



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

Bulletin for Sunday, June 07, 2026

Service Schedule

"But many that are first will be last, and the last first." - Matthew 19:30

Sunday, June 7: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, June 14: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, June 21: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Milutin Janjic**

Sunday, June 28: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Milutin Janjic**

PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

Presvytera Naomi (Robin) Takahashi, Father Marin State, David Zomer, Dafina Molman, Harriet Mainis, Maura, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn Sculley, John Demas, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob Roberts, Selah, Stacy, Evangelia, Helene Doss, Panos Kakaris, Helen Sirakides, Cynthia (Anna) Baldwin-Thanos, Brad Dyer, John, Muriel, Irina Sanchez, Eleni, Maria, Paraskevi,

Constantine Mellis, Spiro Mellis, Steve, Alexandra, Jim, Michael Panelli

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

NOTICE

We request everyone in attendance for services to please be respectful and silence your phone. We greatly appreciate your cooperation, thank you everyone.

Our News

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Sunday School Families,

As we wrap up another blessed Sunday school year, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and restful summer to each and every one of you.

We will resume Sunday school in the fall. Please keep a look out for an announcement with more information about registration and the upcoming schedule in late August.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

With love in Christ, Angela Santiago

Sunday School Teacher

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church Sunday School Teacher

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church of Santa Cruz is our parish home. It is the place where we meet God when we partake of the Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion. It is a place for prayers to ask for strength to meet the challenges in our lives. It is where we come together as the Body of Christ. Our church family shares the Orthodox Faith, which is the glue we find nowhere else but within the Church.

But like any parish, we have material needs and operating expenses (utilities, clergy salaries, ect). We must cover these expenses in order to keep our Prophet Elias functioning properly so we are able to worship the Lord.

Stewardship consists of our time, talent, and treasure, and this is where the treasure part of Stewardship becomes so important. It's imperative that we all work together and each

do our part to provide and secure our future so we may continue to grow together.

Our stewardship goal for this year has been set to **\$120,000**. Let us pray, hope, and work together to exceed our expectations.

If you would like to become a Steward, please fill out a Commitment Card (scroll down to special announcements to download the PDF file), or email **info@propheteliassc.org** for more information if you have any questions.

If you would like to make a general donation to Prophet Elias please follow the link below for instructions:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/about-things-to-know/donate>

Kostas Amberiadis
Stewardship Chairman

THE PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Hello everyone,

Save the date! Clean out your closets!

We are having our **annual spring/summer yard sale** on **Saturday, June 13th 9 AM to 1 PM**.

Banners are up! Please spread the news. Tell your friends and neighbors!

The tables are \$10.00 each and 10% of your profits (or more if you wish) donated to our Philoptochos so we may continue our mission.

Tables are going fast! Please let me know if you wish to participate!

It's always a fun afternoon, sharing stories about the items for sale, visiting with each other, and meeting new people! If you don't want a table, please come by and visit with us. You might find just the thing you are looking for!

Thank you to our members who contributed to the fellowship luncheon on Pentecost! It goes without saying, "It takes a village", and we have a great one.

Respectfully,
Your sister in Christ
Aphrodite

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring your recyclable items when you come to church. If you are unable to bring the recyclable items to church, please call **Alexa (650-868-5015)** to make arrangements for pickup.

Ask neighbors and friends to help out. Any containers that have CA-CRV can be recycled such as:

- **Aluminum cans**
- **Bi-metal cans**
- **Glass bottles: Including wine and liquor bottles**
- **Plastic bottles: including juice**

Please do NOT bring us any other types of plastic containers for our recycling fundraising, ONLY plastic bottles please.

The recycling directly helps the church. Here are some ways it contributed this year:

- New lamp for choir area
- Supplies for the bathrooms and fellowship
- Vacuum cleaner repair
- Donation for new stove

Thank you to all who have brought in recycling.
Together we are making a difference!

DECLUTTER Books/CD/DVD

Also, the Philoptochos declutter fundraiser is back in action!! If you have books, CDs, or DVDs that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to:

stkatherine@propheteliassc.org or contact Alexa Bolas

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine Philoptochos philanthropic missions.
Together we are making a difference!

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to our weekly fellowship at **Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church!** We gather immediately following the liturgy in the church hall upstairs. Whether you are a longtime member of our church or visiting us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Please continue to join us for fellowship and the opportunity to know more about you.

