



ST. ELIAS MARONITE CHURCH

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Liturgy Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, December 21, 2013

5:00pm

Lovie and Vincent Salvagio (anniv.) req. by the Family
Oscar Wehby (anniv.) req. by the Family

Sunday, December 22, 2013

8:00am

Habib and Dora Butrus Family

10:30am

Peggy Antoun req. by Joseph and Paulette Boohaker

Today at St. Elias

10:10 am Rosary for the sick and for peace

7:00 Christmas Novena (concludes Monday night)

Monday 8:00 am – Lillian P. Harrison req. by Father Richard and Parish

Tuesday 8:00 am Rose Hawie (anniv.) req. by the Family

Confessions 11-Noon and 2-4 pm

5:00 pm Christmas Liturgy for All Parishioners

Wednesday- Christmas Midnight Liturgy –For All Parishioners

10:30 am- For All Parishioners

(Weekday Liturgy at 8:00 am)

Thursday- Felicitations to the Virgin Mary –Marguerite Panopoulos req. by Jean Ann Hancock

Friday – For a Blessed Marriage for Chris and Chelsea

Saturday, December 28, 2013

5:00pm

Norman Habshey req. by Sidney and Denise Wehby

Sunday, December 29, 2013

8:00 am

Sam and Lily Boackle, req. by the Family

Norman Azar (40th day) req. by the Family

10:30 am

Nazha S. Boohaker (anniv.) req. by Joseph and Paulette Boohaker and Family

SICK CORNER

Please pray for our parish sick: Carol & Cyril Bergeron, Stephen Dabney, George & June Gray, Eddie & Joyce Mizerany, Sierre Zaidan, Georgia Shalhoop, George & Ann Stephen, Hixie Stephens, Sheila Wadsworth, Ron Matthews, Leslie Smith, Zyne Family. St. Elias will NOT list the name of our parish sick unless it is specifically requested to be on the Sick List. Call 251-5057 to be on our list.

Join the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** group for knitting, crocheting, and praying. Planned meetings are the 1st Wednesday of the month after the Altar Society luncheon. Call Pat Numnum (408-7411) or Renee Ritchey (942-2202) for more info.

The Saint Elias Columbarium: The Niches in the Columbarium are for sale. If interested, please come to the Church Office or contact Louis Josof or Mary Milton. Trappist Monks urns are now for sale here.

The St. Elias Centennial Brick Walkway extends from the Northside parking lot to the Grotto. Purchase your brick today to be a lasting part of your Church. You can pick up your form in the church office. **See new Bricks that have been installed!**

Bishop Elias to visit us! Bishop Elias will make his first visit to St. Elias on the weekend of March 28-30, 2014. Details of the weekend will be announced later.

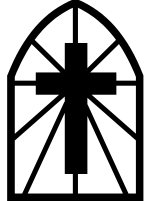
The **bulletin and calendar** are back on the web in color! Go to www.stelias.org to see the new website. It is still a work in progress, but we think you will be pleased to see our new webpage.

Kitchen Renovation Update: The Church Kitchen is almost finished!!

1. All of our new and old kitchen equipment has been placed by Bresco, Stephens' Plumbing and Canterbury Electric. All of the new equipment is electric.
2. The final step to use the new kitchen will be a punch list that the contractor and architect (Joe Aboujouade) will review.
3. It will take some time to learn how to use the new equipment and treat the new floor.
4. Much of the old equipment is still there, but in a different place
5. The dedication of the new kitchen will follow when Bishop Elias comes in March
6. The dumpster is gone and we have been cleaning the whole areas where the workers inside and out.

Endowment Fund The only loan the church has ever had (for the capital campaign construction projects) has been paid off. Fulfillment of your pledge commitments and future contributions made, including memorials, will now go toward funding the endowment. The Endowment Fund will ensure that money will be available in the future for major improvements or repairs to the church property. Thank you for your generosity and we will look forward to the "burning of the mortgage!"

Eternal rest grant unto her....parish sympathy is extended to the family of Joe Harrison whose mother, Lillian P. Harrison, died and was buried in Houston this past week...**and let perpetual light shine upon her and all the souls of the faithful departed.**



Congratulations...Professed faith in the Catholic church at St. Elias.....Jessica Lynn Bridgman; **Baptized and confirmed** at St. Elias....Luke Edward Pierce, son of Michol and Rita (Ghossein) Pierce. Best wishes and prayers for a long and blessed life in the Lord at St. Elias.

Parish contribution envelopes are available in the back of the church. If you were missed, there are more available in the church office. The first envelope covers the cost of the calendars and **The Maronite Voice** which you receive in your home. Maronite calendars are also available – please, one per family. We are looking for more people to help with **Project Roots**. People wanting to work can call Michel Wehby or Chorbishop Richard. Workers will be paid by the Project Roots program for each family.

Christmas 2013 At-a-Glance

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 2013

5:00 pm Liturgy- For All Parishioners

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2013

Midnight Liturgy- For All Parishioners

10:30 am Liturgy- For all Parishioners

Confessions

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

11:00 am - Noon and 2:00-4:00 pm

Announcements

YOUTH CORNER: Check out our web site at www.maroniteyouth.com

Check out the Pope's website: Pope2you.net.

Jr. MYO: Thanks for all who delivered Angel Tree gifts and parents who drove. Dec. 26 After Christmas Party at the Henley's.

MYO: Thanks for the Christmas program luncheon and opening our new kitchen.

MYA: Thanks for going to the retreat!

STEWARDSHIP

*"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."* Luke 12:34

CONTRIBUTIONS:

December 15, 2013: \$7,843.00

Eparchial Christmas Appeal: \$383.00

Feast of the Immaculate Conception \$71.00

Christmas \$100.00

Capital Campaign update: Pledges: \$2,978,718;

Received: \$2,618,675; Outstanding: \$360,043

School Subsidy Reminder to parents of children who are subsidized to pay at least ½ of subsidy for your children before December. **Don't forget!** Your church, St. Elias, is paying for your child every month. All subsidies must be in my April, 2014.

Remember your Church in your gift giving.

St. Elias already has an account set up to receive stock donations at Wells Fargo. Gifts of other appreciated assets such as land, antiques, and homes can be utilized as potential gifts with tax benefits. Consult your accountant to pursue these options. **Don't forget your church in your year-end giving!**

St. Elias is still looking to obtain any property on 9th Avenue South that would benefit us in the future.

Bishop Shaheen created the **Legacy Society** to recognize individuals who name the Eparchy or a parish with Eparchy as a beneficiary in a will or estate plan. Please remember your Eparchy and parish.

Altar flowers may be donated by calling LaVonne Williamson.

The new St. Elias parish directories are available in the church office! Inserts only are \$5. A new binder with an insert is \$10. Please call Mary Milton at 823-2022 for any changes or corrections in your information.

St. Elias 16th Annual Food and Cultural Festival is set for April 25-26, 2014. Mark your calendars now. Cooking dates will be announced soon.

Altar Servers' Schedule

All Christmas Liturgies – Those who practiced

Saturday, December 28, 2013

5:00 pm Frank Money and Daniel Bolus

Sunday, December 29, 2013

8:00 am John Resha and Daniel Boackle

10:30 am Harris Bolus and Andrew Spray

No Altar Servers' practice Saturday at 10:00 am.

Pope's Prayer Intention for December:

Prepare the Savior's Coming. That Christians, enlightened by the Word Incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Savior's coming.

Library Exhibit....Christmas books to be read in the library: Bishop Elias ordination & installation.

Thank you, St. Elias family for your generosity regarding the Angel Tree. You donated \$6,400 to the orphans in Lebanon; you donated \$860 in gift cards to the Catholic Center of Concern; you provided Christmas for 35 at-risk children; you gave 25 bags of supplies to Mary's House which is a House of Hospitality for homeless families; you enabled a homeless woman to get started in her own apartment.

Pastor's Message

Christmas isn't just a season; Christmas should stay in your heart all year long.

That is my theme this Christmas – to take the feeling of Christmas to your heart. There is no other day like Christmas in the church calendar or in our family calendar. Why is it? Spiritually we gather in large congregation to celebrate the Feast of December 25. We keep the 12 days of Christmas to inspire us this year to learn the holy events of Christmas. The prophecy of Isaiah was correct – The Virgin will bear a Son and His name will be Jesus.

Finally, whatever your faith is, Christmas teaches us a very special day. The shopping has ended – we are at one with our family with a common family gathering and to open/give gifts and, after going to church, eating this special meal together.

It is a day – one day which we do not want to end. If we take to our hearts what has happened on that day of Christmas- the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ- who would be our Lord and Savior, our lives could change every day this year because of Christmas. "Christmas comes again" every day if you open your hearts to Him.

