

## Epistle Reading

### Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60



And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

## Gospel Reading

### The Gospel of Matthew 2:13-23



When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she

refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

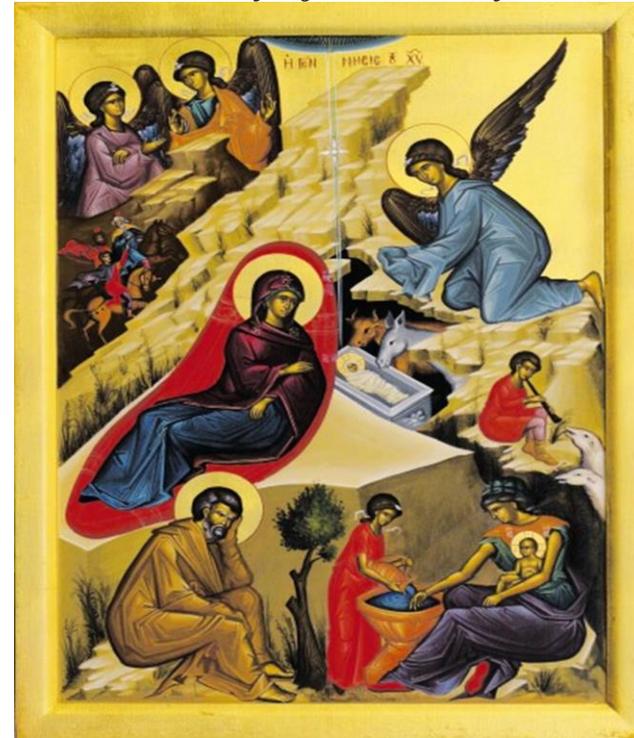


Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Salt Lake

[www.gocslc.org](http://www.gocslc.org); [Orthodoxy3@gmail.com](mailto:Orthodoxy3@gmail.com)

**Sunday, December 27th, 2015**

*Sunday after Nativity*



**To contact our clergy, please call the numbers listed below:**

**Reverend Father Matthew Gilbert: 801-556-1139**

**Reverend Father Elias Koucos: 801-556-4640**

**Reverend Father George Politis (retired)**

**Holy Trinity Cathedral: 279 S. 300 W. SLC, UT 84101, (801) 328-9681**

**Prophet Elias Church: 5335 Highland Dr. Holladay, UT 84117, (801) 277-2693**

## Sunday Services

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Holy Trinity:

Prophet Elias

**Sunday after Nativity**

Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Luke

Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Elias

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Holy Trinity:

Prophet Elias

**Sunday before Epiphany**

Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Matthew

Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Elias

## Weekday Service

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Prophet Elias:

**Circumcision of our Lord/Saint Basil the Great**

9:00am followed by Divine Liturgy Fr. Elias

## Memorials

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

|                       |          |              |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|
| Gus Paras             | 40 days  | Holy Trinity |
| George Zambos         | 6 months | Holy Trinity |
| Wilma Pappas          | 1 Year   | Holy Trinity |
| Mary Campbell         | 4 Years  | Holy Trinity |
| Ida (Diamondo) Vosnos | 23 Years | Holy Trinity |
| Angelo Pappas         | 42 Years | Holy Trinity |
| Helen Pappas          | 55 Years | Holy Trinity |

**When Scheduling Memorials...** Memorials must be scheduled through Fr. Matthew. For inquiries regarding memorials or to schedule one, please contact Fr. Matthew at 801-556-1139 or [matthewthepriest@gmail.com](mailto:matthewthepriest@gmail.com).

