ST. ELIJAH ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

15000 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73134
Church Office: 405-755-7804
Church Website: www.stelijahokc.com
Church Email: stelijah@stelijahokc.com

September 27, 2026 **Issue 38** **Number 39**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE:
Saints of the Day: Martyr Kallistratos and the 49 Martyrs with him;
The Apostles Aristarchos, Zenon, and Mark of the Seventy

DIRECTORY

V. Rev. Fr. John Salem
Parish Priest 405-410-9399

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Khouri
Assistant Priest 405-640-3016

V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Nasr
Emeritus

Rev. Dn. Ezra Ham
Administrator 405-602-9914

Jacob Butts
Youth Director 757-681-5256

Mom's Day Out & Pre-K
Sara Cortez – Director 405-639-2679
Email: mdo@stelijahokc.com
Facebook: "St Elijah Mom's Day Out"
Twitter: StElijahMDO

Ancient Faith Radio
ancientfaith.com

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

VARIABLES IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

A

The 1st Antiphon:

As usual…

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

Glory…Now...

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

B

The 2nd Antiphon:

As usual…

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…

C

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 might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

D

The Entrance Hymn

O come let us worship.

E

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 might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Martyrs – Tone 4 *(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee * received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

Troparion for 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.

Ordinary Kontakion for the Theotokos – Tone 2

O Undisputed Intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix, who is unrejected by the Creator. Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost every intercede for those who honor thee.

F

The Thrice Holy Hymn

G

THE READINGS

Epistle for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.
God is known in Judaea, His Name is great in Israel!

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians (Chapter 6:16b-18; 7:1)

Brethren, you are a temple of the living God, even as God has said: "I will dwell in them, and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." "'Therefore come out from among them, and be separate,' says the Lord, 'and touch nothing unclean; and I will receive you, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me' says the Lord Almighty." Having therefore these promises, O beloved one, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the

flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel for the 1st Sunday of Luke

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (Chapter 5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we have toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of the fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

H **The Megalynarion**

It is truly meet…

I **Communion Hymn – Tone 8**

Praise the Lord… Alleluia.

J We have seen the true light…

OFFERINGS

HOLY BREAD is offered by Dick and Cindy Homsey for their good health and the good health of all their children and grandchildren. It is especially offered for Dick on the occasion of his birthday (9/22). May God grant him many years!

HOLY BREAD is offered by Brian and Sandra Swearingen for their good health and the good health of their families. It is also offered for Andrew (9/25) and Jorge (9/26) on the occasion of their birthdays. It is especially offered in memory of his mother Nola (4 years) and her mother Luzmila (31 years). May their memory be eternal!

HOLY BREAD is offered by Taylor, Grace, Harrison, and Oliver Homsey for their good health and the good health of the Homsey, Tannous, Baba, Bieschke, and Vidrine families. It is especially offered for Genevieve on the occasion of her birthday (10/1). It is also especially offered for Zachary and Gracie Homsey on the occasion of their wedding. May God grant them many years!

HOLY BREAD is offered by Vanda Ghata for her good health and the good health of her children Joe, Erin, Matthew, George, Jennifer, Jamin, Lydia, and Malik. May God grant them many years! It is especially offered in memory of Subdeacon George, Mary, Aboud, Lyla, George. Sr., Jesse, Zayad, and Dimitri. May their memory be eternal!

HOLY BREAD is offered by Larry and Angela Hare for their good health and the good health of their children Gage, Grace, and Gabriel. It is especially offered for Angela's mother Jan. May God grant her many years!

HOLY BREAD is offered by the Alasad family for their good health. It is especially offered in memory of Bashar's father, Samir Alassaad (7 years). May his memory be eternal!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TABLE. We welcome all visitors. We are delighted you are worshipping with us and look forward to meeting you personally. Please join us in the hall at the table with the burgundy colored table cloth; someone from our Welcome Ministry would like to greet you.

COFFEE HOUR is hosted today by Hospitality #2. Please join us immediately after Divine Liturgy. Visitors are especially welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS to Zachary and Gracie (Jones) Homsey, who were married on Saturday, September 26. May God grant them many years!

A FUTURE MISSION MEETING will take place in the St. Elijah Church Hall this upcoming Tuesday evening, September 29, at 6:30 PM. We will discuss the viability and potential of starting an Orthodox Mission on the ***Westside of the OKC Metro Area*** (Yukon, Mustang, Piedmont, Tuttle, etc.)

GREAT VESPERS on Saturday, October 3, will be held in the main sanctuary, due to the great number of our wonderful teens from our diocese who will be present for their basketball tournament/retreat weekend.

