

SAINT ELIAS

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

408 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TX 78701
(512) 476-2314

www.sainteliaschurch.org

VERY REVEREND FATHER DAVID G. BARR, PASTOR
REVEREND FATHER DAVID LEWIS, ASSISTANT PASTOR
VERY REVEREND FATHER TRAIAN BUICAN
REVEREND DEACON NIKETAS SANDERS
SUBDEACON JOHN SEABOLT-DOTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Sunday of St. John Climacus (of the Ladder of the Divine Ascent).
Mark, bishop of Aretbusa; Martyr Cyril the deacon of Heliopolis; Martyrs Jonah
and Barachisios; Eustathios the Confessor, bishop of Bithynia.

Tone 8

Eothinon 8

WELCOME...to all our visitors worshipping with us!

Please be sure to fill out a Visitor's Card and drop it in the collection plate (or give it to a greeter). And we would like you to be our guest downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments after the service is over this morning. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Saint Elias. *We're glad you're here!*

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday–Friday

Church Office email:

Bulletin Deadline:

Fr. David Barr's email:

Fr. Dave Lewis' email:

10:00 AM–3:00 PM

stelias_austin@sbcglobal.net

Thursday at 10:00 AM

frdavidbarr@sbcglobal.net

frdavelewis@sbcglobal.net

Check out www.sainteliaschurch.org for information!

Our web page has updated messages and calendars as well as downloadable versions of current and past Sunday bulletins. Check it out!

Weekday Parking:

If coming to the Church or Church Office on weekdays (between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM), please use the Visitor Parking spaces in the Texas Association of Broadcaster's building next door to the Church. All the parking spots in the Church side of the lot are rented out or reserved and violators could be towed.

Sacraments: Baptism, Matrimony, Adult Initiation

Contact the Church Office and set up an appointment with the Pastor to discuss the arrangements for these sacraments.

Become a Member of St. Elias

We would love to have you be a part of our community! Please talk to the Pastor or call the Church Office to get an information packet on becoming a member of the parish.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office with names of the sick and hospitalized of the parish so they can receive proper pastoral care.

Times for Confession:

Confessions are heard on Sunday mornings at least 15 minutes prior to the Sunday morning Divine Liturgies, before or after Vespers on Wednesday evenings, on Saturday evenings following Great Vespers and by appointment during the week. To indicate your desire to go to Confession on Sunday morning before liturgy, come to the front right pew and wait for the priest.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

8:30 AM Liturgy: Congregational Singing

We will be using the tan covered Congregational Liturgy books found on the table in the Narthex this morning for the 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy. Check the Early Liturgy supplement for music for the Troparia of the day.

10:30 AM Liturgy: St. Elias Choir

The Divine Liturgy begins in the red Service Book on page 91 or use one of the new white Visitor's Liturgy books which has the prayers for St. Basil's Liturgy in it. When we reach the point in the service for Antiphons and hymns, the ones for today's service are listed below and on the next page.

1st Antiphon — page 94

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

2nd Antiphon — page 95

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

O Son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia! For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

O Son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia! Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

O Son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

and "Only-begotten Son..." — page 95

3rd Antiphon — page 96:

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights thou didst descend, O compassionate One; and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou mightest deliver us from passions. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

The Daily Hymns — page 98:

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights thou didst descend, O compassionate One; and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou mightest deliver us from passions. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

Troparion of St. John of the Ladder (Tone 8)

With the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighing from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labours; and thou becamest a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, our righteous Father, John. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of the Prophet Elias (Tone 4)

O angelic of body, pillar of the Prophets and their cornerstone, the forerunner of the Second Coming of Christ, the venerable and glorious Elias, thou didst send grace from on high to Elisha to dispel sicknesses and to purify lepers. Wherefore, he ever overfloweth with healing to those who honor him.

Kontakion for Great Lent (Tone 8):

To thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Prokeimenon in Tone 7 (from Psalm 149)

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

The Epistle Reading — Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two changeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia Verses in Tone 6 (from Psalm 92)

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High.

To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by the night.

