

ST. ELIJAH ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WICHITA AND MID-AMERICA
15000 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73134

JANUARY 31, 2010

Issue 22

Number 5

Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Saints of the Day: Unmercenaries Cyros and John; Martyrs Athanasia of Egypt and her daughters Theodota, Theoktiste and Eudoxia; Martyr Papias of Corinth; New-martyr Elias; Nikita of the Kiev Caves, bishop of Novgorod

DIRECTORY

V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Nasr
Senior Priest 749-8491

Rev. Fr. Jeremy Davis
Assistant Priest 625-0675

Rev. Dn. Ezra Ham
Administrator 602-9914

Erin Learned
Youth Director 410-9456

Al Mamary
Choir Director 364-8904

Mom's Day Out 639-2679
Leigh Baker - Director

Church Office 755-7804

Church Website
www.stelijahokc.com

Church Email
stelijah@stelijahokc.com

St. James Stillwater Mission
Fr. Basil McMurry 282-1515

St. Andrew OKC Mission
Fr. Mark Wallace 410-3196

**DYNAMIS: Daily Bible Readings
for Orthodox Christians at**
www.dynamispublications.org

Ancient Faith Radio
ancientfaith.com

WORSHIPPING THE ALL-HOLY GOD

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

PRAYER ON ENTERING THE CHURCH

I WILL COME INTO THY HOUSE IN THE MULTITUDE OF THY MERCY: AND IN THY FEAR I WILL WORSHIP TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify thee forever, One Divine Power worshipped in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER ON LEAVING THE CHURCH

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

O Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house.

When you enter the church, please remember that the church is a place of worship. Please do not disturb others as they worship God.

WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS

We welcome all our visitors. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us. You may find the worship of the Ancient Church very different. We welcome your questions. Please join us for our Reception held in the Church Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We understand **Holy Communion** to be an act of our unity in faith. While we work toward the unity of all Christians, it regrettably does not now exist. Therefore, only baptized Orthodox Christians (who have properly prepared) are permitted to participate in Holy Communion. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread that is distributed at the end of the service. We look forward to meeting you during the Reception that follows the service.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

VARIATIONS IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

USING THE WHITE LITURGICAL BOOKS – TONE 1

A

The 1st Antiphon:

As usual...

B

The 2nd Antiphon:

As usual...

C

The 3rd Antiphon:

**Troparion of the Resurrection –
Tone 1, pp 91-92**

D

The Entrance Hymn:

O come let us worship...

E

**Troparion of the Resurrection –
Tone 1, pp 91-92**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world; for which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy Kingdom; glory to Thy Providence, O Thou Who alone art the Lover of mankind!

Troparion of St. Elijah, p 26

F

**Kontakion of the Presentation of our
Lord – Tone 1**

Thou, who didst sanctify the virginal womb by thy nativity and didst bless the hands of Simeon, hast come this day and saved us, O

Christ God. Grant peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

G

The Thrice-Holy Hymn

H

THE READINGS

THE EPISTLE

**Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.**

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (6:12-20)

Brethren, "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" – and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun

immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.

THE GOSPEL

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
(15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had sent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But the son was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

I **The Megalynarion**

It is truly meet...

J **The Koinonikon**

Praise the Lord...Alleluia.

K We have seen the true light...

OFFERINGS

HOLY BREAD is offered by Gary and Patrice Rahill for their good health and the good health of the Rahill, Saied, and Hart families. It is especially offered for the blessed marriage of Jase and Tassidy Rahill. May God grant them many years.

HOLY BREAD is offered by Jennie and Nicole Thomas for their good health and the good health of Eddie Thomas, Virgel and Danielle Smith, and their families. It is especially offered as a one-year memorial for their husband and father Ed Thomas. May his memory be eternal.

HOLY BREAD is offered by Amos Ham for his good health and the good health of the Ham and Hightower families. It is especially offered for

his wife Brittany on the occasion of their first anniversary. May God grant her many years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME. We welcome all visitors. We are delighted you are worshipping with us and look forward to meeting you personally.

WELCOME to the following new catechumens: Raymond and Beverly Heckard; Vandie Newman; Don, Mary, Katherine, Joseph, Ruby, and Aidan Pendergraft; Chris Waters and Christina Leslie. Along with other catechumens whom we have welcomed in the past, they are studying to become members of the Church in due time. Anyone who wishes to learn more about joining the Church is encouraged to attend our Intro to Orthodoxy Seminar which will begin in April after Pascha.

COFFEE HOUR is hosted by Ladies Aid. Please join us in Naifeh Hall after Divine Liturgy. Visitors are especially welcome.

SYMPATHY is extended to Mike and Denise Mettry and family on the repose of Denise's father Raymond Albert of Elk City last Monday. May his memory be eternal.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly elected or re-elected Parish Council members:

- Bob Maness
- Dr. Sam Musallam
- Erick Porter
- Dr. Jim Stewart
- Mike Worku

Many thanks to our continuing Parish Council members, and congratulations to our 2010 Parish Council Officers:

- Trey Kouri, Chairman
- Dr. Gary Rahill, Vice Chairman
- Dr. Tad Shadid, Secretary
- Dr. Raymond Cohlma, Treasurer
- Craig Abraham, Assistant Treasurer
- Harvey Homsey
- John Larson
- Mike Malone

- Mike Spivey
- Kory Warr

May God grant them many years.

