

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 **stmichaelvannuys.org**

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Archdiocese of North America

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The Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias and the Sixth Sunday of Matthew

The Righteous Iliya Chavchavadze of Georgia

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Tone 5; Eothinon 6

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for the Holy Prophet Elias (Tone 4)

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

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 2)

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.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Prophet Elias)

*Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.
The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou on my right hand,
until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. James (5:10-20)

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. Behold, we call those blessed who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by Heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes and your no be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elias was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sixth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (9:1-8)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

The Synaxarion

On July 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fiery ascent as it were into the Heaven of the holy and glorious Elias (Elijah) the Thesbite.

Verses

He withheld the rain and thrice brought down fire from Heaven;
Now Elias parteth the stream and upwards hasteth.

On the twentieth, thou wast caught up in a chariot, O horseman Elias.

Elias was born in the town of Tishba for which he was called the Thesbite. When Elias was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. This foreshadowed Elias's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. Elias confronted the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. They worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal. Through great miracles Elias displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he accurately prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh. Before his death Elias took Elisseus (Elisha) and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling. Elias was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ with Moses on the Transfiguration. Before the end of the world Elias will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

On this day, we also commemorate Righteous Iliya Chavchavadze [ee-LEE-yah chav-chah-VAD-zay] of Georgia. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Don Meena and family in memory of Albert Meena (+18 July, 2016), beloved brother, uncle and great uncle. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Monica & Nicholas Juganu for the continued health of their family and their upcoming safe travel.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon and the Seventh Sunday of Matthew

Great Vespers – Saturday, July 26th, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, July 27th, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Fast of the Holy Dormition - August 1-14; and **Feast - August 15**

[we observe the traditional fasting discipline (no meal, poultry, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, wine and olive oil) Monday-Friday and the eve of the Feast, Thursday, August 14, with provision for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday; fish, wine and oil on the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration (August 6th)]

Paraklesis (Intercessory Prayer Service) – Tuesday, August 5th and 12th at 6:30 p.m.

THE DISCIPLINE OF FASTING AND PRAYER

The Dormition Fast (August 1-14) is one of the four major fasting periods in the discipline of the Orthodox church (the others being: Great Lent, the Christmas Fast and the Apostles' Fast). The August Dormition Fast precedes the memorial of the Holy Dormition of the All-Holy virgin Mother of God (August 15).

It is beneficial for us to make an effort to observe this fast (to the degree that it is not detrimental to our health). Jesus Himself fasted and taught His disciples about fasting (see St. Matthew's Gospel 6:16-18). The purpose of fasting is to be strengthened spiritually, allowing our spiritual desires to dominate our physical or carnal appetites. This is a means of becoming liberated from being dependent upon the things of this world; focusing our attention upon the spiritual virtues and things of the eternal Kingdom of God. The discipline of fasting provides power to the soul (when accompanied with prayer) in order that it might not yield to temptation and sin. According to St. Seraphim of Sarov, fasting is an "indispensable means" of gaining the fruit of the Holy Spirit in one's life (see Galatians 5:22-23), and Jesus Himself taught that some forms of evil cannot be conquered without it. (see Matthew 17-21 and Mark 9:29).

A special prayer service called the *Paraklesis* [Παράκλησις] (pah-RAH-kle-sis), which means "supplicatory canon," is done each evening of the Dormition Fast, however the service will take place on Tuesday evenings, August 5th and 12th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and may be attended in person or viewed via live-streaming. The prayer service for the living is especially dedicated on behalf of those who are in need of all forms of help and healing. Names of persons may be turned in to Father Timothy.

The Orthodox Church has always understood the discipline of fasting to be accompanied with prayer and good works as mentioned in St. Matthew's Gospel (7:21). It is also important to remember that the Paraklesis Service is not limited to taking place during the Dormition Fast. It is a prayer service that may be said for anyone at any time, in a home or at a bedside, by personal request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meeting

Our next Bible Study is on Tuesday evening, July 22nd, at 7 p.m. We will continue our study of the Epistle of the Holy Apostle James. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on July 22nd. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend. Plan to join us. The Bible Study is required for all catechumens.



