



St. Elias the Prophet

Greek Orthodox Church

September 2009

Newsletter

St. Elias the Prophet Greek Orthodox Church, 46 Calle Electra, Santa Fe, NM 87508
Rev. Fr. Demetrios Demopoulos, Proistamenos

(505) 466-0015

FAX: (505) 466-0015

E-Mail: fdemetri@zianet.com

Web Site: <http://www.stelias.nm.goarch.org>

Orthodoxy is life; one cannot talk about it, one must live it.

Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year: Day for the Protection of our Natural Environment

Protocol 63/09
September 1, 2009

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We give thanks to God for the beginning of this Ecclesiastical New Year and for His abundant blessings, which fill our hearts with gratitude, deepen our faith, and strengthen our souls. The date of September 1 on our calendars marks the beginning of many things in our lives. For some, it presents the beginning of another academic year filled with worthy goals and challenges. For others, it is the return from summer vacation with refreshed bodies and minds, and renewed commitment to vocation and responsibilities. For those who work in agriculture, this date marks the beginning of the agrarian year and the tasks of planting, nurturing, and harvesting.

For Orthodox Christians, September 1 begins a new liturgical year in which we participate in the life of the Holy Church through Her divine services. September 1 is also the date that has been designated by our Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate as the Day for the Protection of our Natural Environment. For more than one reason, the joining of our observance of this Day with the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year is significant, as it guides us in understanding the important relationship between our world created by God and our Orthodox Christian faith.

First, as human beings, it is within our world that we experience communion with God through our worship in the divine services of the Church. Our natural environment calls us to be in communion with God and with others. God brought the natural world into existence out of nothingness and He then created humankind within the natural environment for a harmonious coexistence and fellowship. While this harmony was interrupted through the sin and disobedience of man, our God, out of His great love for us, entered into His creation as flesh and blood in order to redeem us and all that is under the bondage of sin and death, restoring the harmonious fellowship.

Second, through the liturgical life of the Church we are not only strengthened in our journey of life but we also become aware of the great spiritual significance of our natural environment. This happens through the usage of purely material elements, as the bread and the wine, in the most holy Mystery of the Divine Eucharist which as the Body and Blood of Christ unites us with God Himself. Here, the spiritual and physical relationship is significant. We are both physical and spiritual beings, created for life, and blessed with the ability, unique only to human beings, to worship our Creator within a natural environment that not only provides for our basic physical needs, but also enables us to experience perfect communion with God.

[Continued below]

Dates to Remember

3 September: Adult Education – 6::30pm in the Hall
9 – 12 September: Fr. Demetri is in Denver
13 September: Parish Council Meeting following Liturgy
16 – 23 September: Fr. Demetri is in Farmington
24 September: Adult Education – 6::30pm in the Hall

Sacraments and Services

Trisagion

A Trisagion was sung on 16 August for the repose of the soul of Athena Patsalis. May her memory be eternal.

Website!

Visit our website for more information on what's happening at St. Elias: www.stelias.nm.goarch.org.

St. Elias Online Bookstore

We have opened an online bookstore in association with the Orthodox Marketplace. Go to our website, <http://www.stelias.nm.goarch.org>, and click on the link to the St. Elias Bookstore. You can shop on line for books, icons, gifts, cards, and many other things. St. Elias will receive a 10% commission on each purchase at our store.

St. Elizabeth's Shelter

Let's not forget those who are less fortunate than us. There will be a basket on the table at the entrance to the Church for monetary donations to St. Elizabeth's Shelter. All donations will be used to buy food to feed the residents of the shelter. Thank you for your understanding and your generosity.

2009 Parish Council

Kerry Tramontanas Parish Council President, Niki Constantaras Vice President, Anastasia Stevens Secretary, Eva Kurtz Treasurer, Mary O'Brien Assistant Treasurer, Irene Krokos, and Diane Tintor.

Coffee Hours and Prospora

There will be a sign up sheet in the hall for volunteers to bake Prospora for the Divine Liturgies in August and September, and to host the coffee hours. Please sign up for whatever you can do in August and September. Please remember that the coffee hours do not need to be fancy nor do they have to be lunch. The whole point of the coffee hour is fellowship not food.

Adult Education Sessions

We are continuing a series of Adult Education classes to help us learn more about our faith. The classes are being held each Thursday at 6:30pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is invited to participate. We will begin reading *The Orthodox Way* by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware.

