

# HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



July 14, 2024

Sunday of the Fathers of the Six Ecumenical Councils

The Holy Apostle Aquila

# July 14, 2024

## Schedule of services for the week of July 15– July 21

<b>Tuesday, July 16</b>	– <i>The Holy Hieromartyr Athenogenes and his Ten Disciples</i>
2:00 PM	– Veneration of the Relic of St. Jude
6:00 PM	– Vespers Liturgy in honor of St. Jude
9:00 PM	– End of Veneration of the Relic of St. Jude
<b>Saturday, July 20</b>	– <i>The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elias</i>
9:00 AM	– Divine Liturgy
4:00 PM	– Confessions
5:00 PM	– Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, July 21</b>	– <b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Our Venerable Fathers, Symeon of Emessa, the fool for Christ's sake and John, his companion; The Holy Prophet Ezekiel</b>
7:30 AM	– Matins
9:00 AM	– Divine Liturgy

“Bring them to me.” Jesus miraculously fed the thousands by blessing the loaves and the fish. To do this, he asked his followers to gather and bring the food to him. He still uses us as his servants, particularly those men and women who are monastics, as well as through men called to holy orders. Is this something God is calling you or someone you know to? Contact the **Vocations Office** at 206-329-9219 or email: [vocations@ephx.org](mailto:vocations@ephx.org)



### Blessing of Automobiles Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

It is a custom of Eastern Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 21<sup>st</sup>), as he ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot.

### **EPARCHIAL APPEAL CONTINUES**

The goal for our parish is \$25,210.00. We ask all members of our parish to help contribute to the appeal. You received a large envelope with the Bishops letter and list of goals for the parishes of our Eparchy. **If we make our goal 10% will come back to our parish and if we exceed our goal we will receive it back. Do whatever you can to help our Eparchy to do Christ's work!**

We have 72 registered household so the average per household is \$350.00

If you cannot give the full amount, please give what ever you can so that we can have 100% participation.

### **Goal Reached!**

**We have met our Goal! Our current total now stands at: \$25,930.93 which is 103% of our goal.**

### **O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:**

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Karen Horn, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Margaret Nguyen, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasmak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Margaret Raya, Maha Salazar, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

## SEEING HIM IN THE SACRAMENTS

“...As they (Luke and Cleopas) came near the village to which they were going (Emmaus), he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...” (Lk 24: 28-31)

On the way to Emmaus, two of Christ’s disciples, Luke and Cleopas, are joined by the risen Lord, Who “expounds to them in all the Scriptures concerning Himself” (Lk 24: 27). At this point, however, they do not recognize Him, although “their hearts burned within them” while He talked (Lk 24: 32). Their eyes are finally opened, and they are given the gift of “seeing” Him only later, when “He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.” His resurrection was the beginning of a new era, the time of the Church in which we are given the gift of “seeing” Him on a new, sacramental level. We “see” Him in the sacraments, particularly in “the breaking of bread” that is, the Eucharist.

My heart does indeed “burn,” hearing the Word of God. But this Word prepares me for a deeper “vision,” to “see” the risen Lord as these disciples “saw” Him, through physical participation in His “breaking of the bread” This is why our Divine Liturgy consists first of the Liturgy of the Word, when we hear the Epistle and Gospel readings, and then the “blessing, breaking, and giving” of His Bread, in Holy Communion.

On this Sunday let me both hear His Word and partake at His table, as the disciples did. He can, and He does, open my eyes as He did theirs, because “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebr 13:8)

*Reflections with Morning Coffee*  
Sr. Vassa Larin

*Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy; Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady; high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away:*

– 2 Timothy 3:1-5

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How mistaken are those people who seek happiness outside of themselves, in foreign lands and journeys, in riches and glory, in great possessions and pleasures, in diversions and vain things, which have a bitter end! It is the same thing to construct the tower of happiness outside of ourselves as it is to build a house in a place that is consistently shaken by earthquakes.

Happiness is found within ourselves, and blessed is the man who has understood this.

Happiness is a pure heart, for such a heart becomes the throne of God. Thus says Christ of those who have pure hearts: “I will visit them, and will walk in them, and I will be a God to them, and they will be my people.” (II Cor. 6:16) What can be lacking to them? Nothing, nothing at all! For they have the greatest good in their hearts: God Himself!

*(St. Nektarios of Aegina, Path to Happiness, 1)*

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*The soul that loves God has its rest in God and in God alone. In all the paths that men walk in the world, they do not attain peace until they draw nigh to hope in God.*

*(St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 56, 89)*

# IF YOU FEEL LAZY ABOUT GOING TO MASS, MEET PADDY THE IRAQI

Tom Hoopes | Jul 07, 2018

[aleteia.org](http://aleteia.org)

A martyr of our own day, his love for the Eucharist is like that of martyrs down the centuries ...