Metropolitan SABA's Weekly Message (in English and Arabic)

You can view a recap of the pilgrimage of His Eminence, seminarians and recent seminary graduates and clergy by viewing the [daily blog](#), [photos](#) and videos on the Archdiocese's website and [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages (you don't need accounts to access them). His Eminence,

Metropolitan SABA introduces the "[2025 Prophet Elias Church of Damascus, Syria Relief Fund](#)" in his latest pastoral letter.

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jul 27 - Beverly Ansara

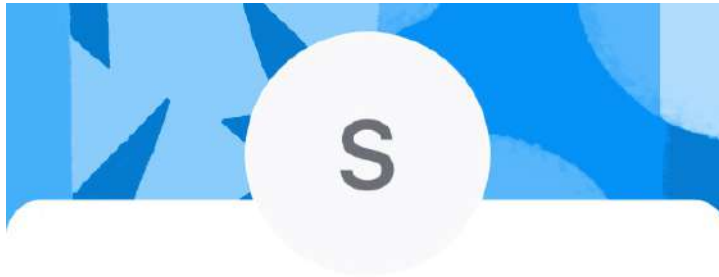
Aug 03 - open

Aug 06 (Feast of the Transfiguration)

Aug 10 - open

Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or to host the Coffee Hour.

You can now support our church with Venmo!



St Michael Antiochian...

@StMichaelChurchVanNuys



1. Simply scan the QR code above to make a secure donation
2. Enter the amount and note the earmark: Offering, Pledge, Candles, or Other (specify)
3. Need help? Contact our Treasurer:
praneet.panga@stepupconsultingco.com

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar. Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWNoYWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>]

Antiochian Biennial Archdiocese Convention - July 20-27, 2025

In advance of the Archdiocese Convention, for our convenience, the Annual Reports from the Archdiocese Departments, organizations and ministries appear on the Archdiocese's newest webpage: convention2025.antiochian.org. It complements the official Convention website of the host parish: www.ac2025chicago.org. Topping the list is the [2024 Annual Financial Report](#).

Notice:

Father Timothy will be attending the Archdiocese Convention in Chicago, beginning on Monday, July 21, to Friday, July 25, 2025. He may be reached in the event of an emergency by text, e-mail or telephone (818-219-3761) / frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr or Vanessa Obenhaus at: raiesmurscholarship@gmail.com The applications must be returned by August 4, 2025.

EOTHINON 6

الايوثينا 6

TONE 5

اللعن 5

**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH)
AND THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

RIGHTEOUS ILIYA CHAVCHAVADZE OF GEORGIA

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللعن الخامس

لِنُسَبِّحَ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدُ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلآبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ،
الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سُرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَعْلُو عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ
الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ

أبوليتيكيون للنبي إيليا بالحن الرابع

أَيُّهَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ بِالْجِسْمِ قَاعِدَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَرُكْنُهُمْ، السَّابِقُ الثَّانِي لِحُضُورِ الْمَسِيحِ، إِيلْيَاسُ
الْمَجِيدِ الْمُوقَّرِ. لَقَدْ أُرْسِلْتَ النِّعْمَةُ مِنَ الْعُلَى لِأَلِيشَع، لِيَطْرُدَ الْأَسْقَامَ وَيُطَهِّرَ الْبُرْصَ،
لِذَا يُفِيضُ الْأَشْفِيَّةَ لِكَرَمِيهِ دَائِمًا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ
بَطْلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظِلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولَى، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ
وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فَتُورٍ، أَنْقُذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلَوِيَّةِ.

قنداق بالحن الثاني

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِيَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي
عَنْ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ
الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بِأَدْرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأُسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ،
الْمُتَشَفِّعَةُ دَائِمًا بِمُكْرَمِيكَ.

