



St. Elias Melkite Church

Serving San Jose & South Bay Area, CA

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Sunday, April 30, 2017: Sunday of the Ointment Bearing Women
احد حاملات الطيب الاحد، 30 نيسان 2017

Vespers (evening prayer)
Saturdays 5pm
Feastdays: See website Calendar

Orthros (morning prayer)
Sundays 10am
Feastdays: See website Calendar

Divine Liturgy
Sundays: 11am
Feastdays: See website Calendar

Confession
During Vespers and Orthros, or
by appointment

Bible Study
Wednesdays: 6-7pm Online
See website for link

Sunday School
During Sunday Coffee Social

Contact the Pastor
Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo
Phone: (831) 229-8350
SebastianCarnazzo@gmail.com

- Qurban and Socials**
- This Sunday, 4/30
Qurban: Higareda
Social: Renee Kaldani
 - Next Sunday, 5/7
Qurban: Farah
Social: Ciardella

Pray for Servants of God
The Readers Cyril and Romanos
Newly Illumined Kayla Marie
Higareda Family
Christopher Lardizabal
Juan Mendoza
Paul Robinson
Nabil Matta
Timothy Ciardella
John Andrews
Mary Solis
Laure Kelly
Marlene & Rita Nair
Rosalie Mendez
Dimitri Metri
Kamal & Eugenie Neimat

Asleep in the Lord
Jabra Asfour
Daad Georgias
Florence Mendez

PRAYER

O Christ God, You alone are the Light of the world. Enlighten our spirit as You enlightened the eyes of the Myrrh Bearing Women. Gladden our hearts with faith and peace; and as You raised us up from the grave of our sins and delivered us from the power of Darkness, make us also worthy, in your great mercy, to light the lamps of our souls from the resplendent Light of your Glorious Resurrection, for You are our Light, our Life and our Resurrection, O Christ God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, and to your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

HYMNS

Resurrectional Troparion Tone 2: When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out to you: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسنى لاهوتك. ولما أقمّت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماويين: أيها المسيح ألهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

READINGS

Acts 6:1-7 In those days, as the number of disciples increased; there arose a complaint among the Greeks against the Hebrews, in that their widows were being neglected in the daily service. And so, the twelve summoned the many disciples and said, "It is not good that we give up the word of God and serve at tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom that we could put to this service, while we devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the plan was pleasing to the whole crowd, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicholas, a recent convert from Antioch. These they presented to the apostles, who then prayed and laid their hands upon them. And God's word was growing, and the number of the disciples increased considerably in Jerusalem; and many of the priests also accepted the faith.

Mark 15:43-16:8 At that time there came Joseph, the one from Arimathea, a counselor of high rank, who was himself looking for the kingdom of God. And he went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. But Pilate wondered whether he had expired so soon. And sending for the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen cloth, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone to the entrance of the tomb. But Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jose were looking on and saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, in order to go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, when the sun had just risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?" And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back—now, it was very large. But on entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see him, as he told you." And they left and fled from the tomb, for trembling and fear had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn to the Theotokos: The angel cried out to the one who is full of grace: "Hail, O Immaculate Virgin! Hail, again! For your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!" Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has shone upon you. Rejoice and be glad, O Sion; and you, O Pure One, O Mother of God, exult in the resurrection of your Son!

COMMEMORATION

Holy Apostle James, Brother of John the Evangelist, was put to death by Herod in the year 42.

ANNOUNCEMENT

VESPERS AND ORTHROS: Every Saturday at 5pm we now celebrate vespers and every Sunday at 10am we now celebrate Orthros. Come and experience these ancient and beautiful services. These are also great opportunities for weekly confession!

LADIES' MEETING: This Sat. May 6th at 11am in Church hall. We will bake the Qurban together and Fr. Sebastian will give a special demonstration of the symbolism of the Qurban stamp. Please come for this unique opportunity to learn together! Lunch will be provided.

From the Dioceses

THE GOSPELS ARE UNANIMOUS in telling us that, out of His twelve chief disciples, the Lord Jesus had a special relationship with Peter, James and John. Along with Andrew, Peter's brother, they were the first called of the twelve. After calling Peter and Andrew to follow Him, Jesus invited James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee, to do so as well. Jesus then visited the synagogue in Capernaum and He went to the house of Simon (Peter) and Andrew, taking James and John along with Him (see *Mark 1:29-31*). The Gospels record that Jesus singled out Peter, James and John, making them His closest associates and favored companions. When the Lord was called to the house of Jairus, who feared for his daughter's life, "*He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James*" (*Mk 5:37*). It was these same three disciples who witnessed the Lord's transfiguration on the mountain and who were closest to Him at the end of His ministry. "*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?'*" (*Mk 13:3, 4*) It was the same three who followed Him into the Garden after the Last Supper. "*Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' And He took Peter, James, and John with Him...*" (*Mk 14:32, 33*).

The Death of James A few years after the death and resurrection of Christ, there was "*a great famine throughout all the world, which happened in the days of Claudius Caesar*" (*Acts 11:28*) who reigned from AD 41 to 54. This famine is mentioned by a number of contemporary writers, both Jewish and pagan, such as Josephus, Tacitus and Suetonius, who described the famine as "the result of bad harvests that occurred during a span of several years" (*Lives of the Caesars, 18*). "*Now about that time [the time of the famine] Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also*" (*Acts 12:1-3*). James was thus the first of Christ's closest followers to die; Peter was freed from prison (see *Acts 12:5-11*) and went on to strengthen the Churches springing up throughout the Roman Empire. St Clement of Alexandria, who lived in Jerusalem at the end of the second century, recorded an otherwise unknown anecdote concerning the death of St James. Eusebius included it in his *History of the Church*. "Concerning this James, Clement, in the seventh book of his *Hypotyposes*, relates a story which is worthy of mention; telling it as he received it from those who had lived before him. He says that the one who led James to the judgment-seat, when he saw him bearing his testimony, was moved, and confessed that he was himself also a Christian. 'They were both therefore, he says, led away together; and on the way he begged James to forgive him. And he, after considering a little, said, Peace be with you, and kissed him. And thus they were both beheaded at the same time'" (*History of the Church, Book II, 9*). The head of St James is reputedly buried in Jerusalem's Armenian cathedral, which is dedicated to St James the brother of John and also to St James the Just, the Brother of the Lord. In one of its chapels, built in the fifth century, a red marble slab in front of the altar marks the place where St James' head is buried, on the supposed site of his beheading.

You drew men up from the depths of vanity with a fisherman's rod of grace. You obeyed the commands of the Teacher, O worthy James, who enlightened all your thoughts and revealed you as an Apostle and holy preacher, for you expound His incomprehensible divinity, O most blessed one.

The illumination of the Spirit descended on you in the form of fire and made you a divine vessel, O blessed one, dispelling with power the darkness of godlessness and enlightening the world with the brightness of your all-wise words, O preacher of mysteries, O leader of the Apostles, James, the eyewitness of Christ.

You illumined those lying in the darkness of ignorance with the lightning flash of your preaching, O glorious James. You revealed them to be sons through faith of the Master and God whose passion and death you imitated with zeal. You became an heir of glory, O wise one, as one speaking from God, and a most faithful disciple.

Come, let us praise James with hymns of psalms: the preacher of heavenly mysteries and expounder of the Gospel; for he was revealed as a river of the mystical Paradise, watering spiritual furrows with heavenly streams, revealing them to bear fruit to Christ God, who, by his prayers, grants cleansing, enlightenment, and great mercy.