



# 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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**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

**Bible Study**  
Wednesdays: 7pm Online

**Catechism Class**  
Tuesdays: 7pm Online

**Sunday School**  
During Sunday Coffee Social

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

## Sunday Socials

- This Sunday, 11/19  
Elhage
- Next Sunday, 11/26

## Pray for the Servants of God

Priests Moyeen and Jerius  
Elhage Family  
Ciardella Family  
Laure Kelly  
Nabil & Itaf Matta  
Kamal & Eugenie Neimat  
Isaac & Julia Kaldani  
Maher & Therese Salama  
Jon, Jess, Genevieve, Julianne  
and Chloe  
The Expectants Mothers Anna  
Higareda and Leila Carnazzo  
The Catechumens Kevin Pinson,  
Jonathan, Maria, Jacob, and  
Gracen Wright, Peter Ciardella,  
Jess and Valerie Guy

## Asleep in the Lord in the Hope of the Resurrection

Reader Romanos  
Walter & Billie Steele

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After The Holy Cross**  
**الاحد 19 تشرين الثاني 2017**  
**الاحد التاسع بعد الصليب المقدس**

## HYMN

**Troparion of the resurrection (7th tone):** You destroyed Death by Your cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the weeping of the myrrhbearers, and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy.

**Kondakion of the Presentation (4<sup>th</sup> Tone)** The most pure Temple of the Savior, His most precious bridal chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of God's glory, enters today into the house of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: "Behold the heavenly tabernacle!"

نشيد الختام (قنداق دخول العذراء الى الهيكل) باللحن الرابع  
ان هيكلم المخلص الاطهر، البتول الحجلة الوافرة الكرامة، وكتر مجد الله المقدس، تدخل اليوم الى بيت الرب، وتدخل معها نعمة الروح الالهي. فيسبحها ملائكة الله: هذه هي المظلة السماوية.

## READINGS

**EPHESIANS 2:14-22 (TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)** BRETHREN, Christ is our peace. He it is who has made both [Jews and Gentiles] one, and has broken down the intervening wall of the enclosure, the enemy, in his flesh. He has voided the Law of commandments expressed in decrees, so that of the two he might create in himself one new man, and make peace, and reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, having destroyed their enmity within himself. And as he came, he announced the good tidings of peace to you who were far away, and of peace to those who were near: because through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. Therefore, you are now no longer strangers or foreigners, but citizens with the saints and members of God's household: you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Cf. Is. 28: 16) with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole structure is closely fitted together and grows into a temple holy in the Lord; in him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

**Luke 12:16-22** The Lord told this parable: "The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundant crops. And he began to consider, saying, 'What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger one, and there I will store up all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be marry.' But God said to him, 'You fool, this very night, you must give up your life; and the things you have provided, whose will they be?' So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich as regards God." After he had said this, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## COMMEMORATION

**The Holy Prophet Abdias (Obadiah)** lived in the sixth century before Christ and was sent as a prophet to Edom

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Babies, Babies, and more to come!** We have great news! Last Sunday, the Wrights, Jonathan and Maria (two of our Catechumens), had a baby boy! This past Thursday, Chris and Anh Ciardella also had a baby boy! Congratulations to these two wonderful families who have been graced by God with the gift of life. Please remember them and our expectants mothers (Ann Higareda and Leila Carnazzo) in your prayers. Baptismal announcements to come soon!

**Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** will be celebrated with a Divine Liturgy this Tuesdays (21<sup>st</sup>), at 12noon. As always for mid-week feasts, the Divine Liturgy will conclude by 1pm, so as to allow those who are at work to come during their lunch break. Food to go will be provided for those on the run! Don't miss this glorious feast!

**Catechism Class:** We continue this Tuesday, 7-8pm, our weekly Catechism Class for those individuals interested in joining St. Elias (Catechumens) and for parishioners who would like to learn more about their Faith. We are studying the three volume Catechism, called *Light for Life*, found on the book shelf in the hall. Come join us!

## From the Diocese

### The Island Saints



When people think of Byzantine Churches today, Constantinople (Byzantium) comes to mind as do the “Ancient Patriarchates” (Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem) which adopted this rite later in their history. The largest Byzantine Churches today are the Slavic Churches (Russia, Ukraine, and the rest). These are also the Churches most represented in the West. But there are other ancient Churches with ancient histories that are less common in the West, such as the Apostolic Church of Cyprus and the Church of Georgia. Neither of these Churches have eparchies in the United States, so we may know little about them.

#### The Church of Barnabas and Mark

Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean west of Syria, was settled by Greeks in the eleventh century BC. By the first century AD, it was part of the Roman Empire. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Cyprus was one of the first non-Jewish territories to receive the Gospel. “*Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch*” (Acts 11:19). Cypriots trace the founding of their Church to the Apostles, specifically Barnabas and Mark, who went there after they parted from St Paul (see Acts 15:36-41). Dependent at first on the Church of Jerusalem and, later on, on Antioch, the Cypriot Church was made autocephalous at the Council of Ephesus (431). Cyprus was occupied by the Muslims (649-965), the Crusaders (1191-1473), the Venetians (1473-1570), and the Ottoman Turks (1570-1878). Under the Crusaders and Venetians, the Church of Cyprus was subjected to Latin rule and the Latins were recognized as the island’s elite. Under Turkish control the Ottoman *millet* system was introduced and restored the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church. Its archbishop was declared to be the head of the *rum millet* on Cyprus. Despite the taxation, harassment, and outright persecution at times, the Church prospered under Ottoman rule. By 1878 it numbered two-thirds of the island’s population in its ranks. As a result of the Russo-Turkish War, the British Empire took control of Cyprus in 1878. Many hoped that Cyprus would be united to Greece, but when Britain ceded control of the island in 1960 it was to an independent Republic of Cyprus. In 1974 those favoring union with Greece deposed the president and sought to unite the island to Greece. The Turkish army invaded and partitioned Cyprus into Greek and Turkish parts. None of the many attempts at reunion which followed have been successful.

#### The Saints of Cyprus

Cyprus has been called “the island of saints.” Some 240 local saints are commemorated on its calendar. A synaxis for all these saints is celebrated in Cyprus on the first Sunday of October. Perhaps the most famous Cypriot saints – after the apostles – are:

**St Lazarus the Four-Days Dead** (Mar. 17) – Lazarus of Bethany, whom the Lord raised from his tomb, is said to have fled to Cyprus in the first persecution of Christians in Jerusalem mentioned in Acts 11. He settled in Kition (present day Larnaca), where he is regarded as its first bishop. Lazarus’ tomb in Larnaca, with the inscription “Lazarus, the Friend of Christ,” was discovered in 860. The bulk of his relics were taken to Constantinople in 869, but the emperor built a church over the saint’s tomb. In 1972 a marble sarcophagus containing human remains was excavated below the altar of this church. The Palm Sunday carol, “Rejoice, O Bethany,” sung in many Middle Eastern churches, is of Cypriot origin.

**St Spyridon the Wonderworker** (Dec. 12) – Born at the end of the third century, he was a shepherd so known for his piety and generosity to those in need that, after the death of his wife, he was chosen to be bishop of Tremithusia, a village in northern Cyprus. Spyridon attended the First Ecumenical Council in 325 where he reputedly converted a pagan philosopher to Christ. In his *Life*, the philosopher is said to have responded, “Listen! Until now my rivals have presented their arguments, and I was able to refute their proofs with other proofs. But instead of proofs from reason, the words of this Elder are filled with some sort of special power, and no one can refute them, since it is impossible for man to oppose God. If any of you thinks as I do now, let him believe in Christ and join me in following this man, for God Himself speaks through his lips.” Stories of St Spyridon’s life and the healings attributed to him are found in the fifth-century Church histories of Socrates Scholasticus and Sozomen. His life was included in the tenth-century Menologion written by St Simeon Metaphrastes. St Spyridon died in 348 and his body was later found to be incorrupt and a source of healing. When the Arab Muslims invaded Cyprus in 649, the saint’s holy remains were taken to Constantinople. With the fall of that city to the Turks in the fifteenth century, the relics were taken to the island of Corfu where they are today. St Spyridon is also regarded as the protector of Corfu. In 1716 that island, then under Venetian rule, was besieged by the Turks. St Spyridon is said to have been seen by the Turkish troops walking through their camp. This apparition sent the Turks into a panic and the siege was lifted after only 22 days. Since then it has become the custom to replace the slippers on the saint’s body when they show signs of wear, because, in walking about the island to care for the people, St Spyridon “wears out” his shoes.

**The Hieromartyr St Philoumenos** (Nov 29) – Born in 1913, this contemporary Cypriot saint and his twin brother were raised by their devout grandmother on the Church’s prayers and the lives of the saints. At the age of fourteen they entered the Stavrovouni Monastery in Cyprus. After five years, the brothers went to Jerusalem where, in 1939, Fr Philoumenos joined the Brotherhood of the Holy Sepulcher which cares for the holy places in the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Known for his piety and devotion to the performance of the daily services even when alone, Fr Philoumenos was appointed guardian of the monastery at Jacob’s Well, near Nablus, where Jesus had asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. A few months later a group of Jewish settlers came to the monastery demanding the removal of all icons, crosses, etc. and that the monastery be given to them as a Jewish site. The saint reminded them that the Church had served this shrine since the time of the Emperor Constantine and that it had been in Samaritan hands for eight centuries before that. A few days later, on November 29, a group entered the monastery and desecrated the church. They butchered Fr Philoumenos with a hatchet in the form of a cross, plucked out his eyes and cut off the fingers of his right hand (with which he would make the sign of the cross). Fr Philoumenos’ body retained its elasticity for several days. When it was exhumed in 1984, it was found to be substantially incorrupt. Fr Philoumenos was glorified as a saint by the Jerusalem Patriarchate in 2008 and his relics enshrined in the church at Jacob’s Well where he had been martyred.