الرسالة

أَنْتَ الْكَاهِنُ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَق.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِرَبِّي: اجْلِسْ عَنْ يَمِينِي، حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يَعْقُوبَ الرَّسُولِ الْجَامِعَةِ. (20-10:5)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، اتَّخِذُوا الْأَنْبِيَاءَ، الَّذِينَ تَكَلَّمُوا بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ، قُدُوةً فِي احْتِمَالِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ
وَفِي طَوْلِ الْأَثَاةِ، فَإِنَّا نَطُوبُ الصَّابِرِينَ. وَقَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِصَبْرِ أَيُّوبَ، وَرَأَيْتُمْ عَاقِبَةَ
الرَّبِّ. لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ مُتَحَنِّنٌ جِدًّا وَرَوُوفٌ. وَقَبْلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَا تَحْلِفُوا لَا
بِالسَّمَاءِ وَلَا بِالْأَرْضِ وَلَا بِقَسَمٍ آخَرَ. وَلَكِنْ لِيَكُنْ كَلَامُكُمْ نَعَمَ نَعَمَ وَلَا لَا، لِئَلَّا

تَقَعُوا فِي الدَّيْنُونَةِ. هَلْ فِيكُمْ أَحَدٌ فِي مَشَقَّاتٍ؟ فَلْيُصَلِّ؛ أَوْ فِي سُرُورٍ؟ فَلْيَرْتَلِّ.
هَلْ فِيكُمْ مَرِيضٌ؟ فَلْيَدْعُ قُسُوسَ الْكَنِيسَةِ وَلْيُصَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَيَدْهِنُوهُ بِزَيْتٍ بِاسْمِ
الرَّبِّ. فَإِنَّ صَلَاةَ الْإِيمَانِ تَخْلُصُ الْمَرِيضَ، وَالرَّبُّ يَنْهَضُهُ. وَإِنْ كَانَ قَدْ ارْتَكَبَ
خَطَايَا، تَغْفِرْ لَهُ. اعْتَرَفُوا بِعُضُكُم لِبَعْضِ الزَّلَّاتِ، وَصَلُّوا بِعُضُكُم لِأَجْلِ بَعْضِ
لِكَي تَبْرَأُوا. إِنَّ طَلِبَةَ الْبَارِّ تَقْتَدِرُ كَثِيرًا فِي فِعْلِهَا. كَانَ إِيلِيَّا إِنْسَانًا قَابِلَ الْآلَامِ
مِثْلَنَا، وَقَدْ صَلَّى أَنْ لَا يَنْزِلَ الْمَطَرُ، فَلَمْ يَنْزِلْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مُدَّةَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ وَسِتَّةِ
أَشْهُرٍ. ثُمَّ عَادَ وَصَلَّى فَأَمْطَرَتِ السَّمَاءُ وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ ثَمَرَهَا. أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ،
إِنْ ضَلَّ أَحَدٌ بَيْنَكُمْ عَنِ الْحَقِّ فَرِّدْهُ أَحَدٌ، فَلْيَعْلَمْ أَنَّ الَّذِي رَدَّ خَاطِئًا عَنْ ضَلَالِ
طَرِيقِهِ، قَدْ خَلَصَ نَفْسًا مِنَ الْمَوْتِ، وَسَتَرَ جَمًّا مِنَ الْخَطَايَا.

الإنجيل

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (8-1:9)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ وَاجْتَاَزَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَإِذَا بِمُخَلِّعٍ
مُلْقًى عَلَى سُرِيرٍ قَدَمُوهُ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيْمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: "ثِقْ يَا
بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ." فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنْ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ "هَذَا يَجْدِفُ."
فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: "لِمَاذَا تَفَكَّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْإِسْرُ أَنْ
يُقَالَ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ فَاْمُشْ؟ وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ
الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ "قُمْ، احْمِلْ
سُرِيرَكَ وَاذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ." فَقَامَ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا نَظَرَ الْجُمُوعُ، تَعَجَّبُوا
وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان
المقدس هنا تقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف
منذ فترة قريبة (و على كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة فى الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم
القداس.) رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية