

Prayer for the Souls of the Martyrs of St. Elias Church - Damascus



With the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch John X, the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand held the Paraklesis service for the healing of the wounded and the consolation of the grieving, followed by a trisagion for the souls of the martyrs of St. Elias Church in Dweilaa, Damascus.

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Esber) of New York and All North America and Metropolitan Antonios (El-Soury) of Zahleh, Baalbek, and their dependencies presided the service. Among the eminent attendees there were Metropolitan Youssef Soueif, representing His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Béchara Boutros al-Rahi, Archimandrite Georges Yaacoub, Abbot of the Monastery, alongside a large gathering of officials, clergy, academics, educators, social and political figures, municipal and local dignitaries, the Balamand family, a delegation from the Archdiocese of North America on pilgrimage to Lebanon, and a crowd of faithful.

At the conclusion of the service, Metropolitan Saba delivered a heartfelt homily

reflecting on the meaning of martyrdom, its circumstances, and the teachings of the Gospel on the matter. He extended condolences, on behalf of those present, to His Beatitude Patriarch John X and to the families of the martyrs.

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