



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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Sunday, October 22, 2017

6th Sunday After The Holy Cross: Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

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: 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

Sunday Socials

- This Sunday, 10/22 Gomez
- Next Sunday, 10/29 unassigned

Pray for the Servants of God

Priests Christopher and Anthony

Ciardella Family

Gomez Family

James Ferguson

Teresita Barba

Fynan Family

Amani Farah

Laure Kelly

Nabil Matta

Jessica and Steven Vergano

Sr. Iliana

David and Emily Baroody

Lemme Family

Genevieve Gomez

Jonathan and Maria Wright

Anh Ciardella

Anna Higareda

Leila Carnazzo

Kamal & Eugenie Neimat

Isaac & Julia Kaldani

Maher & Therese Salama

Asleep in the Lord in the Hope of the Resurrection

Reader Romanos

Gary Potter

Charles Noble

HYMN

Let all in heaven rejoice and all on earth be glade, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: By death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات، وتبتهج الارضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزاً بساعده، ووطىء الموت بالموت، وصار بكر الاموات، وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم عظيم الرحمة.

READINGS

GALATIANS 1:11-19 BRETHREN, I give you to understand that the Good News that was announced to you by me is not of man. For I did not receive it from man, nor was it taught to me [by man], but I received it by a revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of the way I lived before in Judaism: how I persecuted the Church of God and ravaged it beyond measure. And I advanced in Judaism above many of my contemporaries in my nation, showing much more zeal for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased him who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, immediately, without taking counsel with flesh and blood and without going up to Jerusalem to those who were appointed apostles before me, I retired into Arabia and again returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went to Jerusalem to see Peter, and I remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles, except James, the Lord's brother.

LUKE 8:27-39 At that time when Jesus came to the country of the Gerasenes there met Him a certain man who for a long time was possessed by a devil, and wore no clothes, and lived in the tombs, not in a house. And when he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him, and crying out with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I pray Thee, do not torment me." For he was charging the unclean spirit to go forth from the man. For many times it had laid hold of him; and he was bound with chains and fetters, and kept under guard, but he would break the bonds asunder, and be driven by the devil into the deserts. And Jesus asked him, saying, "What is thy name?" And he said, "Legion," because many devils had entered into him. And they entreated Him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was there, feeding on the mountainside. And they kept entreating Him to give them leave to enter into them. And He gave them leave. And the devils came out from the man and entered into the swine; and the herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and were drowned. And when the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and reported it in the town and in the country; and people came out to see what had happened. And they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the devils had gone out sitting at His feet, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those also who had seen it reported to them how he had been saved from Legion. And all the people of the Gerasene district besought Him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear. And He got into a boat and went back. But the man from whom the devils had gone out prayed Him that he might remain with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to thy house, and tell all that God has done for thee." And he departed, proclaiming throughout the whole town all that Jesus had done for him.

COMMEMORATION

The Holy Averkios, Equal to the Apostles, Bishop of Heiropolis the Wonderworker during the time of Emperor Marcus Antoninus (161-180).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS DAY PARTY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 @ 5:00pm All parishioners are invited to attend our Saints Day Party. Children should come dressed like their favorite Saint from the Old Testament, New Testament, or Church History. We will have a brief evening prayer together in the Church, followed by dinner and games in the hall. One of the games will be "Guess that Saint." Dinner and candy will be provided. Don't miss out!

From the Diocese



Nothing was written in his own time about one of the more popular saints in the Byzantine Churches, the Great Martyr Demetrios. The oldest written life of this saint dates to the ninth century, some 700 years after his lifetime! Earlier witnesses to this saint include the seventh-century *Miracles of St Demetrios*, a testimony to the protection afforded to that city by its patron, St Demetrios. The *Miracles* consists of two books: the first is a compilation of homilies by Archbishop John of Thessaloniki praising the saint for his intercession for the city. The second is a slightly later account of the Slavic invasion of the Balkans in which the saint once again protected his city from destruction.

Older than these written works, however, is the archaeological record some of which came to light only in the twentieth century.

Life of St Demetrios (commemorated on October 26th)

St Demetrios was born in Thessaloniki in about AD 260 to an aristocratic family. The oldest icons we have (7th century) depict him in upper class dress. He is said to have been an officer in the Roman army and many icons portray him in a military uniform. During the Great Persecution of the early fourth century Demetrios was appointed pro-consul of the city, charged by Emperor Maximian with exterminating the Christians there. When it became known that Demetrios himself was a Christian, he was seized and imprisoned in the bathhouse complex at the Roman forum. Demetrios was executed when his influence over the martyr Nestor became known. Nestor had accepted a challenge to fight the gladiator Lyaeos, a favorite of the emperor. Blessed by Demetrios, Nestor defeated the gladiator but was himself slain by the military commander. Soldiers sent to the prison impaled Demetrios on their lances and disposed of his body. Demetrios' servant Lupos dipped his garment in the saint's blood and preserved it along with the earth soaked in the martyr's blood.