## Prayer List

Joan, Jim, Toula, Peter, Sara, Christine, Agnes, Irene, Alexia, Isaac, Mike, Sammy, Tami, Stephanie, Stella, Karri, Steve, Holly, Christian, Jamie, Cindy, Terry. Ben, Bob, Juliet, Margret, Charissa

\*If you would like to add a name to the prayer list you can do so by calling the main office at Holy Trinity at 801-328-9681.\*

## Accounting/Bookkeeping Position Available

Immediate opening available for a part time 25-29 hour Accounting Assistant position. Located at the Holy Trinity Cathedral office. Requirements are as follows; highly knowledgeable with all facets of QuickBooks, QuickBooks class coding, bank reconciliation, payroll processing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, invoicing, report processing, and other minor duties. If you meet these qualifications, please send a Resume to Connie Yengich at [conniegoc@gmail.com](mailto:conniegoc@gmail.com). Please contact Connie at 801-328-9681 or cell phone 801-793-9393 for all inquiries. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Office Administrator Position Available

There is a full time position available for an Office Administrator at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Qualified candidates must demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills, be well organized and able to handle multiple tasks. Duties include; weekly/monthly bulletins, assisting Clergy, website maintenance, excellent computer skills, self-starter, with minimal supervision. Candidate must be familiar with Microsoft Word, Publisher and Excel programs. Please send a cover letter and resume to [conniegoc@gmail.com](mailto:conniegoc@gmail.com) or contact Connie Yengich at 801-328-9681.

Merry  
Christmas



happy  
NEW  
Year!

## The office will be closed on:

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM FATHER MATTHEW**

### **WORDS FOR OUR SALVATION**

#### **ON BLESSING OUR HOMES WITH THE WATERS OF THEOPHANY**

The Orthodox Church teaches that we do not have two separate lives—a secular one and a spiritual one—but one life, and that all of it must be holy. We must not be Christians for just a few hours on Saturday and Sunday, spending the rest of our life godlessly, that is to say, without God. The person who has united with Christ in the sacrament of baptism cannot be a part-time Christian, but must be faithful to Christ everywhere and at all times—in church, at work, at home, in relationships with other Christians, and in those with non-Christians—we must be faithful to Christ in the fullness of our life.

Our Holy Orthodox Church teaches us that a temple is not only a building in which we worship, but that we are temples of the Holy Spirit; that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that we are the Body of Christ. And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels in the altar, so should every Christian's life be full of reverence and sanctity not only during a church service, but likewise outside the walls of the temple. A Christian's home must become a small temple, work—labor for the glory of God, and family—a small Church.

The Orthodox Church helps her children strive for holiness in their lives and brings sanctification to every Christian home—a small temple. The Church blesses the very foundation of a home in the same way that it blesses the foundation of a church, it blesses a new Christian home in the same way that it blesses a new temple, and yearly, after the blessing of a parish temple with the water of Theophany, the Church brings this holy water into the homes of the faithful. The prayers for the blessing of a temple are different from those for the blessing of a home, because the function of a home is different from that of a temple, but the sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit is one. And just as in the baptism of our Lord all of creation is washed clean and sanctified, every year after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Orthodox Christians sanctify themselves and their homes with the water of Theophany.

The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. And just as a temple and sacred vessels, once sanctified and set aside for sacred use, can no longer be used for anything profane, in the same way a Christian washed in the baptismal waters, and his home, and all his works can no longer be the dwelling of sin and the works of Satan, but only and always—the temple of the Holy Spirit and the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.

### **CELEBRATING THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

We are now in the period of celebration in honor of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is **NO FASTING** thru **January 4th**. Please remember, however, that **January 5th** is a **STRICT FAST DAY** in preparation for Theophany on **January 6th**.

### **A NEW YEAR - TIME FOR A SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP**

New Year's Day will come and go. Many of us will make New Year's resolutions, but what about our spiritual resolutions? Father Gabriel of the Pskov Caves Monastery in Russia says that, "one must discover the truth about oneself, and see oneself as one truly is. That is, you

must meet your own self. And believe me, it's an important acquaintance. A vast number of people live their lives never even bothering to discover themselves at all. Sometimes we only have the vaguest notions or fantasies of who we are, and so depending upon our own vanity, pride, resentments, and ambitions, we see nothing. But the truth, however bitter it might seem to us, is that we are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. And this truth only comes to us through scriptural and honest examination of oneself -- through true humility. For true humility does not humiliate a man."