MANY THANKS to our outgoing Parish Council Members Mickey Homsey and Dr. Paul Massad for their years of dedicated service to the church. May God grant them many years.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly elected 20/40 Fellowship Co-Leaders for 2010: Leigh Cohlma and Johnny Jones III. May God grant them many years.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jase and Tassidy Rahill who were married yesterday. May God grant them many years.

EVENING DIVINE LITURGY for the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple will be celebrated at 6:30pm tomorrow, February 1. Come and celebrate this great feast of the Church, and bring a potluck dish to share afterward.

TUESDAY MATINS is cancelled this week due to Monday night's Divine Liturgy.

SAVE THE DATE! The Ladies Guild upcoming event is "Taste and See" this Tuesday, February 2, from 6-8pm at Strelbel Creek Vineyard. More details to follow.

20/40 FELLOWSHIP will gather at 7pm on Monday, February 8, at the home of Fr. Constantine and Kh. Sharon (14709 Brasswood Parkway, Edmond). Main dish will be provided; please bring a meatless salad, side, dessert, or beverage (fish, dairy, and alcohol OK). Please call Kh. Sharon (749-8491) for more info.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP. Fr. Constantine will be offering a five-week Marriage Encounter on Tuesday evenings beginning February 9. This workshop is required for couples who are planning to get married at St. Elijah (if they have not already participated in it), but is also open to married couples who want to strengthen their relationship and anyone interested in learning more about the practicalities of Christian marriage.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE. We will provide scholarships for two teens from St. Elijah to attend the Antiochian Village camp in Pennsylvania. This is a great opportunity to meet people from around the Archdiocese. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Constantine.

MANY THANKS to everyone who donated to our Haiti Relief Fund. To date we have raised \$5,089.60. This money will be sent to the Archdiocese, who will forward it to International Orthodox Christian Charities for their relief work.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to each and every one of you who helped prepare and deliver the casseroles for Community Connections on Saturday, January 23. It was truly a Team Effort and a Big Success! We made a total of 22 large and 11 small chicken spaghetti casseroles to take to our community agencies, The Ronald McDonald House and the YWCA Battered Womens Shelter, as well as our St. Elijah Community. On behalf of the Community Connections and myself, I'd like to say THANK YOU for taking the time to help with this rewarding project. It would not have been so successful without all your hard work and labor of love. God bless you.

Your sister in Christ,
Tami Simon

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK
WEEK OF JAN. 31-FEB. 6**

Cookie Deeba	Lucy Shanbour
Raegan Coffey	Neil Woodward
Erika Kouri	Olivia Holdsworth
Mark Loftis	Gary Rahill
Mary Sweis	John Klopp
Nazek Sweiss	Sydney Farris
Chris Waters	John Wilson
Dina Hammam	

Pilgrimage 2010

Fr Joe & Leslee Abud are organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Mt Sinai, August 17-31, 2010. The tour will be accompanied by His Grace Bishop BASIL. For more information please email Laabud@aol.com.



COFFEE HOUR

Below is the schedule of those who have volunteered to host coffee hour on upcoming Sundays.

<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
7 – Adult Fellowship	7 – Ladies Aid Lenten Dinner
14 – Hospitality Comm.	14 –
21 –	21 –
28 –	28 – Palm Sunday

**ALTAR SERVER ATTENDANCE
CHALLENGE UPDATE**

More than halfway through the Server Attendance Challenge, each team has had the chance to earn 100 points. The current standings are below. Keep in mind that the teams can still earn 50 more points before the challenge ends in June. It's still anybody's game, so make sure to serve on your assigned days!

In the Lead, with 71 points:

Team 3 (Peter Shadid, Captain)

#2 with 64 points

Team 4 (Jamin Ghata, Captain)

#3 with 62 points

Team 1 (Brent Wilson, Captain)

#4 with 56 points

Team 2 (Brandon Cohlmia, Captain)

Team 5 (Nathan Shadid, Captain)

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!
COMING SOON!**

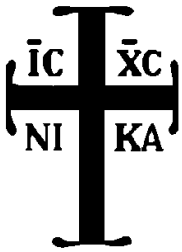
Go to www.stelijahokc.com for information regarding our new pictorial directory and to find the link to sign up online for your photo appointment. If you do not sign up, someone from LifeTouch will be calling to make an appointment with you.

Seniors Valentine's Day Luncheon and Bingo

*Let us honor our seniors. All Parishioners
Husbands or wives 55 and over, their
caregivers, and all clergy welcome.*

*Wednesday,
February 17th,
12 Noon
Naifeh Hall*

***COME AT NOON FOR FOOD,
FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN***



Make a good start to Lent with...