A NOTE REGARDING COMMUNION WHEN SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION: We ask all parishioners who are not Sunday School students or teachers to please wait in their pew until all of the Sunday School has gone through the Communion line. Our ushers will let you know when to proceed to Chalice if you are communing.

TODAY IS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY – Please read the letter in today's bulletin. For more information, go to www.theoym.org.

ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL will take place Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3, from 10am until 10pm and on Sunday, October 4, from 11am until 4pm. Their festival is held on their church grounds at 2101 NW 145th Street.

LADIES AID BAKE SALE PREP DATES. All Ladies Aid members are asked to make every effort to join us after church on Sunday (September 27) and on the 28th, 29th and 30th starting at 9AM. Bring a friend who will enjoy learning our recipes and traditions. Sign up or see Michelle Musallam.

FOOD FESTIVAL COUPON SALES: Over the next 3 Sundays we will have a Food Festival table set up in the hallway to sell Food Festival Food Coupons. These coupons can be used in all sections of the Food Festival and they make it more convenient when purchasing food items. The cost/value per coupon is $30.00. We will accept credit card, checks, cash, and Realm. Please call Craig Abraham at 405-640-2600 with any questions.

KIBBA WORK DAYS HELP: We will be making our world famous Kibba on Saturday, October 3rd from 9-5 and again on Sunday, October 4th from 12-5. We need everyone's help to make over 500+ pans to sell in the freezer section of our Sitti's Kitchen. Whether you can come for 1 hour, 2 hours, or the whole day, please make an effort to come at some point. Please call Craig Abraham at 405-640-2600 with any questions.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN NEWS: TODAY! Classic St. Elijah Logo T-shirts are available during Coffee Hour while supplies last! These crisp white tees feature our church name on the front left, and our beautiful St. Elijah artwork on the back. Perfect for our Bake Sale and everyday wear as well! Adult & youth sizes available, and St. Elijah hats too!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – To date we have received 201 Intention to Give Cards for a total of $1,186,920. ***Thank you so much for your prompt responses!*** If you have not returned your Membership Form, please do so when you get a chance. Even if one cannot afford to pledge, it is still important to fill out your Membership Form for our database and for our credentials and records that are sent to the Diocese and Archdiocese.

COFFEE HOUR

October
4 – Altar Guild
11 – Antiochian Women
18 – St. Juliana's Helpers #2
25 – Parish Council

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK
September 27-October 3

Dick Homsey	Tamer Shawareb	Anthony Moses	Maggie Dastolfo
Lily Scanlon	Daniel Gaskins	Andrew Assaleh	Kyle Eastridge
Armen Baghdayan	Samuel Hicks	Genevieve Homsey	Caius Moore
James Farha	Tiffany Shawareb	Micaela Lupov	Jenny Sanders
Joe Farris	Frank Swaiss	Stephanie Shanbour	Emily Shanbour
Terri Kakish	Chip Winter	Omar Sweis	Zara Harroz
Charlene Rahill	Pamela Baldwin	Cole Walker	Robert Ryan
Caley Rogers	Betsy Buck	Steven Williams	Barrett Shanbour
Archer Ruiz	Edward Harroz	George Bolen	

Today we remember those who reposed in the Lord this week in years past.

Samara Kamile Assad	Margaret Lee Cohlmia Homsey	William Edward Kakish
Nayphe Wadia Delai	David Elkouri	Josephine Dalrymple
Chick M. Farha	Edna Mae Nayphe	Richard M. Naifeh

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2026
Thursday 10:30-NOON

Tired of All the Noise?

Are these the End Times? Has the Countdown begun? Is Armageddon just waiting for the temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt? Should Christians help rebuild the Jewish temple? Does the Book of Revelation actually mean what the televangelists and prophecy teachers claim it says?

12 Years Ago at St Elijah

In 2014 the Antiochian Women of St Elijah sponsored a Lenten Retreat on the Book of Revelation open to the whole Parish. Dr. Jeannie Constantinou was the Guest Speaker. Videography Jerry Toland recorded her five Seminars. In the Summer of 2015 the Orthodox Study Fellowship spent the summer playing a portion, stopping and discussing before playing the next portion of the DVDs. Five years later, in 2020, making use of each of these contributing sources, as Covid began, Deacon Ezra began his personal study of the Book of Revelation.

Building upon the ground-breaking work of Jeannie Constantinou, this Study will pull back the curtain of present noise to explore the historical realities that created, shaped and remain invisibly present within the Book of Revelation.

This Study will take you there as a living eye-witness as history unfolds itself from Babylon in 516 BC to events after the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD.

