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**Sunday, July 20, 2025**

*Sixth Sunday of Matthew*

8:45am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## Hymns of the Day

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate \* with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born \* for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. \* For in His goodness He was pleased \* to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, \* and to raise up those who had died, \* by His glorious Resurrection.

## **Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος πλ. α'**

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου  
τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσ-  
κυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠϋδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ  
θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ  
ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

## **Apolytikion of the Prophet Elias in the Fourth Mode**

The angel incarnate and the Prophets' pedestal, \* the second  
Forerunner of the coming of Christ, Elias the glorious, \* sent  
down to Elisha the divine grace from heaven. \* He drives  
away diseases and he cleanses lepers. \* Therefore he pours  
out healings to those who honor him.

## **Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode**

An example of the faith and a life of humility: \* as a teacher of  
abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, \* and through  
the truthfulness of your deeds \* were exalted to greatness  
through your humility, \* uplifting all, and by poverty gaining  
wealth. \* Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, \* intercede with  
Christ our God \* that our souls may be saved.

## **Kontakion in the Second Mode**

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with  
the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ig-  
nore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore  
you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with  
faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O  
Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

## Communion Verse

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.

Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν. Ἀλληλούϊα.

*And the following:*

Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia.

Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, ἐν Κυρίῳ· τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει ᾄνεσις. Ἀλληλούϊα.

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Orthros Gospel

**Luke 24:36 – 53**

At that time, Jesus, having risen from the dead, stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit.

And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to un-

derstand the scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city of Jerusalem, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

## Epistle Reading

### James 5:10 – 20

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous

man has great power in its effects.

Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 9:1 – 8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Rise and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins,” he then said to the paralytic — “Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home.

When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

## Saints and Feasts

### Prophet Elias

Elias of great fame was from Thisbe or Thesbe, a town of Galaad (Gilead), beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lin-

eage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leathern belt. His name is interpreted as "Yah is my God." His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp. From this too he received the name Zealot. Therefore, set aflame with such zeal, he sternly reproved the impiety and lawlessness of Ahab and his wife Jezebel.

He shut up heaven by means of prayer, and it did not rain for three years and six months. Ravens brought him food for his need when, at God's command, he was hiding by the torrent of Horrath. He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from Heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth. At the torrent of Kisson, he slew 450 false prophets and priests who worshipped idols and led the people astray. He received food wondrously at the hand of an Angel, and being strengthened by this food he walked for forty days and forty nights.

He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature. He foretold the destruction of the house of Ahab, and the death of his son Ohozias; and as for the two captains of fifty that were sent by the king, he burned them for their punishment, bringing fire down from Heaven. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally, while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended as though into heaven, whither God most certainly translated him alive, as He did Enoch (Gen. 5:24; 4 Kings 2:11). But from thence also, after seven years, by means of an epistle he reproached Joram, the

son of Josaphat, as it is written: “And there came a message in writing to him from Elias the Prophet, saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, “Because thou hast not walked in the way,”’” and so forth (2 Chron. 21:12). According to the opinion of the majority of the interpreters, this came to pass either through his disciple Elisseus, or through another Prophet when Elias appeared to them, even as he appeared on Mount Tabor to the disciples of Christ.



## Wisdom of the Fathers

“God listens, not to our voice, but to our heart. He does not need to be prodded with shouts, since He sees our thoughts, as the Lord proved when He asked ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’ And elsewhere He stated: ‘All the churches shall know that I am He who searches minds and hearts.’”

- St. Cyprian of Carthage, *The Lord's Prayer*, 4.

## Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Connie (Constantina) Joufflas; Robert Tewis; Lance  
(Stylian) Schmitt

*If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.*

# Parish Information

## Help Needed: Classroom Setup

After Coffee Hour on **Sunday, July 27**, we will need help with moving items in the basement classrooms. Youth who help will be rewarded with scholarships for camps and other events.

## Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

## Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **August 2 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

## Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, August 14** at 12pm.

## This Week at St. Nicholas

- Wednesday, July 23: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Friday, July 25 **Dormition of St. Anna**: 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, July 26: 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers