

**Українська Католицька  
Церква Св.Родина**

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**Holy Family Ukrainian  
Catholic Church**

**Pastor:** Fr. Olvian N. Popovici

225 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
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**Parish Center:** (631) 225 - 1203

**E-mail:** [olvianpopovici@yahoo.com](mailto:olvianpopovici@yahoo.com)

**Trustees:** Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

Nadiya Moskalyuk (631) 579-1519

**Choir Director:** Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

**Advisor:** Gloria Tolopka (631) 667-6483

**Sunday Divine Liturgies:** 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

**Weekday Divine Liturgies:** 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

**Holy Days Liturgy:** 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

**No. 28/17**

**CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**

**July 16, 2017 / Липень 16, 2017**

**DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:**

**July 16, 2017, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** *The Holy Priest Athenogenes and Ten Disciples (284 – 305).*

**Tone 5: Epistle: Romans 12:6–14. / Gospel: Matthew 9:1–8.**

**9:00 am – Pro Populo – English.**

**10:00 am – (God's Blessing upon Volodymyr Chornomidza & Family, req. Nadia Chornomydza) – Ukrainian**

**Note: This week Sanctuary Candle Light will be in Memory of † Olha Hudziy, req. Nataliya Popovici**

**Monday, July 17, 2017.** – *The Holy Great Martyr Marina. Passing into Eternal Life (1944) of Blessed Tarsyia (Matskiv) of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Martyr.*

**7:00 p.m.** - Thanksgiving to God for Tulba Family, req. Family

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017** – *The Holy Martyr Hyacinth of Amastris.*

**9:00 am** – † Yuriy Hudziy, req. Tulba Family

**Wednesday, July 19, 2017** – *Our Venerable Mother Macrina, Sister of Saint Basil the Great (379).*

**7:00 p.m.** – † Zoya/Panakhayda/ {Anniv.}, req. Oksana Balukh

**Thursday, July 20, 2017** – *The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah.*

**7:00 p.m.** – † Deceased Members (*Special Intention*)/Panakhayda/, req. by Mothers in Prayer

**Friday, July 21, 2017** – *Our Venerable Father Simeon, the Fool for Christ.*

**9:00 a.m.** – † Mykola Bojuk; † Marta Bojuk, req. Stefania Bojuk

**Saturday, July 22, 2017.** – *The Holy Myrrh – bearer and Equal-of-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene.*

**5:00 p.m.** – † Bohdan/Panakhayda/, {Anniv.}, req. Yaroslava Smolenets

**6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Вечірня)**

**July 23, 2017, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** – *The Holy Martyrs Throphimus, Theophilus and Those with Them (284 – 305).*

**9:00 am** – († Yuriy Hudziy, req. M/M Martin Smith) – **English.**

**10:00 am – Pro Populo – Ukrainian.**

**Confessions:** Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or after the Divine Liturgy.

**Baptism and Chrismation:** By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

**Marriage:** Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance. *Attendance at pre - Cana is required.*

**Ukrainian Culture School** will be closed for the summer and will resume on September 9, 2017. For more information please call the Rectory at (631) 225 - 1203 or visit our web page: [ukrainskaschkola.com](http://ukrainskaschkola.com).

**Ukrainian Cultural Dances** will be closed for the summer and will

resume on September 9, 2017.

**Religious Education:** Classes for religious education will resume on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Rev. Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

**Pray the Rosary:** The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian Divine Liturgy.

**Mothers in Prayer:** Next prayer group will be held on **August 4, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Rectory Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Evenings by appointment. **Attention: Monday** is a free day for the priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

**Divine Liturgy:** Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

**Divine Liturgy for Children:** Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language) for family/children will be held on **Sunday August 6, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.** All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline:** Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

**Bequests:** In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

**New Parishioners:** Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

**Change in address or telephone?** Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

**Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.**

**Sunday Collection – July 9, 2017.**

"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." (Sir. 35: 9 – 10).

Candles: \$185, Tetrapod: \$3, Holy Days: \$ 20, Sundry: \$10, Annual support: \$50, Donation: \$15, Coffee: \$135, Peter's pence: \$5, Pyrohy: \$36, **Bishop's Appeal - \$480.00.**

**Pledge: \$565.00, Sunday Offering: \$1,142.00, Total - \$2,646.00.**

**Dear Parishioners:** Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday, July 9, 2017. May God bless you all for your generosity.

**Our Prayer:** Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.

**Attention: To all who celebrate their birthday** during the month of July, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.

**Our Church News:****1. Upcoming events:**

**A. July collections: Regular church cleaning:** The next free will donations will be collected **today** July 16, 2017.

**B. Stewardship Council and Pastoral Council will have a meeting on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.** This is a request and invitation for all of you who would like to take part in the life of the Church and also take part in preparations for our 2017 Parish Picnic .

**C. August 12 – 13, 2017 - pilgrimage to Sloatsburg, N.Y**

**D. August 27, 2017 - our Parish Picnic**

**2. We wish to express our sincere thanks to** Mr. Martin Smith who voluntarily performed much needed repairs in our church and rectory this past week. May God bless all those who volunteered or made donations and may He reward you with His choicest Blessings.

**3.** We wish to express our sincere condolences to Mrs. Nancy Baransky and her Family on the loss of her mother, † Patricia Klose, who fell asleep in the Lord. May her memory be everlasting.

**4. Dear parishioners,** we look forward to the Pilgrimage in Sloatsburg, scheduled for August 13, 2017. The available transportation for the trip is both our church minivan that seats 15, and my own minivan that seats 7. Please contact Mrs. Halyna Podolska if you would like to attend. We ask for a \$10.00 donation per person to help defray the cost of the trip. However, if more people were to go, we would have to order a bus. This will result in a \$30 charge per person.

**5. Dear Parishioners a few sets of Vestments require cleaning.**

Please make an extra donation to keep our vestments in good condition. Thank you in advance for your generosity at this time.

Please mark your donation "Vestment Cleaning".

**The 2017 Stamford Bishop's Appeal.** Each member of our Parish is also a member of the Eparchy (Diocese) and should participate by supporting the Stamford Eparchy. The following parishioners have already contributed:

**\$200.00 – M/M Bogdan & Emilia Shafranski**

**\$100.00 – M/M Ihor & Olesia Warywoda**

**M/M Orest & Nancy Baransky**

**\$40.00 – M/M Ihor & Nadia Koretska**

**\$20.00 – M/M Vladimir & Iryna Popovych**

**M/M Viktor & Yelizaveta Neyman.**

**(To date - \$2,600.00 toward the Parish Goal of \$3,000.00)**

**May God bless you for your generosity with choicest Blessings!**

**News from our Diocese and other Parishes:**

**1. St. Vladimir's Annual Parish Picnic to be held on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** St. Vladimir is located at 226 Uniondale Ave., Uniondale, N.Y. Ukrainian Food, Raffles, Music, Activities and Games for children. More information is attached to our Church Bulletin.

**2. St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church will hold a Chicken Barbecue on Sunday, August 6, 2017 between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.** St. John the Baptist is located at 820 Pond View, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901. More information is attached to our Church Bulletin.

**Its Faith and Life.** By Anthony M. Coniaris

**What We Believe About the Divine Liturgy: THE BREAD**

**OFFERING OR PROSFORA:** Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51). St. Paul writes, "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (I Cor. 11:24). Jesus is the bread of life Who offers Himself for our salvation. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:53-54). The significance of the bread may be explained as follows. The offering bread represents Jesus Who is the Bread of Life. In many Slavic churches, instead of one loaf, five small loaves are used to commemorate the five loaves which Jesus blessed and multiplied. Bread is used not only to represent Jesus Who is the Bread of Life, of which if any man eat he shall never hunger, but also to express the offering of our life to God. The Greek word for offering bread is *prosfora* which means an offering to God. Bread is used as an offering because it represents life. It is the staff of life. Once consumed it becomes part of us, i.e., our flesh and bones. Thus in bringing the loaf of bread to God, we are, in effect, offering our life to Him. It is the gift of our love. The priest accepts the gift and places it on the holy altar. This act represents God accepting our gift. It now passes into His possession. God is so pleased with the gift of our life that He transforms it through the Holy Spirit and gives it back to us as His Precious Body. Thus it is that communion with God results. We give ourselves to God and He, in turn, gives Himself to us. We come to the liturgy not just to receive Christ but also to give ourselves to Christ.

**WHY BREAD?**

Some may object: "What meaning can a small loaf of bread have in the eyes of God? If you are going to give God a gift, don't give Him something that symbolizes life. Give Him your very life surrendered to His will." To understand this, let us use an illustration. Suppose there is a little girl – say four or five – who sees her father give to her mother a birthday present at breakfast. It's Mummie's birthday! Then she too will want to give her mother a birthday present. What can she do? She wanders out into the garden and there the bright yellow glow of a dandelion flower catches her eye. It is only a weed, really: but she does not know that. To her it is a pretty flower. So she plucks it, toddles into the house and gives it to her mother as a birthday present. The mother, of course, is delighted. Why? Does she want a dandelion? Obviously not for herself – it has no value. But it is a gift from her daughter; and because it is a gift it has meaning. It means the love of that little girl, and that is why it is so precious to the mother. Clearly, then, a gift which is poor in value such as a dandelion can be rich in meaning because of what it expresses; what it means. And so it is with us and God. We give Him a present. In itself this present consists of a round loaf of bread – a very small value! But because it is a gift, it bears the meaning we put into it. We should, then, make it mean all that we can in the way of praise and love; we should put ourselves into that bread just as the child put herself into the flower. Then it will be precious to God as the flower was to the mother.

## Benefits of the Divine Liturgy.

### *...continued from previous Bulletin...*

When the faithful prepare themselves, they receive within themselves worthily Christ Himself. Our Lord is He who cleanses the soul of man and He who makes it a Temple of the Holy Trinity. The second fruit of the Divine Liturgy is the communion of the Holy Spirit. Man has communion with the Holy Spirit only when he accepts the true Faith in Jesus Christ, and when he remains in the original Church of Christ. There are two things that cast the Holy Spirit away from man, namely sin and heresy. The Holy Spirit cannot be present where there are sins and heresies. Sin is every deed that man commits against God's Will, and heresy is the distortion of the word of God. In the book of the Wisdom of Solomon, we read: *"For the Holy Spirit of discipline will flee deceit and remove from thought that are without understanding and will not abide when unrighteousness comes in"* (Wisdom of Solomon 1:5). When the faithful gather together in one place to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the mystery of the Church is expressed. The faithful as members of Christ and His Church are in direct communion with the Holy Spirit. Whoever cuts himself off from the true Church cuts himself off from the communion with the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Himself warns us, saying: *"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me, you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in Me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned"* (John 15:4-6). He who knows the Truth, and consciously remains in heresy, commits a sin which guides him to eternal Death. *"As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is selfcondemned"* (Titus 3:10-11). The third fruit of the Divine Liturgy is the fulfillment of the Kingdom of Heaven. Our Lord teaches us: *"nor will they say 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you"* (Luke 17: 21). God's Kingdom is fulfilled when man opens his heart to God and allows Him to enter into his life. There is a famous religious painting which shows Christ knocking outside on a door. Critics who examined the painting found a big error. They accused the painter of omitting the lock and handle from the door. When asked how one can enter a door without a key, the painter replied that man must open the door from the inside of his heart to let Christ in. Christ always knocks on our doors by giving us the opportunities to open the door to Him, but ultimately the choice rests upon us. When Christ enters into man's soul, man still has to struggle continually against evil in order to keep Christ inside himself. In this manner the Kingdom of God is fulfilled. Man becomes the Temple of God, and God the centre of man's life. The fourth fruit of the Divine Liturgy is "confidence before Christ and not in Judgement or condemnation." When man partakes frequently of the Holy Eucharist, man has confidence in front of God. Christ, our Lord, teaches us *"no longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing;*

*but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from MY Father I have made known to you"* (John 15:15). By participating in this Holy Sacrament, we are transferred from a servant to the friend of God. This is the purpose of our lives – that is to become friends with God, which also means to be sanctified by His Grace and in His Church. It is very important to understand that this is possible only when we are in His true Church. If we cut ourselves off from the true Body of Christ, the result is what our Lord describes: *"When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us'. He will answer to you 'I do not know where you come from'. Then you will begin to say, 'we ate and drank in Y our presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity'"* (Luke 13:25-27).