Stewardship

The 2008 budget called for stewardship proceeds of \$63,500, and we came very close to meeting it. As of 28 December we have pledges totaling \$56,902.00, and payments of \$62,761.39. The 2009 budget calls for an increase in stewardship income to \$65,224. We can do it if we our minds to it.

Everyone should have received a pledge card in the mail. Please fill it out and mail it in, or leave it in the basket when you come to church. If you have not received a pledge card, please let us know and we will send you one, or pick one up in church. Remember, pledges don't have to be paid at once. It's often easier to pay a little each week or each month than pay one large lump sum.

Everyone needs to raise their stewardship pledge to meet the needs of the community. Please think about a substantial raise so that we can do the good work that the Lord has called us to do.

As of 27 August we have received pledges totaling \$39,170.00 and payment totaling \$44,177.00. We can do better!

Parish Council News

The Parish Council did not meet in August.

2009-2010 Planner Available

The desk calendar for the ecclesiastical year of 2009-2010 is available for \$13.95 at the St. Elias Online Bookstore. Published each year by the Department of Youth Ministry, it begins on 1 September 2009 and ends on 31 August 2010. It provides daily Bible readings and the saints commemorated each day of the year. If you would like a copy of the Planner, but do not have access to the internet, please see Fr. Demetri who will order one for you.

Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go out to Ignatios Patsalis and his family on the passing away of his mother, Athena, in August. May God give her rest and life to us.

Ignatios has requested that memorial donations be made in her memory to the St. Elias Iconography Fund.

Travels with Father

Fr. Demetri will be away from the Parish from Wednesday, 9 September, through Saturday, 12 September, so that he can attend the Metropolis Council Meeting. There will be no Great Vespers on Saturday, 12 September, but Sunday services will be celebrated as usual.

Fr. Demetri will also be away from the Parish from Wednesday, 16 September, through Wednesday, 23 September while he ministers to the mission community in the Four Corners. There will be no services at St. Elias while he is away. The church will be open, however, at 10:00am on Sunday, 20 September for anyone who would like to light a candle and say a prayer. Those who wish to attend the Divine Liturgy may attend any of the Orthodox churches in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, or Los Alamos.

Prospora and Coffee

September:

Tuesday, 1st: **Indiction**
Prosporon: Presbytera Meredith

Sunday, 6th: **13th Sunday of Matthew**
Prosporon and Coffee: Eva Kurtz

Tuesday, 8th: **Nativity of the Theotokos**
Prosporon: Mary Santikos

Sunday, 13th: **Sunday Before the Holy Cross**
Prosporon: Presbytera Meredith Coffee: Frederika Vaupen

Monday, 14th: **Elevation of the Holy Cross**
Prosporon: Niki Constantaras

Sunday, 20th: **Sunday After the Holy Cross**
No Liturgy at St. Elias; Fr. Demetri is in Farmington

Saturday, 26th: **St. John the Theologian**
Prosporon: ?

Sunday, 27th: **1st Sunday of Luke**
Prosporon: Diane Tintor Coffee: Helen Skinas

October:

Sunday, 4th: **2nd Sunday of Luke**
Prosporon: ? Coffee: ?

Sunday, 11th: **4th Sunday of Luke**
Prosporon: ? Coffee: ?

Sunday, 18th: **St. Luke the Evangelist**
Prosporon: ? Coffee: ?

Friday, 23rd: **St. Iakovos the Apostle**
Prosporon: ?

Sunday, 25th: **6th Sunday of Luke**
Prosporon: ? Coffee: ?

Monday, 26th: **St. Demetrios the Great Martyr**
Prosporon: Fr. Demetri

Sunday Bulletins and Announcements

In order that everyone be notified of announcements, and receive the weekly Sunday Bulletin, we need your email addresses. If you have not received the Sunday Bulletins by email and want to be included in the listserv and receive the bulletins and be included in the parish email directory, send your email address to frdemetri@zianet.com. Fr. Demetri is the only one with access to the listserv and to the email directory.

Albertson`s Community Partners

The new cards are available at the Church. They can be picked up during any scheduled service, or contact Fr. Demetri for other arrangements.

Present the card when purchasing groceries at any Albertson`s, and St. Elias will receive a percentage of the purchase price. This is an excellent way to give back to the community while doing essential shopping.

Recycling for St. Elias

We have an opportunity to raise money for our community by recycling toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges. When it's time to get a new cartridge, please bring the used one to church, in its packing if possible, and we will recycle it. Every bit that we recycle means more funds for our church. Please help with this free and painless way to raise money and protect the environment.

