

The Voice

Parish Newsletter: December 2018 – January 2019

Saint Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

Office: (330) 724-7009

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America



His Beatitude Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington,

Metropolitan of All America & Canada

His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, Diocese of Toledo

Mitred Archbishop Father Don Anthony Freude, Rector

Reverend Protodeacon James M. Gresh, *Attached*

2018- Parish Council

President: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas

Vice President: Michele Lambo

Secretary: Kathy Gray

Treasurer: Anthony Dodovich

Communications Officer: Reader Joseph Turner

Members: Veronica Bilas, Ana Bohush, Mary Marcin,
Sarah Niglio Sue Ellen Turscak,

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush, Florence Lambo,
Reader Michael Luc

CHURCH SCHOOL:

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude

Staff: Reader Aaron Gray, Reader Joseph Turner

2018 SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA

President: Veronica Bilas, Vice President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Sarah Niglio Treasurer: Mary Magensky

WORKERS - ST. ELIZABETH THE NEW MARTYR

Coordinators: Reader Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

HOURS & EPISTLE READERS:

December 2018 – January 2019

Sunday, December 2

Hours: Bud Graham

Epistle: Bud Graham

Sunday, December 9

Hours: Florence Lambo

Epistle: Rebecca Di Puccio

Sunday, December 16

Hours: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, December 23

Hours: Subd. Terrence Bilas

Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

Sunday, December 30

Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, January 6

Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

Epistle: Reader Aaron Gray

Sunday, January 13

Hours: Sandy Graham

Epistle: Sandy Graham

Sunday, January 20

Hours: Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Joshua Wherley

Sunday, January 27

Hours: Sarah Niglio

Epistle: Sarah Niglio

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING THE ARMED FORCES

Anthony Freude, son of Fr. Don and Popadia Donna Freude

Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Mickey Stokich

Leonora Evancho

Larissa Freude

Anastasia Haymon

Joseph Boyle, (Kathy Gray's brother)

Phyllis George (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)

Connie Pysell

Lisa Nastoff

Mat. Laryssa Hnntyan

Elaine Pedder

Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)

Angelo Lambo
Gary Turner (father of Joseph Turner)
Rose Chris

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - DEC 2018

**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOS –Tone 2 –Prophet
Habakkuk**

Saturday, Dec, 1 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confession

Sunday, December 2

9:45 am - Hours – Bud Graham

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader – Bud Graham

EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-17 GOSPEL: Luke 18:18-27

Lighting of the 3rd Candle on the Advent Wreath

**Feastday - SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

Wednesday, December 5

6pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 3 –Conception
of the Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos**

Saturday, Dec. 8 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, December 9

9:45 am - Hours – Florence Lambo

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader – Rebecca Di Puccio

EPISTLE: Colossians 1:12-18 GOSPEL: Luke 17:12-19

Lighting of the 4th Candle on the Advent Wreath

**29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4- SUNDAY
OF THE FOREFEATHERS – Prophet Haggai**

Saturday December 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, December 16

9:45 am - Hours – Reader Michael Luc

10:00 am – Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader – Reader Michael Luc
EPISTLE: Colossians 3:4-11 GOSPEL: Luke 14:16-24
Lighting of the 5th Candle on the Advent Wreath

CHRISTMAS HOLY

WEEK

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is preceded by a Holy Week . Prefestive Vespers will be celebrated at 6 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 19; Thursday, Dec. 20; Friday, December 21.

Wednesday, December 19 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Thursday, December 20 – 6 00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Friday, December 21 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

**30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5
FOREFEAST AND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
OF CHRIST. Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete**

Saturday, December 22

5:00 pm – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, December 23

9:45 am Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:1-25

Lighting of the 6th Candle on the Advent Wreath

“Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all; Adorn yourself, Ephrata, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.”

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

*The Nativity According to the
Flesh of
Our Lord God and Savior Jesus
Christ*

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 am ROYAL HOURS OF CHRISTMAS

5:00 pm - VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 am DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

EPISTLE: Galatians 4:4-7
GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY – SYNAXIS OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 26

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
EPISTLE: Hebrews 2:11-18
GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 27

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
EPISTLE: Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5 47-60
GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-42

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31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 6 - Sunday After the Nativity of Christ. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph

the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord. Sunday Before Theophany

Saturday, December 29

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 30

9:45 am Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19 GOSPEL: Matt. 2:13-23

SLAVA for Saint Juliana the Merciful

JANUARY 2019

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

**JESUS CHRIST. St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of
Caesarea in Cappadocia. NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Monday, December 31

6:00 pm - Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

the Great - *Prayers for the New Year - 2019*

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FEAST OF

THEOPHANY

*The Baptism of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ*

*Christ is Baptized in the
Jordan! Glorify Him!*

**32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7 - THE
HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST**

Saturday, January 5 – 5:00 pm

Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 6

9:45 am Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

10:00am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Great Sanctification of Water

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

**33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8 -
SUNDAY AFTER THEIOPHANY**

Saturday, January 12

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 13

9:45 am Hours: Sandy Graham

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

EPISTLE: Ephesians 4:7-13 GOSPEL: Matt. 4:12-17

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1

Saturday, January 19

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 20

9:45 am Hours: Joshua Wherley

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Hebrews 13:17-21

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-23

**35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 –
Saturday, January 26**

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 27

9:45 am Hours: Sarah Niglio

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sarah Niglio

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12-16

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

**SYNAXIS OF THE ECUMENICAL TEACHERS AND
HIERARCHS: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian,
and John Chrysostom**

Tuesday, January 29

**6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The celebration of our Lord's Nativity is fast approaching and poinsettias and other decorations will need to be purchased. Flower Offering Envelopes are available at the Candle desk.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 2017

Church School classes are held on Sunday mornings in the Church Hall following Holy Communion. Questions and Answers for the adults follow the Divine Liturgy in Church.