Orthodox Study Fellowship
Come Find Out for Yourself
Thursdays, 10:30-Noon
BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2026

This Study of Revelation is available

Taped on YouTube	**Live on Zoom**
Channel Orthodox Christianity 101	**828 6166 2057**
Playlist: Apocalypse	**biblestudy**

Printed materials available in class or on Amazon.com

ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 27, 2026
Youth and Young Adult Sunday

Dear Beloved in Christ,

God bless you always!

This year the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated September 27 as Youth and Young Adult Sunday.

Saint Paul wrote to young Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lo'is and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you." (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy did not come to faith merely on his own. He was raised in it, with people who were willing to be present, like his mother and grandmother. This is the quiet work of every youth worker, godparent, and parent who shows up week after week, nurturing the seeds of faith in our children.

Responding to the biblical call to raise our children in the faith, the Assembly of Bishops established Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM). OYM provides many resources including Ministry Support Coordinators on the ground to connect youth workers, *What's Your Ministry?* website for the curation of youth ministry resources from across jurisdictions, and online training such as the *Removing the Veil* ministry course and *The Godparent Project*.

On this Youth and Young Adult Sunday, let us pray for the youth workers, clergy, and volunteers giving their time so freely to the next generation. Let us stay present with your young people, in the way Lois and Eunice stayed present with Timothy, so that the faith handed to us might be handed on again.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Thomas

†Bishop Thomas
Episcopal Liaison to Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Teen Chats

Teen Chats and Family Night will continue this Wednesday, September 30th, from 7-9pm.

We will continue with our last B-ball Practice until the B-ball Tournament.

Teen SOYO is open to all teens 7th-12th grade. We gather to learn about our faith and build bonds of fellowship in context of the Orthodox Church.

Sunday School starts Today!

After the communion Prayer, "I believe O Lord and I confess," all students grade Pre-K – 12th are asked to go to the back of the Church in the Narthex to line up for communion.

Those who are not Orthodox, please inform your child's teacher so they know that your child will only receive a blessing. After they receive communion or a blessing, they will go to Sunday School.

New Policy: All students grades Pre-K-3rd will need to be picked up at their classroom by a parent/guardian after Liturgy!

Sunday School Questions

1: What does the word "Sophia" mean?

2: Where is Paul writing his letters to?

3. What is the opposite of bragging or being prideful?

DOWAMA SOYO Basketball Tournament

Mark your calendars! Our annual Basketball Tournament will be hosted the weekend of October 2nd-4th.

Scan QR Code for Registration. All youth in grades 7th-12th are invoice to join us, whether they intend to play basketball or not.

Policy Update – To play on our St. Elijah Basketball Teams, the Teens must come to church and Teen Chats regularly.

Note, our Teen SOYO will NOT be staying in the hotel.

Also, DO NOT fill out the Team registration form. Jacob will fill that out.

Teen Event Rescheduled to Today

Today, Sunday, September 27th, from 5-7:30pm, the Teens will have a night of Team building activities in the Church gym. Wear gym clothes! Dinner will be provided.

JOY Ministry

JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) is a ministry specifically catered to our youth grades 1st-6th. This ministry is focused on allowing our younger youth to build fellowship among each other, while also teaching them important Orthodox traditions.

We will hold our 2nd lesson on "Becoming Like Christ" on Friday, October 9th, from 6-7pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacob at jacobb@stelijahokc.com

Worship and Spiritual Life

Sunday – Orthros at 8:50 am – Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Wednesday – Vespers at 6:00 pm (except during Lent)
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
YAFAM (Young Adult Fellowship) – events as announced
Teen Chats – Wednesday Nights
Antiochian Women Board – every 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Choir – see Jaylen Crain (405-219-6540)

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.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

ALTAR SERVERS: Zeke Ewbank, Gabriel Hare, Luke Warr, Isaac Warr, Esper Ham, James Elliott, Nate Elliott, Kolby Eastling, Amos Ham, Gabriel Naifeh, Noah Calderon Nikolovski, Luke Newcomb, Gabriel Calderon Nikolovski, Gideon Conerly, Grady Ham, Aiden Swearingen, Andrew Swearingen

BOOKSTORE: Michael Cole, Mark Singley

WELCOME TABLE: Sarah Murrell

DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN IS 5:00 PM ON TUESDAY

CALENDAR

	Sunday	
Sept. 27	Orthros	8:50 am
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
	Monday	
Sept 28		
	Tuesday	
Sept 29		
	Wednesday	
Sept 30	Vespers	6:00 pm
	Family Night	7:00 pm
	Teen Chats	7:00 pm
	Thursday	
Oct. 1		
	Orthodox Study Fellowship	10:30 pm
	Friday	
Oct. 2		
	Saturday	
Oct. 3	Great Vespers/Confessions	5:00 pm