The Holy Gospel — St. Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered him, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" and Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."

They went out from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day."

The Sermon: Father Dave Lewis

Today's Commemorations

Prayers are requested for the health of Yvonne Khoury

Departed remembered from the Parish Dyptichs: for the repose of Constance Mary Stalos (†3/29/1987), John Abraham Dagar (†3/31/1987), Georgia S. Mecey (†4/2/1982), Robert Gordan Paul McNiven (†4/2/1989). These names come from the parish dyptichs—the record of those who have been buried from St. Elias. May their memory be eternal!

At the Divine Liturgy during the Great Entrance, we normally commemorate only Orthodox Christians by name among the living and departed since this is the Church praying for the Church. Non-Orthodox are remembered liturgically in prayers at Vespers and other intercessory services of the Church.

The Prayers for the Anaphora for the Liturgy of St. Basil...

...will be found on page 134 and following in the red Service Book or in the Visitor's Liturgy Book in the pews (or the tan congregational singing booklets).

Instead of "It is truly meet..."

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace... (p. 139)

On Receiving Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church:

Only Orthodox Christians who are prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the Chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" and has no intercommunion with other churches (non-Orthodox). If you have any questions concerning this, please talk to one of the priests before taking communion.

And Remember...

...to receive Holy Communion, one should be present at the Divine Liturgy no later than the time for the Epistle and Gospel readings. We must feed our minds and our hearts as part of the Orthodox Christian life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 29

March is Ladies Month at St. Elias

During the month of March, the ladies have read the epistle readings and served as ushers and greeters. Thank you for your service this month, and thanks to the women of our parish who are active in ministry throughout the year! Today's Epistle is read by Julia Bechara at the 8:30 Liturgy and by Vasiliki Oldziej at the 10:30 Liturgy.

Our Greeters this morning are...

... Martha Dent (8:30 AM) and Terri Ross (10:30 AM). Thanks for performing this vital ministry in the church.

Ladies Lenten Luncheon on Today!

The Ladies Guild will hold their annual Lenten Luncheon today, March 29 after the second Liturgy. The Luncheon is free (donations accepted!) and everyone is invited to stay afterwards and have a wonderful Lenten meal. All donations collected will go towards their annual project: Children with Special Needs (see poster in church hall).

Lenten Services This Week:

Wednesday at 7:00 PM — Little Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

The Little Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt will take place on Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

Thursday at 6:30 PM — Presanctified Liturgy

In the Fifth Week of Great Lent we celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy on Thursday evening rather than Wednesday. The Liturgy will begin at 6:30 PM and as usual, we will have a Lenten pot luck dinner after the service.

Friday at 7:00 PM — Akathist (Madayeh) with Bishop BASIL

During the first five weeks of Great Lent, we will have the Akathist (Madayeh) Service (Supplications to the Theotokos) on Fridays at 7:00 PM. This Friday is the final service for this year.

How Will You Keep the Lenten Fast?

Read the pamphlet on the table in the Narthex which offers you the guidelines for fasting. If you have questions about the fast, or find it difficult to keep, talk to Fr. David. He will help you come up with something that keeps the spirit of the fast and will “work for you”. Remember, the Lenten Fast is an important part of Orthodox spirituality—and should be a part of your Great Lent!

Food at Lenten Coffee Hour & Lenten Pot Luck Dinners

During the Great Fast, all food offered at the Church must meet Orthodox fasting regulations. That means no meat, fish, or dairy in foods on any day of the week and no olive oil or wine at Wednesday Pot Lucks. We want to be sure that whatever we serve at the Church during Great Lent doesn't scandalize anyone or cause any confusion in our community (*see Rom. 13:11-14:14*). Thanks!

Great Lent 2009 Schedules Available

Pick up a Schedule for Great Lent 2009 from the table in the Narthex this morning so that you can plan to fully participate in the liturgical life of the Church during the holy season of Great Lent.

Are you on the Church Email List?

If not, simply email the Church Office at stelias_austin@sbcglobal.net and we will be sure to put you on it.

