



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, July 12, 2026

Service Schedule

*For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." -
Matthew 9:5-7*

Sunday, July 12: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, July 19: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, July 19: 6:30 PM **Great Vespers and Artoklasia**

Monday, July 20: 9:00 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy - **PROPHET ELIAS FEAST DAY**

Sunday, July 26: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

+Barabara Bernard+, 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, Brian Strawn

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

NOTICE

Attention: 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,

Summer is here and as always we will not have meetings until September. Until then, enjoy your time off and I hope to see you all at church.

Your sister in Christ
Respectfully,
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.

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

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Sixth Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from Luke 24:36-53

At that time, having risen from the dead, Jesus went up and stood among His disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and frightened, and

supposed that they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish [and some honeycomb], and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name in all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the Temple blessing God.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal 1st Mode. Psalm 11.7,1.

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14.

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Reading

6th Sunday of Matthew

The Reading is from Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal 1st Mode

Let us, the faithful, give praise and worship to the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit and born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of his own will he mounted the cross in the flesh, suffered death, and raised the dead by his glorious resurrecti

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 2nd Mode

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, please reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

*Please join us
as we celebrate*
PROPHET ELIAS DAY

Monday, July 20, 2026

*Luncheon to follow
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
starting at 9 am.*

*Also join us Sunday, July 19
for
Great Vespers & Artoklasia
6:30 pm.*



Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
223 Church Street, Santa Cruz
831.429.6500 propheteliassc.org















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:

____ Adult Religious Education

____ Epistle Reading

____ Philoptochos

____ Altar Service

____ Fellowship Hour

____ Stewardship Support

____ Building/Grounds Maintenance

____ Festival/Events

____ Youth Ministry

____ Carpentry

____ Fundraising

____ Visitation to Homebound

____ Choir/Chanting

____ Greek Language School

____ Web/Media Support

____ Church School for Young Children

____ Missions & Outreach

____ Other

____ Cleaning

____ Office Work

____ Cooking

____ 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.**

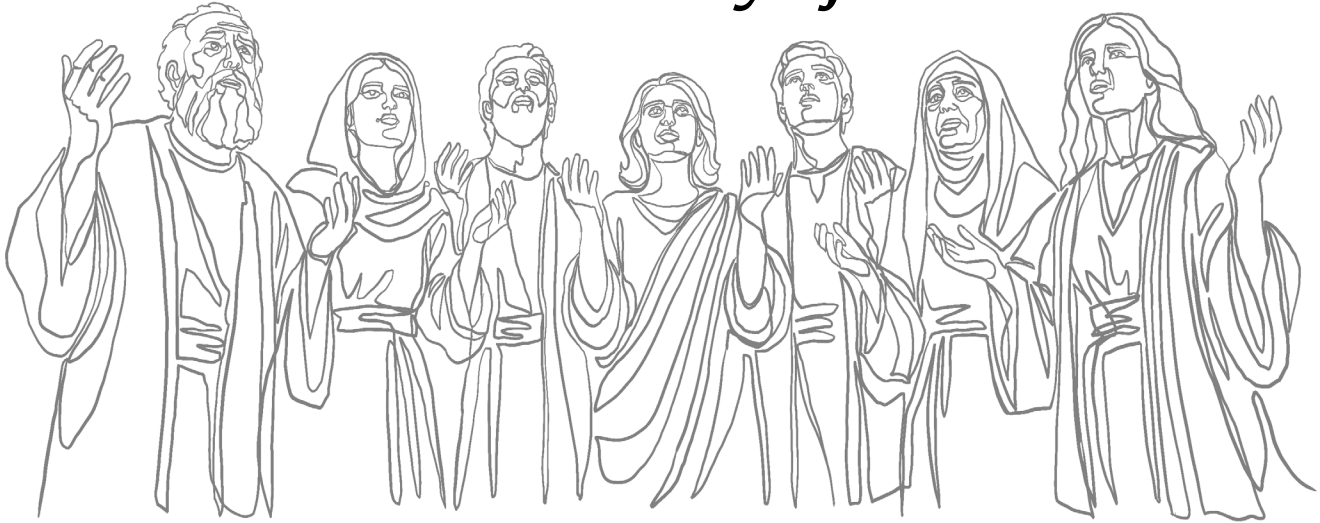


DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | *Romans 12:6-14*

"Christians are a body of believers..."



Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)

In an age of "Internet Orthodoxy," many people try to live the Christian life without joining an actual Church community. In today's epistle reading, however, St. Paul teaches that the Christian life requires us to join a fellowship of believers. We see this in three different ways. First, no single person possesses every Christian virtue. Today's reading opens by explaining that each one of us receives a different gift in proportion to God's grace. Some people excel at serving their neighbors humbly, while others serve as leaders with gifts for exhortation and encouragement. One person may "be constant in prayer," while another person has the gift of teaching. No single person has all these gifts. If we follow Christ by ourselves, then we follow him incompletely. Second, even if a single person were blessed and skilled enough to accomplish everything necessary, how would he have the time?

In the Long Rules #7, St. Basil the Great recognizes that devotion to one task invariably means neglect of others. If a person is fully devoted to teaching, how can he at the same time be available to show hospitality? How can one person be constant in prayer while also exhorting others or giving aid to those in need? Each day has only so many hours. If we are to accomplish all that is required, then we must work collectively, not individually. Finally, many Christian virtues require a neighbor to practice them. How can we show hospitality if we never encounter other people? How can we forgive our neighbor if there is no one around us to cause offense? Even monasteries base individual effort in collective striving. Monks and nuns each have different gifts, and like the rest of us they must exercise those gifts in community, not in isolation.

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: *Synkatabasis* (Συγκατάβασις) What does “Condescension” mean?

Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)



Condescension is generally seen as a bad thing, because it usually implies that a person is patronizing others by treating them as lower or less important. It is surprising, therefore, that our liturgical texts regularly

say that God has “condescended” to his people. The Greek term translated into English as “condescension” is *συγκατάβασις* (*synkatabasis*). To the Church Fathers, *synkatabasis* is not an insult, but an expression of God’s overwhelming love, especially in the Incarnation of Christ. The prefix *syn* means “with,” and *katabasis* means “descent.” God, therefore, does

not stand separate and apart from our weakness. Rather, when Jesus Christ appeared on earth, God “descended” and he was “with us.” As we ourselves spread the Gospel, we must imitate this divine condescension and “become all things to all people” (1 Corinthians 9:22). There is only one Gospel, but human beings are all different. No physician treats every patient the same way, and no teacher teaches all students the same way. For the Church Fathers, God is the wise teacher and skilled physician who “condescends” differently to every human being. We must do likewise. *Synkatabasis*, therefore, is not condescension in the arrogant sense. It is God’s loving method to bring the proper spiritual cure to each spiritual illness.

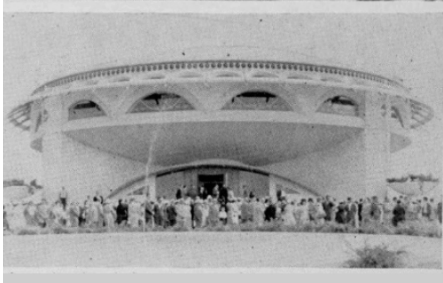
THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, WI



Ben Malian, MTS-Holy Cross

On July 2nd, 1961, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America celebrated the first Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Like many other mid-century Orthodox communities, Milwaukee’s Annunciation parish—one of the nation’s oldest, established in 1904—transitioned from its original, 1914 church building located downtown to a new home in the city’s western suburbs. What made this move especially unique, however, was the new church’s architect: Frank Lloyd Wright.



Clipping from the September 1961 issue of the Orthodox Observer.

A Wisconsin native, Wright designed just five religious buildings across a seventy-year architectural career. Reportedly aided by his wife, who was raised as an Orthodox Christian in Montenegro, Wright reimagined the Byzantine “cross-in-square” motif for Annunciation—the church’s dual-level, wholly circular nave is capped by a 106-foot-wide dome.

One of Wright’s last major commissions, planning for Annunciation began in 1956. In fact, Wright did not live to see his “little St. Sophia” finished, passing away in 1959 at the age of ninety-one. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, Annunciation remains an active place of worship serving Milwaukee’s Greek Orthodox community.

THE DIVINE LITURGY:

An Overview Part II

Fr. Thomas FitzGerald, ThD

In the early Church, only those who were baptized were permitted to remain for this most solemn part of the Liturgy. The Great Entrance with the gifts marks the beginning of this part of the Liturgy, as the offering of bread and wine is brought by the priest from the preparation table, through the nave, to the altar table.



Before the offering can proceed, however, we are called upon to love one another so that "with one mind we may confess" our faith. In the early Church, the kiss of peace was exchanged at this point. After the symbolic kiss of peace, we join together in professing our faith through the words of the Creed.

Only then can we offer our gifts of bread and wine to the Father as Jesus directed us to do in His memory. This offering is one of great joy, for through it we remember the mighty actions of God from whom we have received the gift of salvation. We invoke the Holy Spirit upon ourselves and upon our offering, asking God that the bread and wine become for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Through our thanksgiving and remembrance, the Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. The priest comes out from the altar through the holy doors with the Chalice, inviting

the congregation to draw near with "reverence of God, with faith, and with love." Our sharing in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) not only expresses our fellowship with one another, but also our unity with God in His Kingdom. We approach the Holy Gifts and receive the Eucharistic bread and wine from the common chalice. The priest distributes Holy Communion by means of a communion spoon. Since Holy Communion is an expression of our Faith, reception of the Holy Gifts is open only to those who are baptized, chrismated, and practicing members of the Orthodox Church.

The Liturgy comes to an end with the prayer of thanksgiving and the benediction. At the conclusion of the eucharist, the congregation comes forward to receive a portion of the liturgical bread, the "*andidoron*," which is the part that remains from the offering.



ACTION ITEM

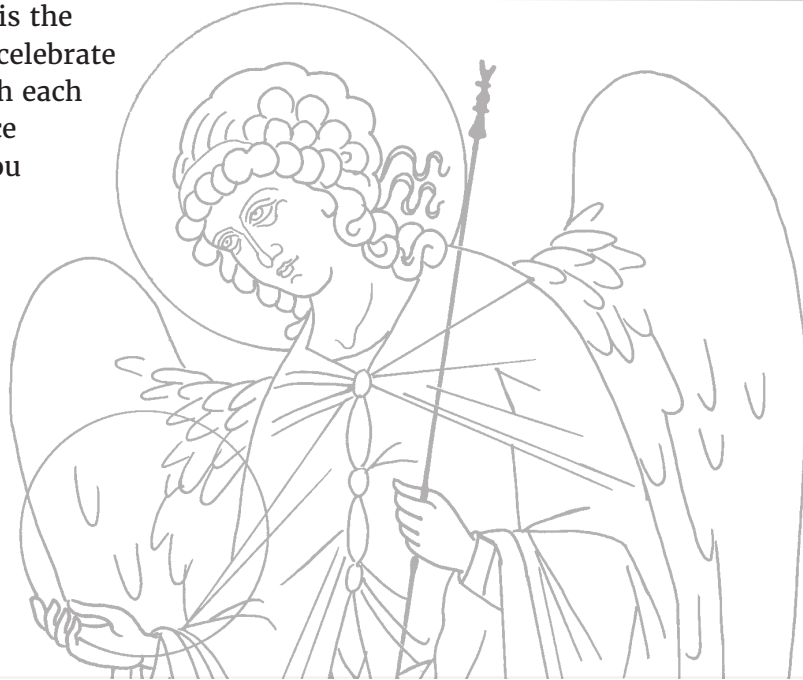
In the Divine Liturgy, intentionally pray the words as your priest says, "Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess," and silently ask God to help you grow in love for every person standing around you before the Creed is recited.



WORD SEARCH Cryptogram

Put your decoding skills to the test! Hidden inside this cryptogram is the name of someone who we will celebrate tomorrow. Use the key to match each number to a specific letter. Once you crack the code, see what you can learn about them!

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



Cryptogram Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	8	11	4	21	20	6	14	2	3	24	18	9	26	22	16	19	17	10	23	5	1	15	7	13	12

Secret Message:

15 21 11 21 18 21 8 17 25 23 21 23 14 21 10 13 26 25 7 2 10

22 20 25 17 11 14 25 26 6 21 18 6 25 8 17 2 21 18