



# The Prophet Elias Church

**Address:** 223 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Phone:** (831) 429-6500

**Web:** <http://www.propheteliassc.org>

**Email:** [info@propheteliassc.org](mailto:info@propheteliassc.org)

**Visiting Clergy**

**Phone:** (831) 429-6500

**Email:** [info@propheteliassc.org](mailto:info@propheteliassc.org)

## Services Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday Orthros

10:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Sunday School - As announced

12:00 PM Sunday, Fellowship after Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM Paraklesis - TBD

6:00 PM Vespers - TBD

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 14, 2024

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## Service Schedule



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

*O Lord and Master of my life!*

*Take from me the spirit of sloth,  
faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.*

*But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.*

*Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors  
and not to judge my brother,  
for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**GREAT AND HOLY LENT ~ March 18 to May 4**

Friday, April 12: 6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, April 14: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy – Father Takahashi

Friday, April 19: 6:00pm Akathist Hymn

Sunday, April 21: 10:00am Reader Service

Sunday, April 28: **PALM SUNDAY** 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy – Father Takahashi

### PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

Presvytera Vaso Paris, Matty Manzo, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, George & Harriet Mainis, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn Sculley, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob Roberts, Helen Mitropoulos

Call the church office (831) 429-6500 to add the name of someone in need of prayers.

## Our News



### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It's up to us! We are still in the Lenten Season. It is the season of almsgiving. Alms are monies given to the poor or those in need. Prophet Elias is now needy, our church home.

Our Stewardship goal has been adjusted upward to \$120,000.00. Being a friendly parish is a wonderful quality, but in addition to friendliness, we need the finances to pay a permanent priest. We have prayed and it's been three years without a priest. Now, we need to make some substantive changes.

Did you know.....

- 75 Stewards have declared a commitment in 2024.
- \$120,000.00 equally divided is \$1,600.00 each.
- \$1,600.00 annually is \$133.00 per month.
- Or \$31.00 per week.

In past years, 15-20 Stewards make up 75% of our Stewardship giving. With every hope, these Stewards will continue their commitments. But by these results, others are giving much less.

How can we improve this dynamic?

Everyone can dedicate time to prayers, volunteer willingly for fundraisers, and commit to stretching monthly giving where possible.

We are the only ones who can make changes to provide for a priest.

Not a Steward yet at Prophet Elias? Please consider becoming a Steward by completing the 2024 Stewardship Commitment Card. Then you may submit donations in church. Or on our church website at:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/pe-general-donation>

(Be sure to scroll to the information box, drop the menu to Stewardship before entering your donation amount.)

Or mail your commitment to the Church office at:

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church  
223 Church Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Please keep Prophet Elias in your prayers, especially for a worthy priest.

Kostas Amberiadis, Chair

#### **ST. KATHERINE'S CORNER**

Hello Everyone,

On **Sunday, April 14, 2024**, we will pass a tray for donations toward Epitaphio flowers. During Fellowship, we will accept donations for the candles for the four corners and all around the top of the Epitaphio. Please help us beautify our Holy Friday!

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are very fortunate to have services every Friday for the Salutations to the Theotokos.

Thank you to all those below who have signed up to place flowers surrounding the Panagia icon for the Salutations to the Theotokos. Join us to Rejoice!

Friday, April 12 - Aphrodite Roberts & Alexa Bolas

Friday, April 19 - Dena Mitropoulos

In addition, we are requesting our parishioners supplement flowers for the Epitaphio. **No red flowers for the Epitaphio, please. (Red flowers are used only for Pascha decor.)** These flowers can be from your garden or store bought.

Please bring them to the church on **Thursday, May 2** (between 10am to 2pm) and put them in water.

The Epitaphio will be adorned with flowers on **Friday morning, May 3.**

On **Saturday morning, May 4** at the First Anastasi, please bring bay leaves and rose petals for the priest to toss around the church. Also, bring a dozen hard-boiled **red-dyed eggs** to be blessed and distributed after the midnight Divine Liturgy.

Our next meeting date and time will be announced soon.

Thank you for your devotion and supporting St. Katherine's Philoptochos philanthropic missions.

Respectfully,  
Aphrodite Roberts

#### **RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring us your recyclable items. Thank you to all who support this important fundraising effort. Also, please continue to support our on-going Philoptochos declutter fundraiser! If you have books, CDs, DVDs or games (PlayStation, Xbox, Wii) that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to: [stkatherine@propheteliassc.org](mailto:stkatherine@propheteliassc.org)

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine's Philoptochos philanthropic missions.

