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## GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO HIM FOREVER!

**July 20, 2014 Holy Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah)**

**July 26 Saturday**

**July 27 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

**Great Vespers 4:00 pm**

**Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

**Saints of the Day:** Holy Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) (9th c. B.C.). New Hieromartyrs Priests Constantine and Nicholas (1918). Priest Philosoph Ornalsky and those with him (1918), Deacon Juvenal (1919). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexander, George, John, John, Sergius and Theodore, Hieromartyrs Tykhon, George, Cosmas and Martyrs Euphimius and Peter (1930). New Hieromartyr Priest Alexis (1938). Saint Alexis Medvedkov, Archpriest of Uzine (1934), Elias Fondaminskii (1942), Priest Demetrius Klepinine (1944), George Skobtsov (1944), and Nun Maria (Skobtsova) (1945), of Paris. Venerable Abramius of Galich or Chukhloma Lake (1375), Disciple of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh. Uncovering of the relics of Saint Athanasius, Abbot, of Brest-Litovsk (1649). Righteous Aaron the High Priest, brother of Prophet Moses the God-Seer. Saints Elias and Flavius, Confessors, Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Antioch (518). Saint Ilia the Righteous (1907). New Martyrs Lydia, and with her, Soldiers Alexei and Cyril (1928). Venerable Leontius (14 c.) and Sabbas (1392) of Stromyn. Martyr Salome of Jerusalem and Kartli, who suffered under the Persians (13 c.). Saint Arilda Virgin and Martyr of Gloucester (n.d.). Saint Etheldwitha Nun of Winchester, Widow of King Alfred (903). Saint Modmund Martyr of Gloucester (n.d.)

**Please remember in your prayers:** Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Sergius, Jacobus, Leonid, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Kevin, Richard, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Diane, Abigail.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Mitred Archpriest Vincent Saverino, Priest Senan Taylor, Ken Kavalkovich, James Altena, Father Leonid and Matushka Laura Schmidt were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Rose Sokol were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the Sokol Family.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of uncle Andrew Risucci were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Lauren Jedlan.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Protopresbyter John Meyendorff were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Andrew and Paiza Yaneshak, Mary Behuniak and Anna Kowalsky, and Theodosia Kluka were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

**THE HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH**, one who saw God, a miracle-worker and a zealot for faith in God, was born of the tribe of Aaron from the town Tishba for which he was called the Tishbite. When Saint Elijah was born, his father Savah saw an angel of God hovering around the child, wrapping the child in fire and giving him a flame to eat. That was a foreshadowing of Elijah's fiery character and his God-given fiery power. He spent his entire youth in godly thoughts and prayers withdrawing frequently into the wilderness to contemplate and to pray in solitude. At that time the Jewish kingdom was divided into two unequal parts: the kingdom of Judah consisting of only two tribes, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their capital in Jerusalem and the kingdom of Israel consisting of the remaining ten tribes with their capital in Samaria. The first kingdom was governed by the descendants of Solomon and the second kingdom was governed by the descendants of Jeroboam, the servants of Solomon. The greatest confrontation that the prophet Elijah had was with the Israelite King Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel. For they, Ahab and Jezebel, worshipped idols and were turning the people away from serving the One and Living God. Before this, however, Jezebel, a Syrian, persuaded her husband to erect a temple to the Syrian god Baal and ordered many priests to the service of this false god. Through great miracles Elijah displayed the power and authority of God: he closed up the heavens, so that there was not any rain for three years and six months; he lowered a fire from heaven and burned the sacrifice to his God which the pagan priests of Baal were unable to do; he brought down rain from heaven by his prayer; miraculously multiplied

flour and oil in the home of the widow in Zerepath, and resurrected her son; he prophesied to Ahab that the dogs will lick up his blood and to Jezebel that the dogs will consume her flesh, all of which happened as well as many other miracles did he perform and prophesy. On Mount Horeb, he spoke with God and heard the voice of God in the calm of a gentle breeze. Before his death he took Elisha and designated him as his successor in the prophetic calling; by his mantle he divided the waters of the Jordan River; finally he was taken up into the heavens in a fiery chariot by flaming horses. He appeared on Mount Tabor to our Lord Jesus Christ together with Moses. Before the end of the world Saint Elijah will appear again to put an end to the power of the anti-Christ (Revelation, Chapter 11).