We all love our Sunday Fellowship time after Liturgy. It is a special time when we can meet visitors to our church and visit with each other. Refreshments and coffee are always provided.

As all of you know, the price for shopping at the market has skyrocketed and it is getting very expensive to provide refreshments, but we are not willing to give it up.

If you are able to, we are asking you to consider making a donation knowing it would be welcomed and appreciated. No amount is too small (\$1) nor too large (\$1 million). For special events and banquets there will be a set price and you will know the amount ahead of time.

We are entering a strict fasting period in **June**. Look at your church calendar and you will see that starting on **June 8** until **June 28** is a **strict fasting period** with fish allowed on some days. **Sunday the 14, 21, 28** are fasting days. If you are hosting fellowship hour, remember to have enough food available for those who are strictly fasting. As always, fellowship can be something simple, and doesn't need to be a full meal.

Thank you everyone. See you upstairs for fellowship after liturgy.

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. 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."

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Mode. Psalm 67.35,26.

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2.

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Gospel Reading

The Sunday of All Saints

The Reading is from Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal 4th Mode

You descended from on high, O merciful Lord, and accepted the three-day burial in order to free us from our passions. Glory to you, O Lord, our life and our resurrection.

Apolytikion for All Saints in the 4th Mode

Your Church, O Christ our God, clothed itself in the blood of Your martyrs from throughout the world, as though it were a robe of linen and purple; through them, she cries out to You, "Send down upon Your people compassion, grant peace to Your commonwealth, and to our souls, great mercy."

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

The world offers You, the author of all creation, as the first-fruits of nature, the God-bearing martyrs. O most merciful, by their intercessions, through the Theotokos, maintain

Your Church in perfect peace.





Stop on by!
Saturday, June 13th from 9^{AM} to 1^{PM}

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
223 Church Street Downtown Santa Cruz


Great Stuff!



Thrifty Deals!

**Proceeds benefit the many Charities supported by
St. Katherine Philoptochos.**





When a family's long vigil for their unconscious father is interrupted by a surreal event, the experience awakens the author's desire to understand its profound meaning. *A Moment of Clarity* is an endearing story of a dying man's journey and the author's memories of his family's life in Greece and the United States. Anecdotes and Greek expressions sprinkled throughout the book capture the cultural dynamics of both societies, including the unique dynamics of the Greek-American community, the joy of the family's journey and the grief of their loss.

*Praise from Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.,
President of the American Farm School*

Terry has delved deeply into his soul and memories to bring his experiences to life. This book is both a personal journey and a rendition of history. During our childhood and as adults - whether in our neighborhood gatherings to serenade the campus residents with Christmas carols or participating in sports and recreational fun - Terry has always emanated a joy which he generously and contagiously shares with us in his writing. He has managed to find meaning in sorrow and grief and bring joy into our lives.

As you read this book, think of the author this way, and enjoy his life's journey.

A Moment of Clarity

Terry Theocharides



A Moment of Clarity

Terry Theocharides

Ouzo Corner Metamorphosis

MOVIE NIGHT



SATURDAY JUNE 6TH 7 PM

WORLD FILM PREMIERE OF SECRETS

ALL INVITED TO OUR RED CARPET EVENT W/ Q & A - FREE

TEMPLE BETH EL **3055 PORTER GULCH** APTOS

ALSO SCREENING AWARD WINNING SHORT FILM IF ONLY

STEWARDSHIP



PROPHET ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Spouse Name _____ Cell () _____

Address _____ Email: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email of letters/bulletins: Yes ____ No ____

Children's Names/Ages _____

COMMITMENT DATE: _____

\$ _____ per week, month, year (circle one)

Please choose method of payment:

Cash
 Check
 PayPal
 Bill Pay

Please contact the Church Office, if any questions: (831) 429-6500

I would like to be contacted by the following Church Ministries:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Religious Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Epistle Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Philoptochos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Hour | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building/Grounds Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival/Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation to Homebound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir/Chanting | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School | <input type="checkbox"/> Web/Media Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church School for Young Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions & Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Work | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Council | |

**The Stewardship campaign goal is 100% participation of The Prophet Elias Community.
Please return this Stewardship Commitment Card to the Church Office or Church Narthex.**