Lenten Daily Readings

If you would like to be on Father David's Daily Lenten Reading Email List, send him an email at frdavidbarr@sbcglobal.net and he will be sure you are on.

49th Antiochian Archdiocesan Convention

For information about the 2009 Archdiocese Convention in Palm Desert, California, July 19-26, visit www.archdioceseconvention2009.org.

KEEPING GREAT LENT:

2009 Alms Boxes

This year, we will have both the Food for Hungry People and the Orthodox Christian Missions Center Alms Boxes for Great Lent. Take one or both and fill with your Lenten alms to help do the work of the Church throughout the world. The OCMC Alms boxes are a great aid in helping spread the good news in Africa and other places throughout the world.

CONFESSION IS A PART OF GREAT LENT:

Every member of St. Elias is expected to participate in the sacrament of Confession at least once during the Great Fast. Confession is the beginning of repentance, and repentance is the lifestyle we embrace as Orthodox Christians. If you have a confessor other than one of the parish priests (Fr. David, Fr. Traian, or Fr. Dave), you should let Fr. David know. *You should go to Confession during Lent if you plan to receive Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday and Holy Communion at Pascha.*

Best Times for Confession:

1. Before Holy Week, if at all possible (as a gift to your priests!)
2. By Appointment is always the best option
3. Following Vespers on Saturday Evenings
4. Following most Lenten (and Holy Week) Services
5. Before services by appointment
6. Did we mention, by appointment is always the best option?

Keep our Catechumens in Your Prayers

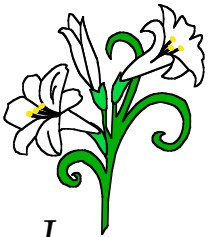
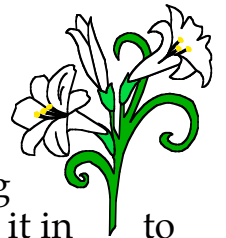
God has once again blessed us with quite a number of catechumens! Please keep Zane Guajardo, Tony Huynh, Lance Kennedy, Chelsea Wall, Ronnie, Selina, Jackson and Calem Long, Austin Gunter, Brenda Hessney, and Dana Dorman in your prayers as they prepare to enter into the church. We will be looking for sponsors within the community for our catechumens. If you are interested in sponsoring someone into the Church, please talk to Father David.

Pascha Picnic at St. Elias

Our Pascha Picnic begins with Paschal Agape Vespers on Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 PM followed by a picnic at the Church. Come for Vespers and then stay for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Bring your picnic lunch with you along with your own drinks. And bring some dishes to share as well. A grill will be going for cooking meats.

Donate Pascha Flowers!

We will be decorating the Church with flowers and are offering them for you to take home after the Agape Vespers service on Pascha. There is no set donation price for the flowers. If you are interested, complete the form below and give it with your donation in the offering plate (you can also check for a flower envelope in the Narthex) or turn it in to the church office. All flowers left in the church after Agape Vespers will be given away, so you are welcome to take some with you after the service.



Pascha Flowers

Yes, I want to donate for flowers.

I

am donating them:

___ *For the health of:* _____

___ *In memory of:* _____

Name: _____

Donation enclosed: \$ _____

News from our Parish Organizations:

Church School

Please see Barbara Kounelias for more information about Church School.

Teen SOYO

For the next Teen SOYO activity, contact Nick Oldziew for more information.

OCF

Our next meeting will be Monday night, April 6, 6:00pm at the UT Episcopal Student Center.

Orthodox Young Adults (OYA)

OYA is considering the possibility of establishing a Metropolitan Committee for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). This is a way to put local effort behind an international organization with an amazing record of service to people in need all over the world. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Fr. Dave.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 P.M.

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild Lenten Luncheon is this Sunday, March 29!

AMEN (*Antiochian Men Eating at Noon [or 1:00 PM]*)

The men of the parish are invited to a no-host lunch on **Tuesday, April 7, at 1:00 PM** at Central Market on Lamar. We have lunch and a great time of fellowship. If you have any questions or suggestions, give Fr. David a call.