The Great Church in Thessaloniki

The Great Church of St Demetrios is part of the World Heritage site incorporating the Roman forum, palace, temple, hippodrome, and a bathhouse used by the athletes competing there. This was the place where the Saint had been imprisoned and martyred. The complex was excavated by archeologists in 1966. A church incorporating the old Roman bathhouse was constructed in the early fifth century, by the prefect Leontios, in gratitude for a healing received through the saint's intercession. This church was enlarged several times over the centuries and attained its present form as a major basilica in 629-634. By then the ground had so risen that the Roman era bathhouse was actually underground. The basilica was built over the site of the saint's martyrdom, which was now housed in a crypt. Over the centuries the church and its surroundings experienced major changes. From 1493-1912, under the Ottomans, the church was used as a mosque. The crypt was filled in with dirt and forgotten. In 1912, when Thessaloniki was joined to the Greek state, the structure became a church again. In 1917 a house fire spread unchecked and destroyed two-thirds of the city, severely damaging the Church of St Demetrios. Archaeological work in the church over the next few decades unearthed the forgotten crypt and a Roman-era well where, scholars believe, soldiers disposed of the saint's body after his martyrdom.

The Relics of St Demetrios

The life of St Demetrios described how his servant had dipped his garment into the saint's blood. This was confirmed in the twentieth century restoration of the church and crypt. The first chapel built over the place of the saint's martyrdom was discovered. Its Holy Table was found to contain an earthen vessel containing earth impregnated with human blood.

When the Great Church was built, its shrine contained only a carved bed, a classical architectural device. When a body reported to be that of St Demetrios was put forth for veneration in the seventh century, the archbishop dismissed its authenticity. The body was proclaimed to be that of the saint after it started exuding perfumed myrrh. The relics were placed in the shrine where they are venerated to this day. This is why St Demetrios is known as the Myrobelite (Exuder of Myrrh). For centuries, these relics have been exuding this fragrant myrrh and have been the occasion of many healings. Every year around the feast of the saint (October 26), the reliquary chest is opened and the fragrance of the myrrh can be detected for blocks around.

Exudations of Myrrh

Christians, particularly in the East, have long considered the exudation of myrrh a sign that God confirms the holiness of a saint. From time to time streams of a unique viscous liquid emitting a beautiful aroma have appeared in connection with the relics or icons of certain saints. Healings and other seeming miracles have often accompanied this phenomenon. Perhaps more famous than the relics of St Demetrios are the myrrh-exuding remains of St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra. Housed in the crypt of the basilica in Bari, Italy, St Nicholas' relics continually exude myrrh. Every year on May 9, commemorating the transfer of the relics from Myra to Bari in 1087, the aromatic liquid is collected from the tomb and distributed to the faithful. Other saints whose relics have reportedly exuded myrrh include Saints:

Clement the Confessor, Pope of Rome;
Juliana the Compassionate;
Peter the Wonderworker, bishop of Argos;
Simeon of Serbia, founder of Mt. Athos' Hilandari Monastery;
Simon, founder of Mt. Athos' Simonopetras Monastery.

Myrrh-Streaming Icons

Even more common are myrrh-streaming icons, some ancient and many modern which exude this aromatic liquid in churches, monasteries and even private homes. Widely revered today are:

- A manufactured copy of the icon of the Theotokos, "Softener of Evil Hearts" bought by Anastasia Basharinaya at the glorification of St Matrona the Blind and touched to the saint's reliquary. At the family home, the icon began exuding myrrh. Taken throughout Russia and to Russian churches abroad, the icon has been the occasion of healings and unusual manifestations. Before the 9/11 tragedy, for example, the icon gave off the smell of blood.
- A modern copy of the Iveron icon of the Theotokos, given on Mount Athos to José Munoz-Cortes in 1982, which began exuding myrrh a few weeks later. It has been taken for veneration around the world ever since.
- A similar depiction of the same icon at Holy Theotokos of Iveron Church in Honolulu, which has exuded myrrh intermittently since October, 2007.
- A framed paper print of the Kazan Icon purchased by Nicholas and Myrna Nazzour on their honeymoon in 1980, began exuding myrrh in November, 1982 at their home in Soufanieh, a Damascus suburb. Since then this liquid – scientifically analyzed as olive oil – has streamed from the icon, from numerous copies, and from Myrna's hands during prayer.