Together we are making a difference!

#### **GOT COFFEE?**

Everyone is invited to reserve a Sunday by signing the clipboard on the buffet table, which also includes clean up. You can also sign up by Email to: [office@propheteliassc.org](mailto:office@propheteliassc.org). Blessings to all who volunteer for our Sunday Fellowship. When no one signs up only coffee will be available.

4-14-24 - Aphrodite Roberts & Alexa Bolas

4-21-24 - Lyna & Brad Dyer

4-28-24 - Madeline Hnatowich-Dean (Palm Sunday)

5-4-24 - Sondra Lee Traylor (Holy Saturday)

5-5-24 - Sondra Lee Traylor (Holy Pascha)

5-12-24 - Dawn & Tim Sculley

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Dear Sunday School Families,

Kali Sarakosti!

We will have Sunday School on **April 14th**. Our lesson will be on how **The Saints Help the Church Grow**. Our students will be able to:

**Know** the story of St. Ignatius

**Recognize** that the saints show us how to grow as Christians

**Develop** a desire to imitate Christ and the saints

I would like our students to bring an icon of their patron saint or an icon of a saint they have in their home and be prepared to share some information with the class about their saint.

I look forward to seeing you all on the **14th of April**.

With Love in Christ,

Angela Santiago, Sunday school teacher

### **UPCOMING VISITOR FROM SWEDEN**

Father Milutin will be in California from June 22 to July 3, 2024. He has received permission from the Metropolis to serve twice at Prophet Elias. Save these Dates:

Sunday, June 23: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy - Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 30: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy

He is looking forward to his visit and parish events are being planned. Details to follow!

## MEET THE SAINTS

In three weeks, our presentations will resume. Below is the list of Saints yet to be presented. Please contact the church office 831-429-6500 with your choice. Write a 500-word script (or one can be prepared for you) to present for fewer than five minutes for your Saint. Father Milutin will also present again while he is with us in June. As you recall, Father Milutin made the first presentation about Saint Emilia. Volunteer today!

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

St. Anthimos of Chios

St. Markella of Chios

St. Mavra of Zakynthos

St. Simeon

St. Basil the Great

St. Theodosia

St. Gerasimos

St. Iakovos of Evia

St. Paisios of Mt Athos

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Matins Gospel Reading

#### **First Orthros Gospel**

#### **The Reading is from Matthew 28:16-20**

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

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## Epistle Reading

### **Prokeimenon. 4th Mode. Psalm 103.24,1.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

### **The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the 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 unchangeable 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.

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## Gospel Reading

### **Sunday of St. John Climacus**

#### **The Reading is from Mark 9:17-31**

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "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 he answered them, "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

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the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, 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! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "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 he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he 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 when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

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## Hymns of the Day

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 4th Mode**

The joyful news of your resurrection was told to the women disciples of the Lord by the angel. Having thrown off the ancestral curse, and boasting, they told the apostles: death has been vanquished, Christ our God. is risen, bestowing on the world great mercy.

### **Apolytikion for Sun. of St. John Climacus in the Plagal 4th Mode**

With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O John, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our God, to save our souls.

