



St. Elias Melkite Catholic Church

Proclaiming the Ancient and Orthodox Christian Faith in the Silicon Valley

14263 Mulberry Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95032

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July 16, 2016: 6th Sunday After Pentecost – Healing of the Paralytic

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: 6pm 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, 7/16
Qurban: Higareda
Social: Handal
- Next Sunday, 7/23
Qurban: Gomez
Social: Carnazzo

Pray for the Servants of God

The Readers Cyril and Romanos

Ciardella Family (Qurban)

Higareda Family (Social)

Thomas Kalil and Family

Kamal & Eugenie Neimat

Maryam Nemazie

Gary Potter

Leila Carnazzo

Linda Carnazzo

George Haddad

Hynes Family

Scott & Barbara Johnson

Asleep in the Lord in the Hope of the Resurrection

Souad Elhage

Ernest & Marian Young

Fuad & Renee Kalil

Sebastiano and Alfia Carnazzo

Robert and Alice Robertson

PRAYER

O You who have granted us to pray together in harmony, and who promised that when two or three are gathered to call upon your name You will give what they ask: do You now fulfill what your servants ask, so far as it is good, granting us in the world to come, eternal life. For You are good, O our God, and You love mankind and we send up glory to You, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

HYMNS

Troparion of the resurrection (5th Tone): Let us, O faithful, * praise and worship the word, * coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, * born of the Virgin for our Salvation; * for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross * and to endure death * and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس
لننشد نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، الأزلي مع الآب والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلصنا. لأنه ارتضى أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

Troparion of the Fathers (8th Tone) O Christ our God, you are above all glory, for you have established our Holy Fathers as radiant stars on earth, and through them you have guided us all to the true faith. Most Merciful One, glory to You!

READINGS

Titus 3:8-15 My son Titus, this saying is true, and in this matter I want to insist that those who believe in God be careful to excel in good works; these are good and useful to people. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and quarrels, and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and futile. Avoid a factious man after warning him one or twice, knowing that such a man is perverted and sins, since he is condemning himself. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, taking care that they lack nothing. And let our people also learn to excel in good works, in order to help cases of urgent need so that they may not be unfruitful. All my companions greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. The grace of God be with all of you. Amen.

Matthew 5:14-19 The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but upon the lamp-stand, so as to give light to all in the house. Even so let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one letter or one stroke shall be lost from the Law till all things have been accomplished. Therefore whoever does away with one of these least commandments, and so teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever carries them out and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Patronal Feast, St. Elias, is coming next month (July 20th). We will celebrate the feastday with a Divine Liturgy at 12noon and a Picnic Barbeque in the Park the following Sunday with the blessing of cars with Holy Water and the icon of St. Elias. Please mark your calendars. Anyone who would like to help with the organization of the Sunday Picnic please volunteer!

Fr. Sebastian will be in the Holy Land helping to lead the Eparchial Pilgrimage July 6th – 18th. Fr. James Babcock will be here to offer the services on the two weekends during the Pilgrimage. If you need a priest during the weekdays, you may call Fr. Anthony Hernandez, pastor of St. Basil Church (mobile: 408.449.7447; rectory 408.871.0919).

Confession: Remember that the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation is available every Saturday at Vespers (5pm) and every Sunday at Orthros (10am).

From the Dioceses

“Expel by Your awesome Name...”

What language was spoken by the first Christians? On one level, we can say it was Aramaic or Hebrew with a sprinkling of Greek. On another level – the level of spiritual thought – we must say that the first Christians spoke the language of the Torah, what Christians today call the Old Testament. The first Christians’ cultural and spiritual frame of reference was the Jewish Scriptures, the same tradition revered by all Jews of their day. The difference between them was that the first Christians believed that the promises of the Torah and the Prophets were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures Are Fulfilled

From the first, Jesus affirmed that He was fulfilling what had been foretold. *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.”* After reading Is 61:1, 2 He announced, *“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”* (Lk 4: 18, 19, 21). When His fellow-townsmen rejected Him, He moved on to Capernaum. In Matthew’s Gospel the story of Jesus’ ministry begins with another prophecy: *“...and leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’”* (Mt 4:12-17).

The New Testament Quotes the Old

There are a number of times in the Gospels when specific Old Testament texts are quoted in the belief that they are fulfilled in Christ. Some of these claims are interwoven into the stories of Christ’s teaching and miracles. Thus, in the Sermon on the Mount the Lord announces: *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”* (Mt 5:17, 18). In Luke’s Gospel the Lord speaks more directly: to say that He fulfills the Law means that the era of the Law was at an end. *“The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail”* (Lk 16:16, 17). Several times in the course of his preaching the Lord Jesus tried to show His disciples that He was the fulfillment of these prophecies. He explained His use of parables in terms of an Old Testament prophecy: *“Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull’ ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world’”* (Mt 13:13-15, 35). In a similar way the Lord confronted the Pharisees citing the Prophet Isaiah: *“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ... Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men’”* (Mt 15:3, 7-9).

The Passion Prophesied and Fulfilled

As Jesus’ time with His disciples was drawing to a close, He tried to prepare them to see His coming Passion as fulfilling the words of the prophets. *“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.’ But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken”* (Lk 18:31-34). Later, of course, the Twelve would see that Christ’s death and resurrection fulfilled the prophets’ teaching and would proclaim it as such. They taught, for example, that His triumphal entry as king into Jerusalem was such a fulfillment: *“All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey – a colt, the foal of a donkey’”* (Mt 21:4, 5).

Prophecies Made Clear by the Risen Lord

It was only after Christ’s resurrection that the disciples came to understand how the Old Testament’s Messianic prophecies were pointing to the Lord Jesus. When the risen Christ appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus He explained these prophecies to them. As the Gospel recounts it, *“He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”* (Lk 24:25-27). After Jesus vanished from their sight, their response was swift as they began to absorb the meaning of this experience: *“And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’”* (Lk 24:32). From then on, the early Christians would open the Scriptures by showing how the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms could only be understood as revealing Jesus of Nazareth and His saving work.

From St Cyril of Alexandria

“The Israelites used to say that the Messianic prophecies were fulfilled, either in the persons of some of their more glorious kings or at least in the holy prophets. They did not correctly understand what was written about Him, so they missed the true direction and traveled down another path... For their good [Jesus] draws them away from such a supposition...He brings forth Moses and the prophets, interpreting their hidden meaning and making plain to the worthy what was obscure to the unworthy. In this way He settles in them the ancient and hereditary faith taught them by the sacred books which they possessed. For nothing which comes from God is without its use. All have their appointed place and service.”
(St Cyril of Alexandria, *On Luke*, 12, 24)