Pure Week Services
The First Week of Great Lent

Sunday, February 14, 5pm
Forgiveness Vespers
(nursery provided)

Monday, February 15, 7pm
Great Compline
with the Canon of Repentance

Tuesday, February 16, 7pm
Great Compline
with the Canon of Repentance

Wednesday, February 17, 6:30pm
Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten
potluck (at St George Church)

Thursday, February 18, 7pm
Great Compline
with the Canon of Repentance

Friday, February 19, 7pm
Salutations (Akathist) Service
to the Theotokos

Sunday School Scoop

Students and teachers, please remember to stay quiet as you assemble in the Narthex for Communion. We want to be sure we are reverent for the most important part of Liturgy!

Also, don't forget Lent is just around the corner. It's never a bad time to start discussing fasting as a family.

Do you know WWJL? (What We Just Learned?)

1. Who was the Roman Emperor when Jesus was born?
2. Mary and Joseph were both descendants of what king?
3. Where did Joseph and Mary live?

Upcoming Lessons and Events

Next Sunday, February
7th:

"Jesus and John"
Pre-Read: Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:2-8; Luke 3:1-10

Upcoming Events:

February 14th:
Forgiveness Vespers

WAMP
(aka Winter Camp)
registration
forms are here!
**They are due
TOMORROW**

**Teen Chats
7 to 9
This Wednesday.
Be there, or else.
(Trust me, you don't
want to know.)**

Roses are red,
And most Valentines are
too.
If you have a sweetie,
We've got good news for
you.

The Valentine dinner
Is just weeks away.
So talk to Erin,
And save your spot today.

Your sweetie will love it
And think you are great
For taking her out
On such a nice date!

Camp St. Raphael 2010!
YABOY!

Camper and staff
applications for this
summer **ARE NOW ONLINE!**

Please log on to
www.campstaphael.org and
print your forms. As you
know, spots fill up fast,
so don't delay!

Children ages 9 to 17 are
eligible to be campers.
If you are in need of
camper scholarships,
please see Erin or one of
the priests.

Attention One and All!

**It's that time of year again: time
for the SOYO Valentine Dinner.
So mark your calendar for
Saturday, February 6th, and
be ready for a wonderful evening
filled with food and LIVE music!
Teens, please be here at 3:00 to
help set up!**

Worship and Spiritual Life

Every Sunday – Sunday School after Communion – Adult Class at 9:30 am. **No classes during the summer.**
Matins at 9:20 am – Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am Bible Study – Thursdays at 10:30 am; nursery provided
Every Saturday – Vespers at 5 pm followed by Confession Every Wednesday – Confession by appointment

Study

ST. ANDREW FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm. Runs in 8-week blocks. A full Program of Seminars and Classes for Adults, Children and Youth for both Orthodox and Non-Orthodox.

Fellowship & Parish Development

Coffee Hour – Sundays following the Divine Liturgy 20/40 Fellowship – 2nd Monday at 7 pm
Ladies Aid – 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1 pm Teen Chats – Wednesday Nights during Family Night
Adult Fellowship – 3rd Saturday following Vespers Ladies Guild – as scheduled and announced
Parish Council – every 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm Choir – see Al Mamary
St. Barnabas Ministries – 1st Monday at 10:00 am

Membership

To become a member you need to pray with us at our worship services, complete the Inquirer's Classes, pledge your financial support, and meet with our priests. We welcome you on your journey of faith and invite you to learn of the ancient and unchanging Holy Orthodox Church.

JANUARY 31, 2010

USHERS: Sam Assaleh, Michael Buzan, Aarron Fraysur, Larry Hare, Waleed Moujaes, Bobby Prater, David Shanbour, Brandt Spivey

ALTAR SERVERS: Brandon Cohlmiia, Deeb Haddad, Jay Cohlmiia, Jake Kouri, Tate Hammersley, Preston Silvernail, Alec Karam, Anthony Ene, David Tamirat, Adam Sweis

EPISTLE READER: Nick Hathaway

ELDERS: James Farha, David Farris, George Abyad, Jeff Massad, Dr. Sam Musallam, Danny Shadid

KANDELIFT: Dr. David Shadid

PARISH COUNCIL: Dr. Paul Massad

**DEADLINE FOR THE
BULLETIN IS 5:00 PM ON
TUESDAY.**

CALENDAR

Monday

Feb. 1 St. Barnabas Ministries 10:00 am
Divine Liturgy – The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 6:30 pm

Tuesday

Feb. 2 **CLERGY RETREAT IN WICHITA
(Thru Friday)**
NO MATINS
Exercise 8:30 am
Cultural Ministries 7:30 pm
OCF @ OU 9:00 pm

Wednesday

Feb. 3 Teen Chats 7:00 pm

Thursday

Feb. 4 Exercise 8:30 am
Orthodox Study Fellowship 10:30 am

Friday

Feb. 5 Exercise 8:30 am

Saturday

Feb. 6 Vespers 5:00 pm
SOYO Valentine Dinner 6:30 pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP FAITHFULNESS

“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38