### **Hymn to Prophet Elias in the 1st Mode**

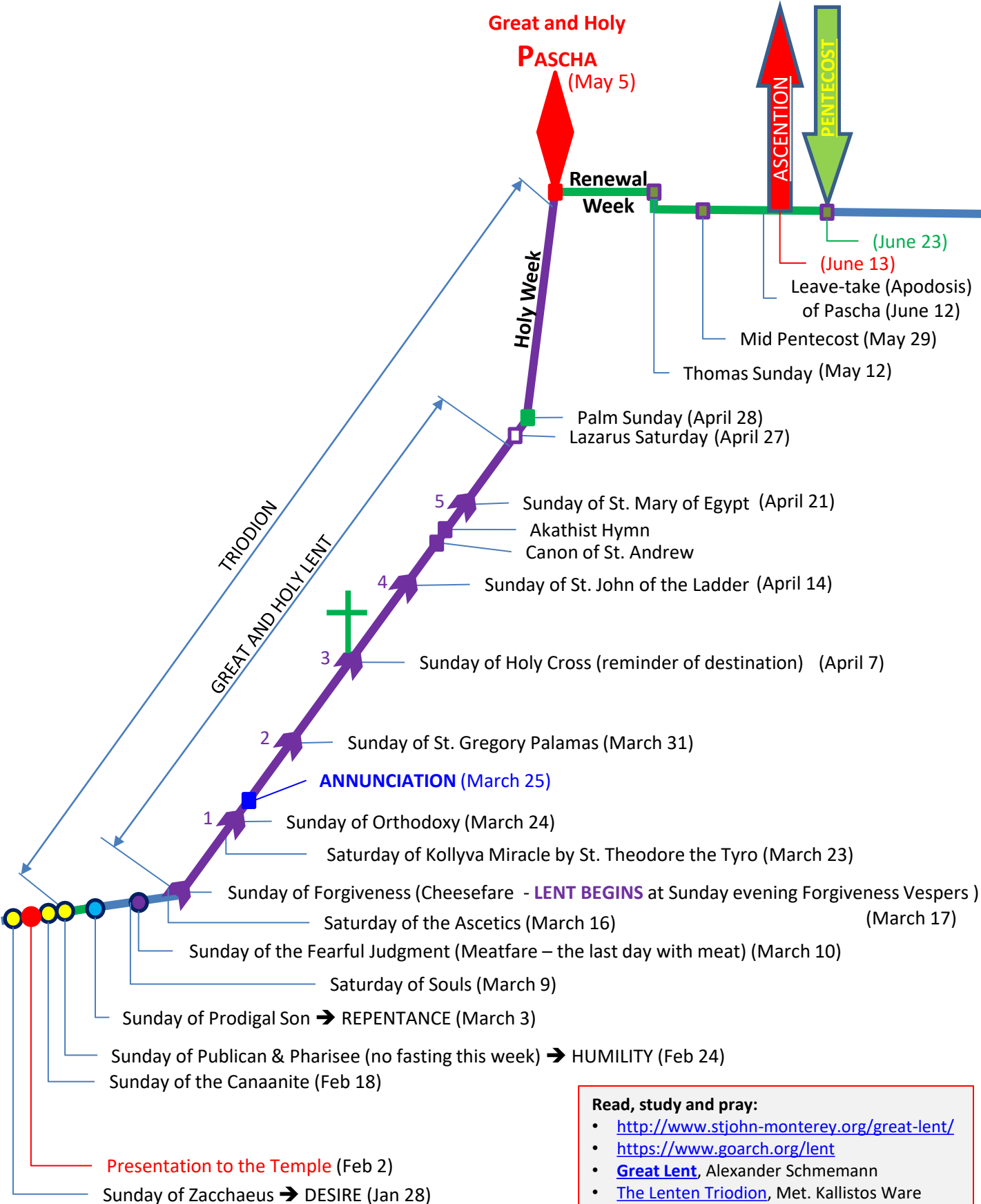


The incarnate messenger and cornerstone of the Prophets. The second forerunner of the second coming of Christ. Elias the Glorious! He sent down upon Elisha the gift from above. He drives away diseases and cleanses lepers. Wherefore he is the source of healing to those who honor him.

## **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal 4th Mode**

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

# The Orthodox Paschal Season - a Time for Transformation



**Read, study and pray:**

- <http://www.stjohn-monterey.org/great-lent/>
- <https://www.goarch.org/lent>
- **Great Lent**, Alexander Schmemmann
- **The Lenten Triodion**, Met. Kallistos Ware

# OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



**PREPARING FOR THE PASSION  
& RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**



ST. LAWRENCE PRESENTS

# Gatsby Night

OUR ANNUAL BRIGHT FRIDAY FORMAL DINNER AND DANCE

**MAY 10TH**

**ARRIVE:**

**5 PM WITH DINNER SERVED AT 6 PM**

SCOPAZZI'S RESTAURANT

13300 BIG BASIN WY, BOULDER CREEK

TICKET PRICE

PER PERSON

—  
\$65 NON-ALCOHOL

\$70 WITH WINE

Age Requirement: Highschool +

Tickets sold every Sunday until 4/28

Contact: Mariana Timmer

[claychalet.timmer@gmail.com](mailto:claychalet.timmer@gmail.com)





# 2024 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

SESSION 1: JULY 7 - 13

SESSION 2: JULY 14 - 20

SESSION 3: JULY 21 - 27

[WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG)

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**SUMMERCAMP**  
AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH





CROSSROAD  
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ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL **JUNIOR** OR **SENIOR**?



# Fill your **summer** with what **counts**

Join one of  
our four sessions

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Northern California June 18-28  
~~Boston June 22-July 2~~ Waiting List  
Chicago July 6-16

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CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for YOU as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures. By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.



**Rolling applications & acceptance happening now!** Limited availability for **Northern California & Chicago.**