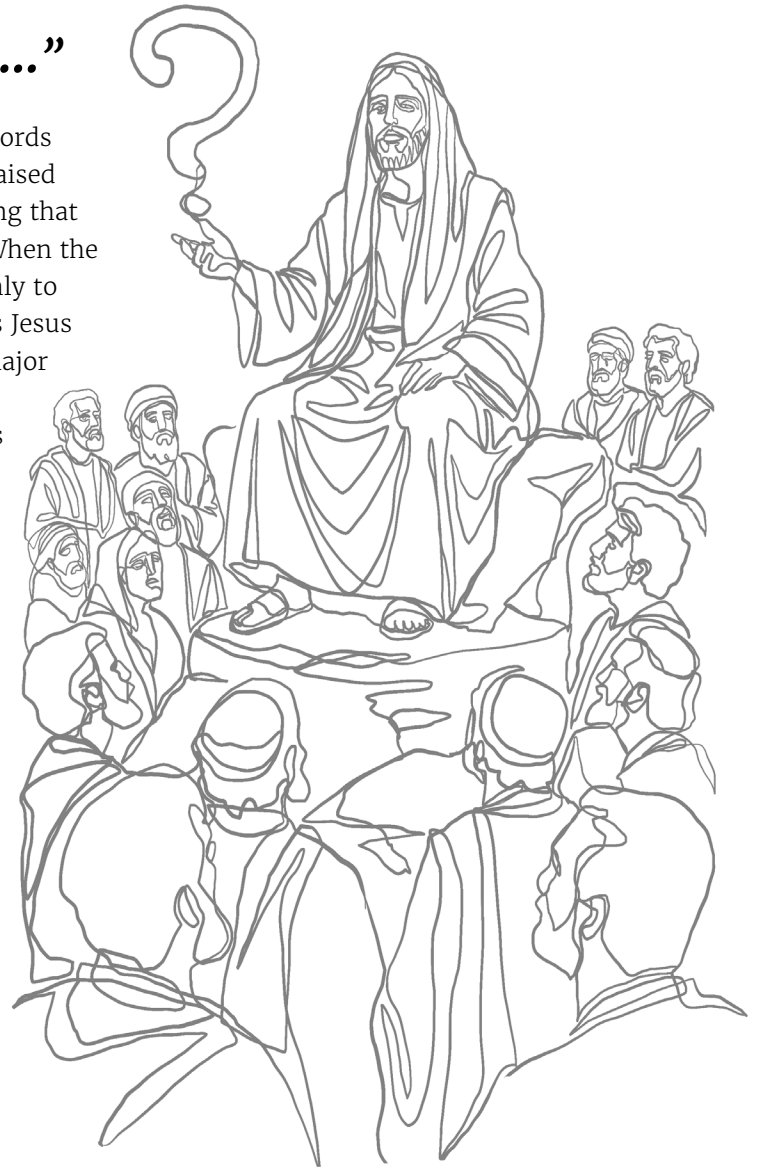
DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | Fr. George Parsenios

“Hate your father and mother...”

Today's Gospel reading hits our ears strangely. The words of Jesus contain a very hard saying. Most of us are raised in Christian families, and Jesus puzzles us by teaching that our commitment to him requires us to deny our families. When the Gospel of Luke shares this same material, Jesus says not only to deny our families, but to hate them (Luke 14:26). Why does Jesus say this? To answer this question, we must understand a major difference between the ancient world and the modern one. Religion was not a private choice in antiquity, and religious diversity did not mean then what it means now. To be born in a city meant to worship the gods of that city. To be born into a family meant to worship the gods of that family. The gods were understood to protect a city that was loyal to them. To abandon pagan gods for Christ, therefore, was to endanger the city. This was a serious crime. Socrates was killed for not properly honoring the gods of Athens, and early Christians were persecuted for not honoring the gods of Rome. Some early martyrs were killed by their own families to avoid the disgrace of harboring a traitor. St. Paul recognized that some Christians would lose their spouses by being baptized into Christ (1 Cor 7:12-14). This highly-charged setting is the proper context for understanding Jesus' hard words. Everything must be surrendered, even family harmony if necessary, to follow Christ. Modern converts to Orthodoxy might experience similar pressures. Those who are already in Orthodox families, however, have a different task. We must ensure that our families are places where our children experience Christ, not ones where family dynamics require a denial of Christ's teachings. Let us therefore build families of faith, hope and love.



Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from **Leadership 100**

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts



FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: Eschatology (Ἐσχατολογία) What is “Eschatology” ?

Fr. George Parsenios



Ἐσχατολογία/Eschatology is an essential term in Christian doctrine, but it may not be widely known. The Greek word *ἔσχατον/ eschaton* means “final, last,” and so *eschatology* is the study of what occurs at the final stages of God’s plan

for creation, “the last days, the end times.” *Eschatology* has two different

senses. First, *eschatology* is the study of God’s ancient promise to send a savior to his people. Biblical authors

announce that Jesus is this expected savior by saying that he appeared “in these last days” (*eschaton*; Heb 1:2). Jesus, in other words, fulfilled the eschatological hope of ancient Israel. Second, *eschatology* refers to the promises that Jesus himself made in the New Testament, where he says that he will return in glory to create “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1). Because “we know neither the day nor the hour” of his return (Matt 25:13), the Orthodox Church views as foolhardy any attempt to calculate the precise moment of Christ’s arrival. But when our Creed says that we “expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come,” we express our eschatological hope.



THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY The Saints of North America

Ben Malian, MTS

Following the Sunday of All Saints, the second Sunday after Pentecost is traditionally reserved in the Orthodox Church for recognizing the saints of certain locales, nations, and regions. In North America, the many saints who have “shone forth” in the New World are commemorated on this day, ranging from Juvenal the Proto-Martyr (+1797) to Olga of Alaska (+1979).

St. Olga (Michael)—glorified by the Orthodox Church of America in 2025—was a native Yup’ik woman from the village of Kwethluk in southwestern Alaska. Born in 1916, Olga married and raised thirteen children with her husband, Nikolai, who was later ordained a priest. As a matushka, Olga was the “quiet heart” of their parish community, serving generously as a midwife, healer, and teacher. Following her repose, several miraculous events and intercessions confirmed the sanctity already evident in her earthly life.

As we prepare to commemorate the saints of North America, consider the opening verses of the troparion to St. Olga: “God has chosen a humble mother from Alaska / to be an example for all the servants of God.”



Icon of Saint Olga with permission Monastery of All Saints of North America, Ottawa, Canada

THE SUNDAY OF All Saints

The first Sunday after Holy Pentecost is the Sunday of All Saints. On this day, the Church honors all the holy men and women who have pleased God—known and unknown—from the beginning of the world until today. These include prophets, apostles, martyrs, teachers, monks, and faithful people just like us who loved Jesus Christ with their whole lives.

King David says, “How precious are Your friends, O Lord.” The Saints are God’s friends. They listened to Him, obeyed His commandments, and trusted Him in hard times. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” This means the Saints are with us, cheering us on as we run the race of faith. They show us that a holy life is possible.

This feast began as a day to remember the martyrs—those who gave their lives for Christ. Later, the Church added all the Saints, because many people witness to Christ in



different ways. Some suffer, some teach, some pray quietly, and some serve others with love. All of them show us what it means to follow Jesus.

This feast is like a harvest after Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came down, and the Church grew strong. Saints are the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work. They are proof that the Gospel is true.

THE ICON OF THE FEAST

In the icon of All Saints, Christ sits in glory on His heavenly throne. Around Him are many rows of Saints. We see the Theotokos and Saint John the Baptist close to Him. There are angels, apostles, bishops, martyrs, and monks. Adam and Eve bow before Jesus, showing that He saves all humanity. We see Abraham holding a righteous soul, the Good Thief who entered Paradise, and Jacob.



