

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE 6**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

## **APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 1**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ، وَامْنَحْ عِبِيدَكَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الْغَلْبَةَ عَلَى الشَّرِّيرِ،  
وَاحْفَظْ بِقُوَّةِ صَلَيبِكَ، جَمِيعَ الْمُخْتَصِّينَ بِكَ.

## **TROPARIAN OF THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS TONE 1**

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to Him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

## **KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)**

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a

transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)**

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

## **Celebrating today**

On September 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross; and we commemorate the Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope.

This blessed family lived and suffered in Rome during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. Sophia was wise, as her name implies; she was widowed, and had established herself and her daughters well in the Christian Faith. When Hadrian's persecuting hand extended over the virtuous home of Sophia, Faith was only twelve years old; Hope, ten; and Love, nine. Brought before the emperor, these four held each other's hands "like a woven wreath," humbly but steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan idol Artemis. Before their suffering, the mother encouraged her daughters to endure to the end: "Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and eternal life. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars." The torturers inflicted cruel torments on each daughter and killed them. Sophia took the bodies of her daughters and honorably buried them. She remained at their grave for three days and nights, praying to God. Then she gave her spirit to God, flying off to Paradise, where the blessed souls of her daughters

awaited her.

On this day, we also commemorate Martyr Agathokleia; Hieromartyrs Heracleides and Myron, Bishops of Tamasus in Cyprus; Venerable Anastasios Peristeron of Cyprus; and Euxiphios of Cyprus, the bishop. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+**Please remember in your prayers**\*The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

\*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Amira, Mariam, Vanda, Ghalia, Daniella and Mireille.

+**The Holy Bread** and Coffee hour are offered this week by Mr. & Mrs. Ibrahim & Jocelyne Abi Saab and their family.

+ **Bible Study** On Monday Sept 25 @ 7pm.

+ **Family Night** on Friday Sept. 22 @ 6:30 pm. Please bring a Lenten dish of food or sweet to share.

+**Box for questions.** If you have any topic to be discussed, or a question to be answered during our family night, write & put it please in the Box.

+**Antiochian Women Election.** A new president for the Ladies will be elected in a special meeting today after the Liturgy.

+ **Parish Council meeting** on Wednesday Sept. 20 at 7 Pm.

+**Church Annual Dinner** Friday, Oct. 20 at Sweetwater Country Club. RSVP to Mrs. Amal Sawan: 281-650-7798. Single ticket: \$100. VIP Tables \$ 2000, 1500, 1000.

+**Bishop Basil Annual Visit:** His Grace will visit our Church on Friday Nov.10<sup>th</sup>. And celebrate the Great Vespers and attend the Reception.

+**Guests and visitors** are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee and refreshment

*No matter what bitterness has befallen you, no matter what unpleasantness has happened to you, say, "I shall endure this for Jesus Christ!" and it will be easier for you. For the name of Jesus Christ is powerful. Through it all unpleasantness is calmed, and demons disappear. Your disappointments will also be calmed and you pusillanimity will be quitted.*

(St. Anthony of Optina)

# **THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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## **REGULAR SERVICES**

Liturgy: Thursday 6:00 pm

Great Vespers: Saturday  
5:00 PM(English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday  
8:45 AM(English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday  
10:00 AM(English)

Please visit our website for  
additional information.

[www.40martyrs.org](http://www.40martyrs.org)

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340 Eldridge Rd.  
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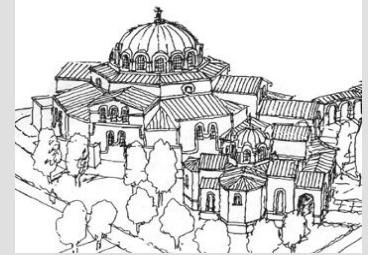
Divine Liturgy

**SEPTEMBER 17-2017**

**TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4;**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE  
ELEVATION OF THE HOLY  
CROSS**

MARTYRS SOPHIA AND HER DAUGHTERS FAITH,  
LOVE AND HOPE; MARTYR AGATHOKLEIA;  
HIEROMARTYRS HERACLEIDES AND MYRON,  
BISHOPS OF TAMASUS IN CYPRUS; VENERABLE  
ANASTASIOS PERISTERON OF CYPRUS;  
EUXIPHIOS OF CYPRUS, THE BISHOP



**Regular Fast on  
Wed. & Fri.**

