Hail, you who are full of grace, the Lord is with you.'

**Anonymous**  
*Irmos. Matins, Canticle Nine. Festal Menaion.*

His conception is without seed, His emptying is past telling; so great is this mystery! For God empties Himself, takes flesh, and is fashioned as a creature, when the angel tells the pure Virgin of her conception.

**John the Monk**  
*Great Compline. Festal Menaion.*

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## 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://steliassnm.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

## **March 2015**

Coffee hours from March 1 through Palm Sunday must be Lenten (wine and oil allowed on weekends). On Palm Sunday, fish is also allowed.

28 March (Fifth Saturday of Lent: The Akathist Hymn)

29 March (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt) 2 prosphora and coffee hour, Irene Souris Guilbeault & April Dellas.

## **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.

### **Order Lilies for Pascha**

Please fill out forms, available in the back of the church, to order Lily plants for Pascha. Each Lily plant is \$15. Purchase in memory of a loved one.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, 5 April.

### **Tsourekia Bake sale**

Our traditional Paschal sweet bread, tsourekia, will be on sale after church on Palm Sunday, 5 April, 2014 for \$10.00 each.

### **Palm Crosses and Church Cleaning**

Saturday of Lazaros, April 4, after the Divine Liturgy, please stay to make Palm Crosses and to clean the church in preparation for Holy Week and Pascha.

### **Sign-up Sheets are in the coffee room for upcoming celebratory meals at the church:**

5 April, Palm Sunday meal, fish OK

11 - 12 April, Anastasi meal

12 April, Agape meal

### **Father needs readers**

Father needs readers to read the Gospel in different languages for the Agape service on April 12th.

### **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.