**VENERABLE MARIA (SKOBTSOVA)**, Born to an aristocratic family in 1891 in Riga, Latvia, then part of the Russian Empire. She was given the name Elizaveta Pilenko. Her father died when she was a teenager, and she embraced atheism. In 1906 her mother moved the family to St. Petersburg, where she became involved in radical intellectual circles. In 1910 she married an Old Bolshevik by the name of Dmitriy Kuz'min-Karavaev. During this period of her life she was actively involved in literary circles and wrote much poetry. Her first book, *Scythian Shards* (Скифские черепки), was a collection of poetry from this period. By 1913 her marriage to Dimitriy had ended and the latter subsequently became a Roman Catholic.

Through a look at the humanity of Christ — "He also died. He sweated blood. They struck his face" — she began to be drawn back into Christianity. She moved—now with her daughter, Gaiana—to the south of Russia where her religious devotion increased.

Furious at Leon Trotsky for closing the Socialist-Revolutionary Party Congress, she planned his assassination, but was dissuaded by colleagues, who sent her to Anapa. In 1918, after the Bolshevik Revolution, she was elected deputy mayor of Anapa in Southern Russia. When the anti-communist White Army took control of Anapa, the mayor fled and she became mayor of the town. The White Army put her on trial for being a Bolshevik. However, the judge was a former teacher of hers, Daniel Skobtsov, and she was acquitted. Soon the two fell in love and were married.

Soon, the political tide was turning again. In order to avoid danger, Elizaveta, Daniel, Gaiana, and Elizaveta's mother Sophia fled the country. Elizaveta was pregnant with her second child. They traveled first to Georgia (where her son Yuri was born) and then to Yugoslavia (where her daughter Anastasia was born). Finally they arrived in Paris in 1923. Soon Elizaveta was dedicating herself to theological studies and social work.

In 1926, Anastasia died of influenza. Gaiana was sent away to Belgium to boarding school. Soon, Daniel and Elizaveta's marriage was falling apart. Yuri ended up living with Daniel, and Elizaveta moved into central Paris to work more directly with those who were most in need.

Her bishop encouraged her to take vows as a nun, something she did only with the assurance that she would not have to live in a monastery, secluded from the world. In 1932, with Daniel Skobtov's permission, an ecclesiastical divorce was granted and she took monastic vows. In religion she took the name Maria. Her confessor was Father Sergei Bulgakov. Later, (Saint) Father Dmitri Klepinin would be sent to be the chaplain of the house.

Mother Maria made a rented house in Paris her "convent". It was a place with an open door for refugees, the needy and the lonely. It also soon became a center for intellectual and theological discussion. In Mother Maria these two elements—service to the poor and theology—went hand-in-hand.

After the Fall of France in 1940, Jews began approaching the house asking for baptismal certificates, which Father Dimitri would provide them. Many Jews came to stay with them. They provided shelter and helped many to flee the country. Eventually the house was closed down. Mother Maria, Father Dimitri, Yuri, and Sophia were all arrested by the Gestapo. Father Dimitri and (Saint) Yuri both died at the Dora concentration camp.

Mother Maria was sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. On Holy Saturday, 1945, she took the place of a Jewish woman who was going to be sent to the Gas Chamber, and died in her place.

Mother Maria was glorified (canonized a saint) by act of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on 16 January 2004. The glorification of **VENERABLE MOTHER MARIA, together with SAINTS FATHER DIMITRI, YURI, and ILYA FONDAMINSKY** took place at the Cathedral of Saint Alexander Nevsky in Paris on 1 and 2 May 2004. Their feast day is 20 July.

#### **REFLECTION** by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Writing about the life of his sister Saint Macrina, Saint Gregory of Nyssa hesitates to enumerate her miracles, "that I not be," says he, "responsible for the sin of unbelief among helpless men." He calls helpless, those who do not believe. Truly, there is nothing more helpless than a man without faith. The man without faith believes in the power of dead things and dead elements of nature and does not believe in the power of God or in the strength of the men of God. That is spiritual dullness and that dullness is equated with spiritual death. Thus, the living souls believe and the dead souls do not believe. Living souls believe in the powerful miracles of the Prophet Elijah. These miracles give them courage and joy, for they know that they are a manifestation of the might of God. When God manifests His might through lifeless things and elements of nature, why then would He not manifest it through living and holy men? That which especially gives joy to the faithful is that the Prophet Elijah appeared alive on Mount Tabor at the time of the Transfiguration of the Lord. During his life on earth, this great prophet gave proof of the existence of the One and Living God and, after his death, and even after several hundred years, by his appearance on Mt. Tabor, he gave to mankind visible proof of life after death.

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