ST. ELIJAH ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
15000 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73134
Church Office: 755-7804
Church Website: www.stelijahokc.com
Church Email: stelijah@stelijahokc.com

DECEMBER 13, 2020  Issue 32  Number 50
Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ & Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of the Aleuts; Saints of the Day: Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orstes at Sebastia; Virgin-Martyr Lucia of Syracuse; Hieromartyr Gabriel, Patriarch of Serbia

WELCOME
We welcome all our visitors. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us. You may find the worship of the Ancient Church very different. We welcome your questions. Please join us for our Reception held in the Church Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We understand Holy Communion to be an act of our unity in faith. While we work toward the unity of all Christians, it regrettably does not now exist. Therefore, only baptized Orthodox Christians (who have properly prepared) are permitted to participate in Holy Communion. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread that is distributed at the end of the service. We look forward to meeting you during the Reception that follows the service.

NEW ORTHROS & LITURGY BOOK
- Orthros: p. 4
- The Divine Liturgy p. 35
- Memorial Service p. 103
- Churching Service p. 102
- Removal of Crowns p. 106

St. Elijah is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop BASIL, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America
**Variables in Today’s Divine Liturgy**

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<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>The 1st Antiphon:</th>
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<td>As usual…</td>
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**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.**

Glory… Now…

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.**

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<tr>
<th>B</th>
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<td>As usual…</td>
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**Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee, Alleluia.**

Glory… Now…

**O, only begotten Son and Word of God...**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>D</th>
<th>The Entrance Hymn</th>
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<td>O come let us worship…</td>
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| F | The Thrice Holy Hymn |

**Troparion of the Forefathers – Tone 2**

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Troparion of St. Herman – Tone 4**

Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

**Troparion of St. Elijah – Tone 4**

Angelic Body, Pillar of Prophets and their Corner Stone, Forerunner of the Second-Coming of Christ; Thou didst send Grace from on high to Elisha, to dispel sickness and to purify lepers, Glorious Elijah, thou dost overflow with healing to those who honor thee.

**Kontakion of the Preparatory of Christmas – Tone 3**

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and the shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who from eternity is God.
The Readings

Epistle for the Ancestors of Christ

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us!

The reading is from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians (Chapter 3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, who is our life, appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idol worship; for the sake of such things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience; wherein you also once walked, when you lived in these things. But now you also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy and filthy language out of your mouths. Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his works; and having put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator, where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel for the 11th Sunday of Luke (Ancestors of Christ)

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (Chapter 14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: ‘A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my banquet. For many are called but few are chosen.’”

The Megalynarion

It is truly meet...

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord... Alleluia.

We have seen the true light...

Offerings

Holy Bread is offered by Farouk and Lamees Shawareb for their good health and the good health of their children Monte, Haneen, Tamer, and Rawan and their grandchildren Farris, Maya, Raya, Laith, Karam, and Celine. May God grant them many years.

Holy Bread is offered by Debbie and Alan Abraham in memory of the 15th anniversary of the falling asleep of Debbie’s mother Bertha Barkett Runyon. It is also offered in memory of her grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins – Fellah and Wazna Barkett, Jamelia Barkett Harris, Florene and Lee Smith, Lucille Barkett, Lorice and George Cohlmia, Robert Barkett, Mike and Francis Barkett, Wadia and Kamel Cohlmia, Woodrow and Deann Barkett, Woody Barkett, Jr, and Michael Ann Christian. May their memory be eternal.

Announcements

No Coffee Hour
WELCOME TABLE. We welcome all visitors. We are delighted you are worshipping with us and look forward to meeting you personally. If you'd like, we have a table in the corridor across from the chapel where a member of our Welcome Team would love to greet you and give you a small Welcome Packet.

THE NATIVITY (ADVENT) FAST began November 15 and continues through December 24. The traditional fast is to abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, and alcoholic beverages (though fish and alcohol in moderation are permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays).

CHRISTMAS SERVICES. The Royal Hours of Nativity will be celebrated at 8:30 am on Thursday, December 24, followed by the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Paramon (approximately at 10 am). Come Contemplate the Psalms, Prophecies, Epistles, and Gospels that teach us the meaning of the Savior’s birth in Bethlehem. A great way to spiritually prepare for the Feast of the Nativity! The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, December 24, beginning at 6:45 pm with Festal Orthros and Liturgy at approximately at 8 pm. (No alphabetical restrictions on either of these services.)

CHRISTMAS PIE SALE TO SUPPORT ST. ELIJAH CHARITIES. Fr. John & Friends will be baking 8-inch pies (Strawberry/Rhubarb & Rum Raisin) $20.00 per pie. Please e-mail or text your order to Fr. John by Friday, December 28, and specify your preference and quantity. Pies will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, December 30, after 12 pm.

STEWARDSHIP. We are projected to be in the positive for our 2020 fiscal year, thanks to all of you who have been donating in person, via mail, and through Realm. We are humbled by your generosity and thoughtfulness during these difficult times! If you have not pledged for 2020 as of yet (and are able), please take a few moments to prayerfully consider what you can give to support St. Elijah.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. The Archdiocese has given their blessing to parishes to extend the terms of Parish Councils for one year because COVID-19 restrictions will prevent us from having our Annual Parish Meeting.