### **SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF THEOPHANY INCLUDE:**

**FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY, Tuesday, January 5, beginning at 9am at Holy Trinity AND Prophet Elias: Royal Hours, Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil, Service of the Lesser Blessing of the Waters (Father Matthew at Holy Trinity; Father Elias at Prophet Elias);**

**HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, Wednesday, January 6, beginning at 9am at Holy Trinity AND Prophet Elias: Orthros followed immediately by Divine Liturgy, Service of the Greater Blessing of the Waters (Father Matthew at Prophet Elias; Father Elias at Holy Trinity);**

**SYNAXIS OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9am at Holy Trinity ONLY: Orthros followed immediately by Divine Liturgy, (Father Matthew Officiating; Father Elias Assisting)**

### **HOUSE BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR**

To all our pious faithful who wish to have their HOMES and BUSINESSES BLESSED with the SANCTIFIED WATERS of HOLY THEOPHANY: Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that I may visit and bless you at your homes and/or businesses. I am eager to spend time with each and every one of you. You can reach me on my cell phone at 801-556-1139.

As we prepare to have our homes blessed, may we remember that prayer is a request for what is good and beneficial to our soul, offered by the devout people of God. But we do not restrict this request simply to what is stated in words.... We should not express our prayer merely in syllables, but the power of prayer should be expressed in the moral attitude of our soul and in the virtuous actions that extend throughout our life... This is how we pray continually – not by offering prayer solely in words, but by joining ourselves to God through our whole way of life, so that our life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer!

### **TUESDAY MORNINGS WITH THE LORD**

Our TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY-- during which we continue to study the awesome Book of Revelation -- will resume Tuesday, **January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** at Little America. Why not make a resolution to join us in the New Year! We'd love to have you!

*Humbly in Christ,  
Father Matthew*

**Youth Weekly Devotional**  
**Listening to God — Walking With God**

**Psalm 81:8**

***“Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me.”***

My Dear Beloved Children I hope you all had a very Holy and blessed Nativity. May the joy and love our Lord brings fill your hearts and surround you always. I wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year with all Gods richest blessings. With the beginning of a New Year I thought we should discuss the opportunity to start a New Year in a way that would bring meaning, satisfaction and joy in our lives.

One of the most important lessons we can learn is how to listen to God. In our complex and hectic lives, nothing is more urgent, nothing more necessary, and nothing more rewarding than hearing what God has to say to us and obeying Him.

If we fail to learn how to listen to the Lord, we may make some very unwise and costly mistakes. A true conversation, of course, involves both talking and listening. Most of us do better with the talking part. We need to talk to God but we need to spend as much time listening to what He was saying to us. You may ask, “Does the Lord really speak to us today?” The Bible assures us that He does. The book of Hebrews opens this way: “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son” (Heb. 1:1, 2). Our God is not silent. Our heavenly Father is alive and active. He speaks to us individually and in a way that we can hear Him, we need to receive His message, and obey Him. He is infinite, fully capable of communicating with each of us, right where we are—in the midst of our circumstances—in a very personal way. God is serious about His relationship with us. He speaks for our benefit, and it is important for us to listen to Him and respond in obedience. Sometimes He will challenge us to change our thinking or to release certain unhealthy feelings and opinions. Sometimes He will command us to change aspects of our behavior. Yet with every instruction He gives, we can be certain it is for our good. He desires to encourage and mature us so that we might live with greater joy and strength. He also wants to transform us into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ—helping us to become the very best you can be. Learning to listen to God through the reading of His Word is the most important thing we can do because there is no other way to enjoy the amazingly wonderful abundant life He offers.

Therefore, let us pay close attention to what He has to say, and He will certainly “tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jer. 33:3). Let us begin the New year talking to God and listening with an open heart to follow in His ways. Happy New Year!

In His Love,  
+fr. elias

**Annual Outdoor Blessing of the Water**

Wednesday, **January 6th** will be our annual outdoor blessing of the water at Sugarhouse Park at 3:30 at the main pond. Parking in the first parking lot you pass when coming around followed by Dinner after the blessing at a place to be announced. Please dress warm and plan on joining with everyone to share in a very rewarding and edifying spiritual gathering.

I will also be available to do house blessings along with your place of business. Please call me to set up a date and time. I would love to share the time with you and bless your homes and business. My cell is [801-556-4640](tel:801-556-4640)

Happy New Year with all God’s richest blessings

In His love and service,

+fr elias

**A Great Big Thank You With love and gratitude:**

On behalf of our Jr. and Sr. GOYA’ns and myself I would like to express our deep appreciation to **Ted, Roula, Kaliope Sargetakis and Bill, Joanne and Mihali Sergakis** for hosting the annual Christmas GOYA parties at their homes. The atmosphere and surroundings were very festive, exhilarating and very joyous. The hospitality was second to none. Thank you so much for making the Christmas Season so fun and enjoyable. May our Lord return a hundredfold the blessings you so willing gave. I would also like to thank our Youth whose generosity supplied two very big bags of needed glove, hats and socks for the Road Home. God bless.

+fr. elias

**DECEMBER YOUTH MINISTRY SPEAKERS AND READERS**  
**DECEMBER 27, 2015**

**Prophet Elias:** Speaker: Stanley Kouris      Epistle Reader: TBA

**Holy Trinity:** Speaker: Sophia Skedros      Epistle Reader: Bella Papadopoulos

## **GOYA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FOR SAT., January 9, 2016**

### **No games until January 9, 2016**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at Prophet Elias 10:00am

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at St. Thomas Moore 11:00am

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls at Prophet Elias 11:00am

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at Prophet Elias 2:00pm

9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at St. Vincent 2:00pm

**Attention Juniors and Seniors in High School  
Before you decide what to do with your life...  
Decide what to do with your summer!  
Apply Today for CrossRoad 2016!**

### **CrossRoad Summer Institute**

- Quench your thirst for knowledge
- Explore your vocation
- Dive into Orthodox Theology and Scripture with some of the best professors in the country
- Build lifelong friendships

Step outside your comfort zone to encounter Christ in the face of your neighbor

### **CrossRoad offers two sessions:**

- June Session: **June 18th - June 28th, 2016**
- July Session: **July 5th - July 15th, 2016**

Application priority deadline is **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.

Apply online or download an application at [www.crossroadinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadinstitute.org)

## **Annual Outdoor Blessing of the Water**

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I will also be available to do house blessings along with your place of business. Please call me to set up a date and time. I would love to share the time with you and bless your homes and business. My cell is [801-556-4640](tel:801-556-4640)

Happy New Year with all God's richest blessings

In His love and service,

+fr. elias

## **Saint Sophia School**

Enrollment for Toddler Tuesday is now open for 2016. Please call the school office today to enroll.

When: **January 5<sup>th</sup> - May 10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Time: **9:00 AM-11:00 AM Tuesdays**

Why: To experience a creative, hands-on, child centered program for parents and toddlers ages 18 months to 2 1/2 years. (Parent or responsible adult must attend).

Please call or stop by with any questions or to request a Toddler Tuesday packet sent to your home.

Thank you,  
Ms. Mary  
Toddler Tuesday Teacher  
**801-424-1297**

**Save the Date**

**KIDS CORNER**

**AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Dinner Show and Dancing  
Featuring the Fabulous

Synthesi Bouzouki Band  
And  
Recording Star Aphrodite Vlasserou

More information to follow or call  
**Jim Klekas at (801) 971-6060**

**PROSFORO MINISTRY COMMITTEE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS**

A special THANK YOU to Sophie Wondolowski for dedicating her time and talent in the Prosforo ministry for the past 35 years. She has baked, trained, and coordinated the gift of Prosforo to Prophet Elias Church for more than 35 years. She is turning over the reigns to others on December 31st.

That being said, the Prosforo ministry committee is in need of volunteers to offer baking two to four loaves of Prosforo once a month at Prophet Elias. Please contact Mary Yannias @ [801-671-3591](tel:801-671-3591) or [maryyannias@yahoo.com](mailto:maryyannias@yahoo.com) to get involved in this ministry. There will be a demonstration and details on how to prepare Prosforo on Saturday, January 9th at 10am. Address is 4755 Wander Lane, Holladay. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Preparing Prosforo is a beautiful offering to Christ and brings many blessings to you and your family.