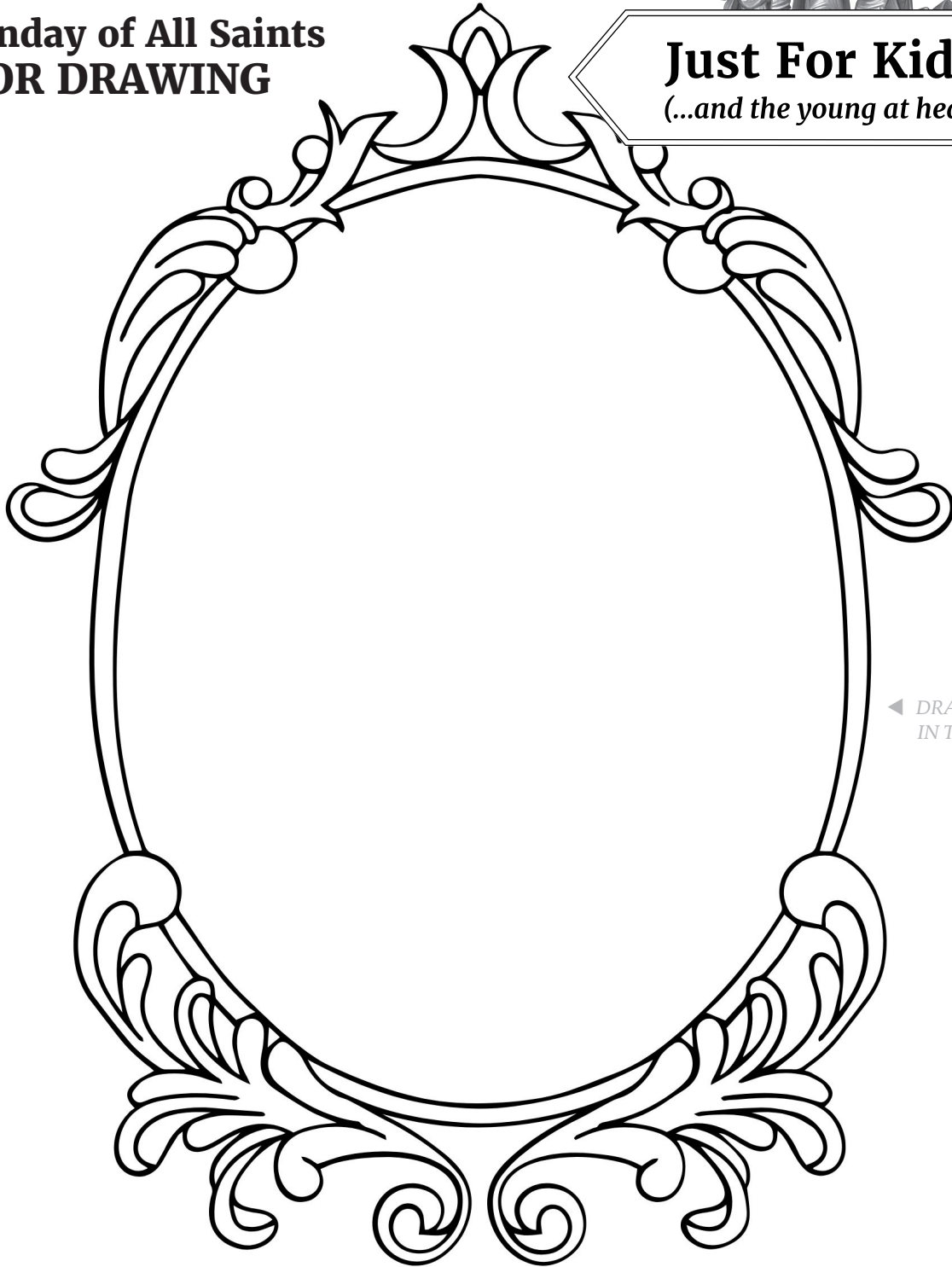
A CALL TO ACTION

This feast is not only about the Saints—it is about you. God calls each of us to become holy. You do not need to be perfect. Start small. Pray each day. Come to Church. Forgive others. Help someone in need. Turn away from sin and follow Jesus with courage. Ask the Saints to pray for you. They are alive in Christ and ready to help. Remember: holiness is possible. The same Holy Spirit who guided them is given to you. Say with faith: “Holy Saints of God, pray for us!”



**The Sunday of All Saints
MIRROR DRAWING**

Just For Kids!
(...and the young at heart)



◀ DRAW YOURSELF
IN THE MIRROR

Happy Name Day! Today is the Sunday of All Saints where we celebrate all the saints. A saint is a friend of God who loves Him and tries to live the way He taught us. Saints pray, help others, forgive, and do their best each and every day to follow Christ, even when it's hard. Guess what? With God's help, you're growing to be a saint too! So, take some time to draw yourself in the mirror. With crayons, smiles, and a little creativity, you'll always remember that everyone can grow to be a saint!