This fourth fruit has two parts: the first part starts here on earth, and the second part continues after death. In this earthly life man has the opportunity to accept the Truth in order to become a member of Christ's Body, and to practise His Commandments. After death, whoever has accepted the Word of God fully, will be saved and will inherit the Kingdom of God. The Truth of Christ liberates man as it is written in the Gospel of St. John: *"And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free"* (John 8:32). If anyone rejects the Truth, they will be condemned by the Word of God. *"He who rejects Me and does not receive MY sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day"* (John 12:48). The faithful who practise the Commandments of God in their lives and participated in the sacramental life of the Church have the hope of salvation. *"For this is the will of MY Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:40). Whoever wants to be saved and not be condemned at the Last Judgement, should utilise their opportunities daily to pray, frequently repent and confess and become conscientious Catholic Christians. After death, there are no opportunities for repentance, because the condition then is that of Judgement. *"And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes Judgement"* (Heb. 9:27).

Let us now see how the Priest has to prepare himself for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The Priest, to have the right to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, must prepare himself by praying and if is necessary by fasting and repentance. The Priest is the minister and deacon of man's salvation. The Priest separates himself from the world of sin and he dedicates himself to the Holy Trinity. The purpose of his priestly service is first to give the faithful encouragement to live a sinless life in Christ. Secondly, the priest encourages the faithful to accept Christ into their lives; and thirdly, the priest guides the faithful to sanctification under God's Grace and Power. St. Gregory the Theologian teaches us that *"the priestly service is the incarnation of the prophetic preaching."* The priest reveals to man the new life which our Lord Jesus Christ promised man. The priest becomes the hand through which God offers man the true life in Jesus Christ, as He says: *"I am the Light of the world"* (John 8:12). The Divine Liturgy is the Sacrament through which the life of Christ is offered to the

faithful. For this reason it becomes the centre of the Service. This vital service is not symbolic, but it is a reality which the Priest has to live up to in his daily life. The priest must sacrifice himself by denying every sinful pleasure that life offers. This sacrifice cleanses the Priest in body and soul, and is fulfilled in the Holy Sacrament of Confession. St. Theognostos reminds the Priest with the following words: *“You who became worthy of the Divine and respectable Priesthood, must sacrifice yourself by death of bodily passions, and then must have courage to approach the Lifegiving sacrifice, if you do not want to be burnt by the Divine Fire as flammable wood.”* This sacrificial way is the act of repentance. Another prerequisite of the Priest before celebrating the Divine Liturgy, is to forgive all those who trespassed against him. In the Divine Liturgy, there is nothing done without meaningful reason. It is not only symbolic, but it is a true remembrance of the work of salvation which was offered by our Lord Jesus Christ. To benefit from the fruits of the Divine Liturgy, each person must prepare himself accordingly. To become worthy of the peace which God offers, we must make peace with God, with our conscience and our fellow man. When we fight every form of sin, repent and confess, we make peace with God. With our fellow man we make peace by loving one another. This Love must be put into practise. Without practical Love, man cannot have peace and he cannot understand the greater meaning of the essence of Christianity. Our Lord teaches us: *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13: 35). This love of God and our fellow man must be followed by the true Faith in Christ, so that we will enjoy the communion with the Holy Spirit. Faith and deeds always go together; they are united but undivided. It is a very big mistake that some people make by believing that they are good Christians, but they never put a foot in Church. Or, on the other hand, they come to Church, but they don't practise the Commandments of God, and they don't forgive those who trespass against them. As long as we have time in this life, we have to utilise it for our salvation. The Love of God is open for all those who want to accept it.

### **Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah - July 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God. Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: *“When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.”* The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety. During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would

cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land. During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan.

There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarepta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil.

Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow. After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God. The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his.

Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: *“Truly, the Lord is God!”* Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth. King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave. The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in *“a gentle breeze”* (3 Kings 19: 12).

He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal. Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot.

The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit. According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world. The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

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