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OHIO PRIEST BLESSES FIRE ENGINES ON FEAST OF PROPHET ELIJAH



Traditionally, cars and means of transportation are blessed on the feast of the holy Prophet Elijah (July 20/August 2), who ascended as it were into Heaven on a fiery chariot.

This year, St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, held a special blessing service for the local fire station, reports the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America.

Fr. Peter Simko, the acting rector of the parish, and Protodeacon Michael Timko led a short service with prayers for the health and safety of all emergency workers and civil servants in the local community.

“And in memory of Prophet Elijah’s ascent on a fiery chariot, the firemen and their two vehicles were blessed with holy water,” after which a light breakfast was shared in the parish hall.

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Prayer for the Blessing of Automobiles

O Lord our God, Who makes the clouds Thy chariot and Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who has sent to Thy servant, the Prophet Elias, a chariot of fire, Who has guided man to invent this (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) which is as fast as the wind. We thank Thee for Thou hast provided Thy servants with this vehicle to serve their various needs.

Therefore, O Master, pour out now upon it Thy heavenly blessings; assign to it a guardian angel to preserve it from all evil. And as Thou didst grant faith and grace by Thy Deacon Philip to the man from Ethiopia who was sitting in his chariot and reading holy Scripture, show the way of salvation to Thy servants. So that helped by Thy grace and always intent on doing good works, they may after all the trials of their pilgrimage on earth, attain to everlasting joys, through the intercessions of our Most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the holy angels; of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and of all the Saints:

For Thou art the Provider and Sanctifier of all things and to Thee do we ascribe glory, and to Thy Only-begotten Son, and Thy All-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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