When I told the story of hero priest Father Ragheed Ganni to summer camp students at Benedictine College last month, I had to pause to regain my composure.

“I had no idea,” said a student in the back. “And sometimes I complain that I don’t feel like going to Mass!”

Now, 11 years after his death as a martyr, the sainthood cause for Father Ganni has been introduced.

Father Ragheed first came to international notice two years before his death, in 2005, when he spoke in Bari, Italy, at a Eucharistic congress.

That is when he explained what happened to his sister.

“On June 20 of last year, a group of young women were cleaning the church to get it ready for Sunday service. My sister Raghad, who is 19, was among them,” he said.

“As she was carrying a pail of water to wash the floor, two men drove up and threw a grenade that blew up just a few yards away from her.”

It was a miracle that she survived, but what happened next was even more extraordinary.

“For me and my community, my sister’s wounds were a source of strength so that we, too, may bear our cross,” he

said. “Mosul Christians are not theologians; some are even illiterate. And yet inside of us for many generations one truth has become embedded: without the Sunday Eucharist we cannot live.”

Ganni spoke fluent Italian, after spending seven years in seminary in Rome. The Iraqi homeland he re-entered after his ordination in 2001 was very different from the one he left.

After the U.S.-led invasion ousted Sunni leader Saddam Hussein, Iraq became hostile territory for Christians. The Islamist violence was pervasive and constant, targeting liquor stores at first, then churches, then Christians everywhere.

In his 2005 remarks, Ganni said, “Last August in St. Paul Church, a car bomb exploded after the 6 p.m. Mass. The blast killed two Christians and wounded many others.”

He added that the event was a “miracle” because only one bomb of many planted in a car went off. “Had they all gone off together the dead would have been in the hundreds since 400 faithful had come on that day.”

He also shared the story of the destruction of Our Lady of the Tigris Shrine on the vigil of the Immaculate Conception. “This and fundamentalist violence against young Christians have forced many families to flee,” he said.

Father Ganni also had an opportunity to flee.

He studied at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, where he made fast friends with Irish seminarians with whom he spent summers in Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, since he was banned from going home. Journalist Ed West described how his friends called Ragheed “Paddy the Iraqi” and arranged for the Irish hierarchy to offer him a parish after he was ordained in 2001.

Father Ganni refused. He was needed at home.

“That is where I belong, that is my place,” he said.

His emails to friends always begged urgently for prayers.

“His church was blown up. Their house was blown up. He was saying Mass in the basement. He continued on,” his friend, Father Don Kettle told West.

In one heartbreaking story, Ragheed was administering First Communion to children in the basement of his church as the sound of gunfire outside filled the room, terrifying the children.

Father Ragheed, frightened but calm, told the kids that the sound was fireworks celebrating their big day.

“The terrorists might think they can kill our bodies or our spirit by frightening us, but, on Sundays, churches are always full,” he said in Bari. “They may try to take our life, but the Eucharist gives it back.”

“There are days when I feel frail and full of fear. But when, holding the Eucharist, I say ‘Behold the Lamb of God, Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world,’ I feel His strength in me,”

he said. “When I hold the Host in my hands, it is really He who is holding me and all of us, challenging the terrorists and keeping us united in His boundless love.”

Two years later, on July 3, 2007, Father Ragheed was driving away from his church with his cousin and, in the car behind him, two deacons and one deacon’s wife.

Local thugs stopped the cars and dragged the woman away. One approached Father Ragheed, shouting, “I told you to close the church, why didn’t you do it? Why are you still here?”

“How can I close the house of God?” asked Ragheed.

The men were shoved to the ground and shot.

When the faith rebounds in our time — and it will — we will have heroes like Father Ganni to thank.



## Saying from the Saints

### St. John Chrysostom on Scripture

“The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts.”

### St. Nektarios of Aegina on Faith

“Christian religion is not a certain philosophic system, about which learned men, trained in metaphysical studies, argue and then either espouse or reject, according to the opinion each one has formed. It is faith, established in the souls of men, which ought to be spread to the many and be maintained in their consciousnesses.”

### Elder Cleopa of Sihastria on the Cross

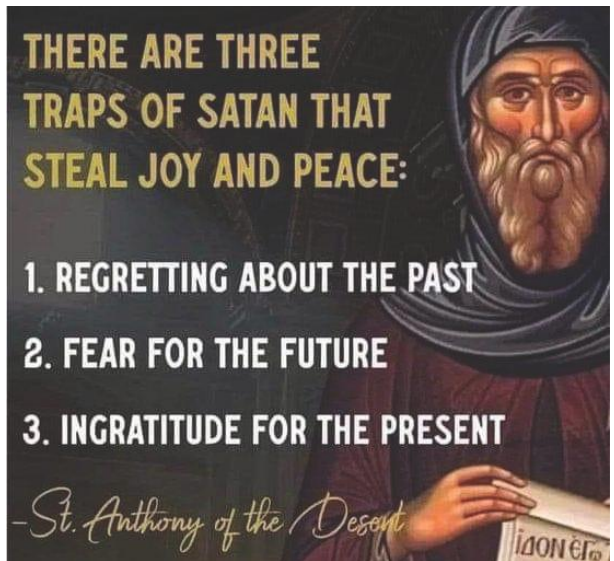
“Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ’s victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind.”

### St. John of Kronstadt on the Saints

“What does the daily invocation of the saints signify — of different ones each day, during the whole year, and during our whole life? It signifies that God’s saints — as our brethren, but perfect — live, and are near us, ever ready to help us, by the grace of God. We live together with them in the house of our Heavenly Father, only in different parts of it. We live in the earthly, they in the heavenly half; but we can converse with them, and they with us. God’s saints are near to the believing heart, and are ready in a moment to help those who call upon them with faith and love.”

### St. Seraphim of Sarov on Christian Homes

“Neither do walls or rich furniture make a home. Millionaires in magnificent mansions may never know a home. But where there are good relationships, where love binds the family together and to God, there happiness is always to be found. For good relationships are heaven anywhere.”



## CONCERNING AFFLICTIONS

*St. Alexis of Senaki*

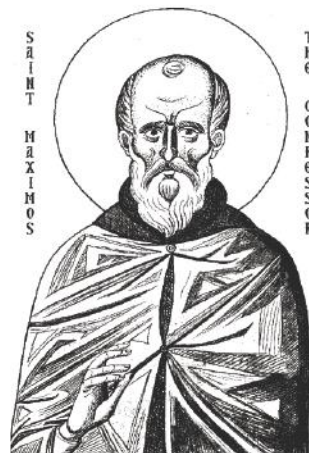
Everyone who loves God, shows himself patient and steadfast in times of suffering. Whoever bears them bravely, becomes strong and obedient to God; and whoever enters the path of following the will of God, conquers his natural weakness. On the other hand, whoever does not recognize his own powerlessness, is proud and not inclined to submit himself to the will of the Lord. Whoever does not submit to it and hopes only in his own power, does not receive the power and help of God; and not having been strengthened in spirit, cannot become patient. Whoever does not endure misfortune and afflictions, has no faith; and whoever does not have faith, does not love God.



## ON LOVE

### *St. Maximos the Confessor*

Do not neglect the commandment of love; for through it you will become a son of God, but transgressing it you will become a son of Gehenna. Love between friends is destroyed if you envy or are the object of envy; if you cause or suffer loss; if you revile or suffer revilement; and finally if you feed and keep suspicious thoughts against your brother... Do not be conquered by hatred but conquer it by love... Pray God sincerely about him. Accept his excuses or cure yourself by excusing him, regard yourself as the cause of the trial and resolve to endure until the cloud has passed by. Pay heed to yourself lest it be in you and not in your brother that lurks the evil that cuts you off from him; and hasten to make your peace with him, lest you forsake the commandment of love. Fear keeps the old commandments, but love keeps the life-giving commandments of Christ.



## ON MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE, AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE

### *Elder Paisios*

- “Some men tell me, 'I don't agree with my wife; we are complete opposites! How does God allow for such strange matches? Couldn't He provide so that couples would be compatible and live spiritually?' But I tell them, don't you understand that in this very difference of character lies hidden the harmony of God? It is the different characters which create harmony. God forbid that you should be the same in character. Think of what would happen if, for example, both of you had a short fuse; you would tear the house down! Or, if both of you were mild in character, you would fall asleep standing up! If you were both stingy, you might have been suited to each other; but you would both go to hell...”
- “In the family, one person must be humble before the other; one must imitate the other's virtues and also be patient and endure the other's peculiar idiosyncrasies. To make this possible, it helps to think of how Christ sacrificed Himself for our sins; and that He bears with us all - billions of people - even though He is without sin...”
- “The Church is like a ship. One person is sleeping, while another is just hanging around. The ship proceeds on its course. Another person is struggling, fighting above with the waves. All together they move forward. It is enough that you are within the Church. For this reason see that you are at the services. Do not be absent.”

## Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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**Facebook:** [Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/HolyAngelsByzantineCatholicChurch)

### Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

### Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

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### Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$2420.00; Loose Change: \$72.56; Non-Parishioner: \$330.00; Church Usage: \$200.00;  
Renovation Fund: \$765.00; **Total: \$3887.56**

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**Vocation Icon:** This week: Ruiz Family  
Next week: Michael Havens

**Please sign up in the narthex to host the vocation icon.**

## THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

SUBSCRIBES TO THE

*Charter for the Protection of  
Children and Young People*

*adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.*

*The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.*

*For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:*

*Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin*

*Victim Assistance Coordinator*

*Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- email: [vac@ephx.org](mailto:vac@ephx.org)*

*- or -*

*Sbdcn. Paul F. Kilroy*

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