

**ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**Martyr Christina of Tyre**

The Martyr Christina lived during the third century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many wanted to marry her. Christina’s father, however, envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan priestess. To this end he placed her in a special dwelling where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them. Two servants attended Christina.

In her solitude, Christina began to wonder who had created this beautiful world. From her room she was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the Creator of all the world. She was convinced, that the voiceless and inanimate idols in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, and combined it with fasting.

One time Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her about her future suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols standing in her room and threw them out the window. Her father visited and in a rage the father began to slap his daughter’s face. At first, the holy virgin remained quiet, but then she told her father about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols with her own hands her father then threw her into prison.

An angel of God appeared at night, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father, seeing her unharmed, gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. In terror he decided to execute her in the morning. That night he himself suddenly died.

In place of her father, a new governor Julian arrived and resumed the torture of the saint. After various torments, Julian gave orders to throw her into a red-hot furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyr alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle take place, many believed in Christ the Savior, and the torturers executed Saint Christina with a sword.

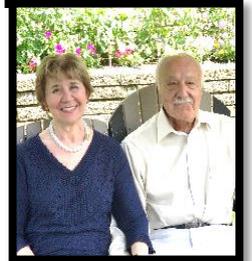
**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Epistle I Corinthians 3:9-17 Gospel Matthew 14:22-34

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**103<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ST. ELIJAH CHURCH SLAVA CELEBRATION**



The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with  
**His Grace the Right Reverend IRINE**  
Bishop of our Eastern America Diocese  
**HONORED KUMOVI**  
**GEORGE and MARLENE VOLITICH**



we will also recognize today our 2017 Church School Graduates  
Nick Kosanovich III and Eli Loncar

**Srecna Slava!**

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It’s that time of year again **THE ST. ELIJAH CHOIR** will be selling our Annual **CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT**. This year’s design (*once again created by our very own Kristen Milanovich*) shares our love for our Musical Heritage. Please sign up on the sheet next week following Divine Liturgy (since this is our Slava!)

If you placed a second order from last year please see Kathy Loverich for payment and your ornament! HVALA!