VIGIL CANDLE is lit by the Ladies Aid for their good health and the good health of their families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK DECEMBER 13-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Shadid</td>
<td>Meera Assaleh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spencer Shanbour</td>
<td>Nanette Hathaway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Kaiser</td>
<td>Samuel Shadid</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Stiner</td>
<td>Larkin Simon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond Cohlmia</td>
<td>Gloria Kamas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Samara</td>
<td>Demitrichika Sariyski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronica Warr</td>
<td>Johnna Collett</td>
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<td>Dawit Worku</td>
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Today we remember those who reposed in the Lord during this week in years past:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Sue Steele</td>
<td>Amelia Mary Bayouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penny O. Massad</td>
<td>Jake Samara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tresa Slotta</td>
<td>Joseph Foad Jabara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore “Beeb” Adwan</td>
<td>Fouad Kordahi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Shadid</td>
<td>Raeea Shadid</td>
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<td>Farah Suleiman Tashman</td>
<td>Lorise M. Kraker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lillie (Sabeeha) Tayar</td>
<td>Alberta Isabel Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry K. Naifeh</td>
<td>Heape Brown</td>
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UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Liturgy for St. Eleutherios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy (Families M-Z)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Orhos</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy (Families A-L)</td>
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Youth Ministry Updates

In Today’s Gospel, we read the parable about the Lord’s Great Banquet! This story is so important for us to take to heart as we approach the Holiday Season, (also I will be writing in the context of normal life, not Corona Life). Today we read that the Lord has prepared his table and has invited those closest to him to partake of his feast and break bread together. What, though, do we see happen? Those who were invited instead found themselves to be too busy to partake of the Lord’s feast. Too busy for no other reason than they found their daily lives to be more important.

The Lord then turned to the streets and invited all to his home. The lesson of the parable is two-fold. First, it tells the lesson that, when the Jews denied Christ as the Son of God, the church was opened to the Gentiles as the inheritors of God’s Kingdom. Second, it serves as a reminder that we should not allow our lives to replace what is most important, and that is our relationship with God.

Winter SOYO Gatherings: With the weather getting cold, we will be splitting SOYO up into small groups so we can meet inside while meeting our distancing guidelines. 7th – 8th grade will meet Tuesday, December 15th, from 7-8:30 p.m. 9th – 10th grade will meet Wednesday, December 16th, from 7-8:30 p.m. And finally, 11th grade and up will meet on Thursday, December 17th, from 7-8:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

We are continuing our 20-40 Book Study later in December. With schools having finals, we are experiencing some technical difficulties with Zoom. We will plan meet on Sunday, December 13th, at 6 p.m. If you would like to join us, be sure to read through chapter 11 of The Winter Pascha by Fr. Tom Hopko.

Virtual Christmas Program: You can still send me your submission for the Christmas Program if you would like to participate! Just be sure to send me an email!

You can call or text me at 847-721-5192 or email at anthony@steljahokc.com
Worship and Spiritual Life

Sunday – Orthros at 8:45 am – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Saturday – Vespers at 5:00 pm
Confessions throughout the week. Call one of the Fathers for an appointment.

Study
Sunday – Sunday School: Children’s Classes after Communion. No classes during the summer.
Wednesday – Family Night 7-9 pm. Runs in 8-week blocks. Look for announcements of upcoming sessions. A full program of seminars and classes for adults, children and youth, for both Orthodox and Non-Orthodox.
Bible Study – Thursdays at 10:30 am; nursery provided

Fellowship & Parish Development
Coffee Hour – Sundays following the Divine Liturgy
Ladies Aid – Meetings as announced
Adult Fellowship – Meetings as announced
Parish Council – every 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm

Fellowship & Parish Development
20/40 Fellowship – events as announced
Teen Chats – Wednesday Nights
Antiochian Women – every 4th Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Choir – see Kasey Cohlmia (405-245-1444)

Membership
To become a member, you need to pray with us at our worship services, complete the Inquirer’s Classes, and talk with our priests about your interest in the Orthodox faith. This process normally takes 12 months. We welcome you on your journey of faith and invite you to learn of the ancient and unchanging Holy Orthodox Church.

December 13, 2020

USHERS:

ALTAR SERVERS:

EPISTLE READER:

ELDERS:

BOOKSTORE:

DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN IS 5:00 PM ON TUESDAY

CALENDAR

Sunday
Dec. 13
Orthros
8:45 am
Divine Liturgy
10:00 am
(Families M-Z)

Monday


Tuesday
Dec. 15
Liturgy for St. Eleutherios
9:00 am

Wednesday
Dec. 16


Thursday
Dec. 17


Friday
Dec. 18


Saturday
Dec. 19
Divine Liturgy
10:00 am
(Families M-Z)
Great Vespers
5:00 pm
(No restrictions)