



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

Visiting Clergy

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Email: 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

Bulletin for Sunday, April 07, 2024

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 5: 6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, April 7: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy – Father Takahashi - Memorial for Polyhronakis family

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!

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?

We are 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.

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,

Please consider becoming a Philoptochos member this year. We will be extending our membership drive. For your convenience, Alexa Bolas, treasurer, can accept your credit card and your membership dues will go directly to the Philoptochos account.

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. All the Friday dates have been filled!

Friday, April 5 - Lyna Dyer

Friday, April 12 - Aphrodite Roberts & Alexa Bolas

Friday, April 19 - Dena Mitropoulos

We are requesting our parishioners to 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 hardboiled **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

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. Blessings to all who volunteer for our Sunday Fellowship. When no one signs up only coffee will be available.

4-07-24 - Sophie & Dena Polyhronakis (Memorial Lunch)

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

Our presentations will resume after Great and Holy Pascha.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Eleventh Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from John 21:14-25

At that time, Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. And he said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go." (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

Follow me!" The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal 2nd Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading

Sunday of the Holy Cross

The Reading is from Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 3rd Mode

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the power of his reign. He has conquered death by death and become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted the world great mercy.

Apolytikion for Sun. of the Holy Cross in the 1st Mode

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

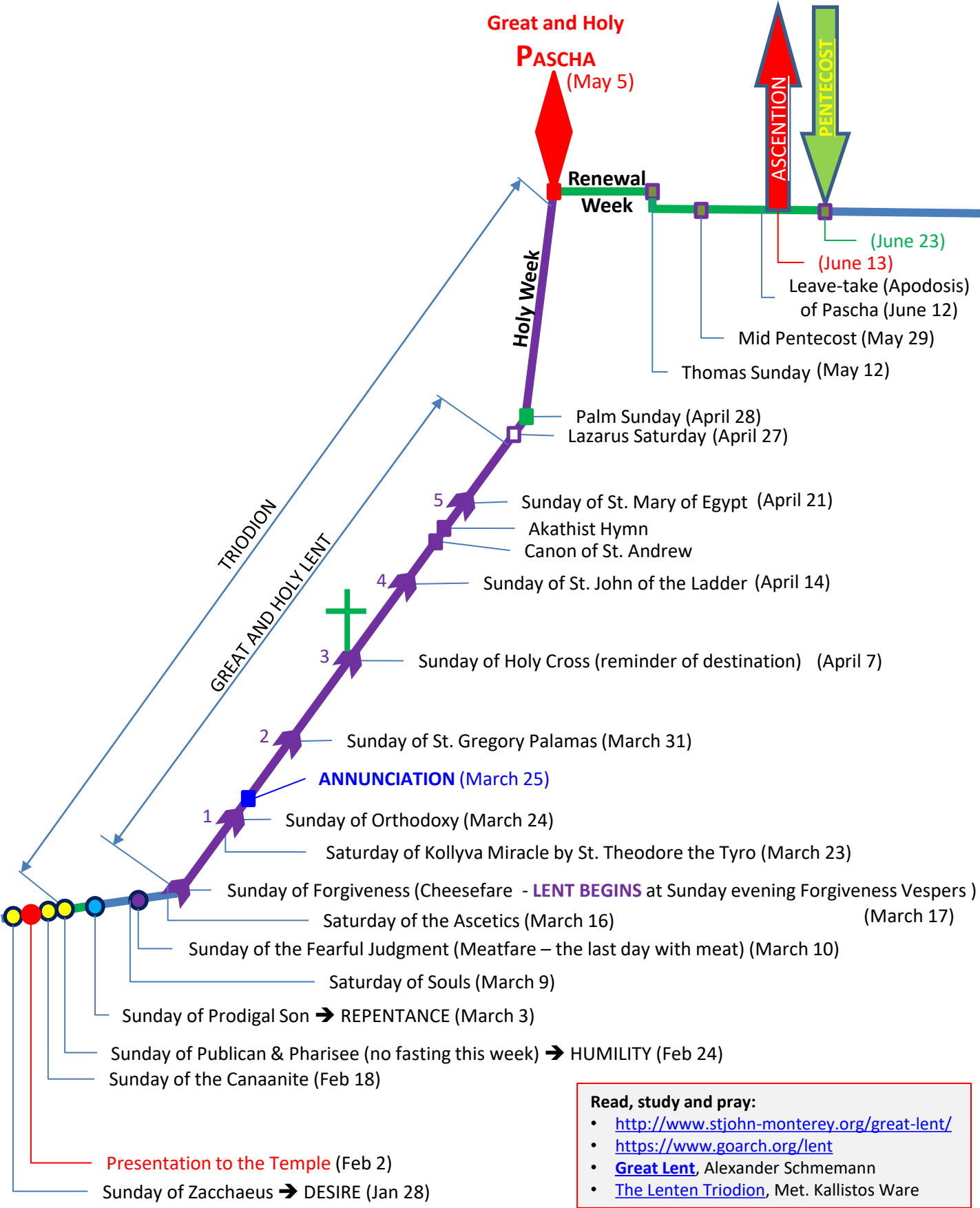
Hymn to Prophet Elias in the 1st Mode

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



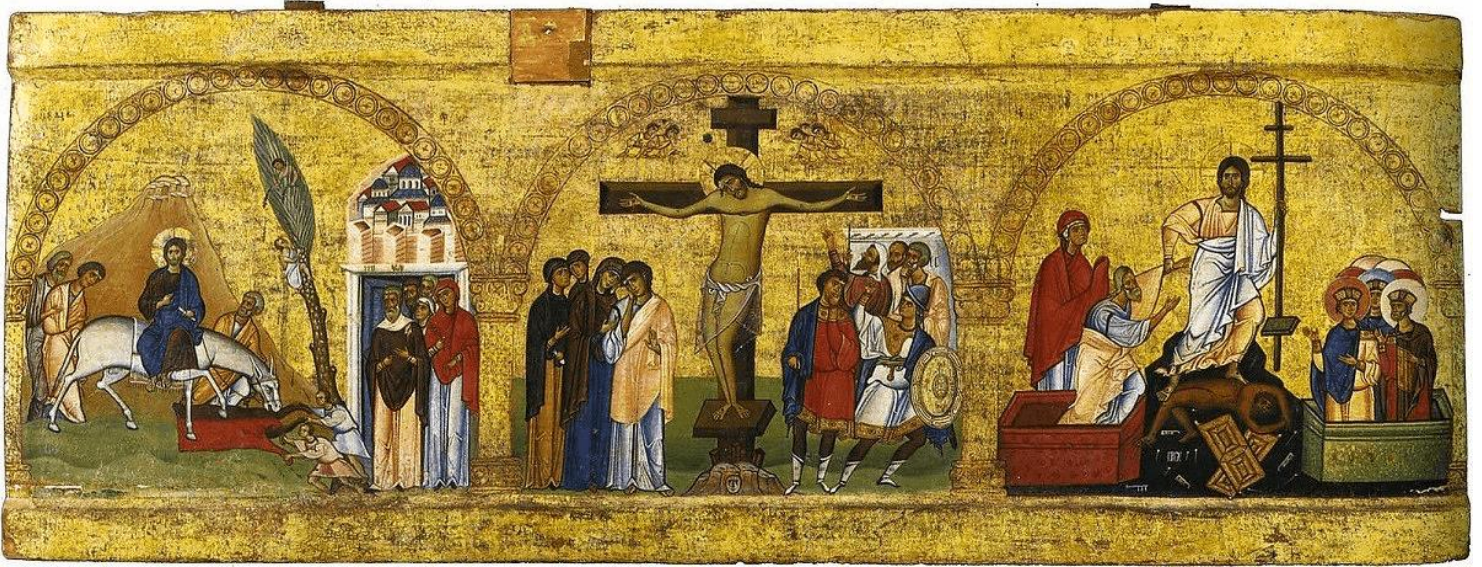
Read, study and pray:

- <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**



*Saint Anna Philoptochos Society
Of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Invites you to a
Lenten Retreat studying
The Hymnography of Holy Week*

*Special guest speaker:
Nektarios Antoniou
Chanter of the Ascension Cathedral*

*Join us in the small hall on
Saturday, April 6th, 2024
Doors open at 9:30am with coffee, tea and breakfast treats
The retreat will begin at 10am
Lenten Lunch at 11:30am
Closing remarks and questions at 12:30pm*

*Please RSVP to Stacy at 408-295-0387
Or stacypanayotopoulos@yahoo.com*





2024 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

SESSION 1: JULY 7 - 13

SESSION 2: JULY 14 - 20

SESSION 3: JULY 21 - 27

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