Choir

The Choir rehearses at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings. The Choir is always looking for new members. If you are interested in singing in the choir, talk to Director Bill Attal.

Fellowship of St. John the Divine (Adult Fellowship)

See the notice about Sack Lunch preparation. For more information on the Adult Fellowship activities, see Fellowship President Sara Cook.

Sack lunch project

Sponsored by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine

It's time to assemble the sack lunches! Come on Saturday, April 4 at 3:30 PM for the Sack Lunch assembly. It's sure to be a fun and rewarding time as we gather together to help those less fortunate.

2009 Stewardship Appeal

Orthodox Christian Stewardship:

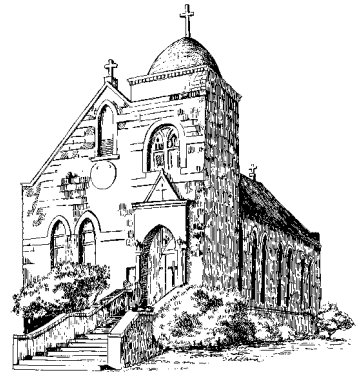
Strengthening our relationship with God.

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PHONE: (512) 476-2314



By now, our members should have received a 2009 stewardship appeal package from St. Elias Orthodox Church. Our weekly offering to God is first and foremost an offering of love. **One can give without loving but one cannot love without giving. Christian giving asks us to put God first and to let our giving be an expression of God's importance in our lives.** We give, not because the church has a budget, but because our love for God needs to be expressed. Please be generous in your giving, knowing that our giving truly reflects our love for God and His Church.

Didn't Get a Stewardship Packet?

If you didn't get a Stewardship Packet, we will get one to you this week. Call the church office at 476-2314, or send us an e-mail and we will send you one.

Cleaning for Holy Week — April 11

The Ladies Guild is sponsoring a Spring Cleaning after the Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 11 to spruce up the Church Temple for Holy Week. And we could use a few men to help with ladders as well. Come to the Liturgy and stay to help prepare for Holy Week.

Dyeing Eggs for Pascha

Would you be willing to help dye eggs for Pascha? We have the special red dye ordered and the eggs are donated every year (by HEB), but we need someone (or a group of people) to be responsible to come down to the Church on Holy Friday or Saturday to boil and dye the eggs. If you can help with this project, please contact the Church Office (476-2314 or stelias_austin@sbcglobal.net).

Weekday Parking at St. Elias

If coming to the Church or Church Office on weekdays (between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM), please use the Visitor Parking spaces in the Texas Association of Broadcasters' (TAB) building next door to the Church. All the parking spots in the Church side of the lot are rented out or reserved and violators could be towed. Where are the visitor spaces, they are the first 10 spots on the left when you drive into the TAB lot.

Vacation Bible Camp—"Moses: The Musical"

Mark Your Calendars and plan to attend Vacation Bible Camp at St. Elias this **August 3-7**. All ages are needed to make this a success. We'll be following Moses as He follows God's call to help save His people and bless His inheritance. Along the way, we'll see the connections between Passover/Pascha; Old Covenant/New Covenant; Heavenly food (manna/Eucharist); and more! Songs, costumes, and crafts/props will fill our days—culminating in a Friday performance. Needed: Videographer; teen helpers; adult helpers; and campers! If you can help, contact Fr. Dave, Geri Farman (gerifarman@earthlink.net), or Sylvia Jabour (sjabour@twinliquors.com). Registration forms will be available soon.

This Week at St. Elias

Wednesday, April 1	7:00 PM — Little Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt (at St. Elias)
Thursday, April 2	6:30 PM — Presanctified Liturgy followed by a Lenten potluck meal
Friday, April 3	7:00 PM — Final Akathist to the Theotokos, Episcopal Visit from his Grace Bishop Basil
Saturday, April 4	6:00 PM — Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, April 5	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 8:10 AM — 3 rd & 6 th Hours 8:30 AM — Divine Liturgy 9:45 AM — Church School 10:05 AM — Service of Preparation for Holy Communion 10:30 AM — Divine Liturgy 11:45 AM — Church School