Wanted: Weather-beaten Adobe Blocks

Roy Wroth is looking for weather-beaten adobe blocks or bricks to use in lining sections of the church grounds. If you have access to anything he may be interested in, please contact him at 660-9476.

Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year (cont.)

Finally, our liturgical life and our life in the world cannot be considered as separate spheres of existence, but as one realm of living and relationship. In the services of the Church, we are called to liturgy, to a collective work as a people that will be our vocation for eternity. Within the Church, we strive for deeper communion with God, and we nurture our relationships of faith and love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our natural environment is also dependent upon our faith inspired work as a people, specifically as stewards of what God has created. We have been called to oversee and protect the natural environment. This requires cooperation with others in a spirit of love and fellowship. It also requires that we appreciate the impact of our actions and inactions, and that we cherish the beauty, function, and purpose of all that God has created, consistent with the manner by which we invoke His holy name in our worship of Him.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is on this day of the inauguration of this Ecclesiastical New Year, it is at this time, that all of us are called to think seriously about what St. Paul said to the Corinthians: behold, now is the happily acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Let us then, hear this apostolic saying as a call to an enhanced participation in the liturgical life of our Church, to a renewed relationship to our natural environment, and to a deeper understanding of the preciousness of the time given to us by our God and Creator.

With paternal love in Christ,

+ D E M E T R I O S
Archbishop of America



**Liturgical Calendar
September 2009**

**Εορτολόγιον
Σεπτεμβρίου 2009**

Tue	1	Indiction Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Sat	5	Great Vespers – 6:00pm
Sun	6	Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew The Miracle at Colossae of the Archangel Michael, St. Kalodoti the Martyr Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Mon	7	Great Vespers – 7:00pm
Tue	8	Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Sun	13	Sunday Before the Holy Cross Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, Forefeast of the Holy Cross, St. Cornelius the Centurion Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Great Vespers – 7:00pm
Mon	14	Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Strict Fast Day
Sun	20	Sunday After the Holy Cross St. Eustathios the Great Martyr, St. Eustathios Archbishop of Thessaloniki, St. John the Stranger, St. Hilarion the New Martyr No services at St. Elias; Fr. Demetrios is away.
Fri	25	Great Vespers – 7:00pm
Sat	26	St. John the Theologian Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am
Sun	27	First Sunday of Luke St. Kallistratos the Martyr, St. Aristarchos the Apostle, St. Akylina the Martyr Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Τρι	1	Αρχή τῆς Ἰνδίκτου Ορθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ
Σαβ	5	Μέγας Εσπερινός – 6:00μμ
Κυρ	6	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΓ΄ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ Ἡ ἀνάμνησις τοῦ ἐν Κολοσσαῖς θαύματος τοῦ Ἀρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ. Τῆς Ἁγ. Μάρτυρος Καλοδότης. Ορθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ
Δευ	7	Μέγας Εσπερινός - 7:00μμ
Τρι	8	ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ Ὁρθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ
Κυρ	13	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ Μνήμη τῶν Ἐγκαίνιων τοῦ Ἱ. Ναοῦ τῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἀναστάσεως. Προεόρτια τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ. Τοῦ Ἁγ. Μάρτυρος Κορνηλίου τοῦ Ἑκατοντάρχου.. Ορθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ Μέγας Εσπερινός - 7:00μμ
Δευ	14	Η ΥΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ. Ορθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ Ἐν τῇ τραπέζῃ νηστεία.
Κυρ	20	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΥΨΩΣΙΝ Τοῦ Ἁγ. Μεγαλομάρτυρος Εὐσταθίου. Τοῦ Ὁσ. Εὐσταθίου, Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Θεσσαλονίκης. Τοῦ Ὁσ. Ἰωάννου τοῦ Ξένου Τοῦ Ὁσ. νέομάρτυρος Ἰλαρίωνος. Ο Ναός δεν λειτουργεῖ, λείπει ο Πρ. Δημήτριος
Παρ	25	Μέγας Εσπερινός – 7:00μμ
Σαβ	26	Τοῦ Ἁγ. Εὐαγγελιστοῦ Ἰωάννου τοῦ Θεολόγου.. Ορθρος 8:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00πμ
Κυρ	27	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Α΄ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ Τοῦ Ἁγ. Μάρτυρος Καλλιστράτου, τοῦ Ἁγ. Ἀποστόλου Ἀριστάρχου, τῆς Ἁγ. Μάρτυρος Ἀκυλίνης. Ορθρος 9:00πμ Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00πμ