Stewardship

“The rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much, for what he gives away remains his forever.” –

St. John Chrysostom

2019 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your Offering Envelopes for 2019 are available on the front pew. Please pick your box up along with your 2019 Church Calendar.

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA NAME DAY

Our Parish Sisterhood of St. Juliana the Merciful Name Day falls on **Wednesday, January 2, 2019**. Following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, December 30th**, we will honor St. Juliana with a SLAVA.

Through the prayers of Saint Juliana the Merciful, Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us,

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

A combined meeting of the 2018 and 2019 Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, **December 11th at 7:00 pm and Tuesday evening, January 15 at 7 pm.**

ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church** will be held following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 20, 2019**. There will be a covered dish dinner following the Liturgy.

A General Parish Meeting was held ON Sunday, November 18, 2018, following the Divine Liturgy. The Members for the **201 Parish Council** were elected: **President: Subdeacon Terence Bilas; Vice President: John Bohush; Secretary: Sandy Graham; Treasurer: Tony Dodovich; Advisors: Veronica Bilas, Bud Graham,, Sarah Niglio, Joshua Wherley. Many Years!**

All are encouraged to attend and participate in important past-year assessment and next year planning session for our parish. The 2019 Parish Council will be installed.

IOCC HEALTH KIT CHECKLIST

The International Orthodox Christian Charities is collecting items for Health Kits to be distributed to those who have been effected by the recent disasters that have occurred throughout our country. The following items can be placed in a **one gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure** and brought to St. Elia.

One cotton hand towel 15"x28" to 16"x32"

One cotton wash cloth

One wide-tooth comb removed from the package

One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package

One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper

One toothbrush in the package

Ten standard size Band-Aids

These items will be collected and brought at Presentation of Our Lord Church and sent to IOC

ADVENT WREATH



On November 15th, forty days prior to the celebration of the Feast of our Lord's Nativity, the Holy Orthodox Church begins the Christmas Fast. This period of six weeks is often called *Advent*, which means *the Coming*, and refers to the Coming of

the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Mystery of His Holy Nativity.

Christmas and Epiphany are Feasts of Light, celebrating the Coming and Manifestation of Christ, the Light of the world. Nature itself helps us to experience these Feasts of Light. With the coming of the winter the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas Day itself the reverse begins to happen. Nature prepares for the Coming of Christ, the Light in the

darkness – and so do we during the Holy Season of Advent.

To help in our preparation, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath made of evergreens has six candles on it – one for each week in Advent. **Each Sunday**, along with special prayers, we will light a candle on the wreath – as we prepare ourselves to receive Christ the Light of the world into our hearts. Two candles have already been lit during the month of November and now the four remaining candles will be lit on December 2, 9, 16 and 23..

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a Light is risen. For unto us a Child is born:

Unto us a Son is given.

And of His peace there shall be no end.

Isaiah 9:2, 6

'THE FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS **OUR ANNUAL PARISH FAMILY** **ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION**



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

6pm – Vespereal Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

10am Divine Liturgy

Followed by a Lenten LUNCHEON

Main entree will be provided.

**Please bring a side dish and dessert
and**

A VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS

O who loves Nicholas the saintly,

O who serves Nicholas the saintly

Him will Nicholas receive

and give help in time of need.

Holy Father Nicholas

THE ICON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

The Icon serves well to deepen our understanding of this Great Feast of the Church – known to us as Christmas. It tells a story that is forever new and full of mystery. The holy event of Christ's birth occupies our full attention as we gaze upon the Icon.



In the top center of the Icon, a golden and divine ray of light extends from the hand of **God the Father**, illuminating the **Star of Bethlehem**. The star points out to us that Christ's Birth should motivate us to come closer to Him, no matter who we are, rich like the three noble **Magi**, or poor like the rustic **shepherds** who inhabit the pastures around Bethlehem.

The Evangelist Matthew recounts that *“the sight of the star filled them with delight.”* (Matt. 2:10). A shepherd boy approaches (on the right side of the Icon) with wonderment while the heavenly hosts of angels sing: *“Glory to God in the highest and peace on Earth to men of good will.”*

Mary, the Mother of God, occupies a central position in the Icon because she is the chosen vessel who gave birth to Jesus through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. She lies upon a bed that was used by the Jews on their travels. Her face is turned away from **Jesus**, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, so that our eyes will focus directly on Him – God In The Flesh. St. Luke's Gospel gives us a personal glimpse of Mary's part in the miraculous virginal birth. In the Icon, her right hand is near her heart: *“As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.”* (Luke 2:18)

But Mary's left hand directs our attention to her spouse **Joseph**, the foster-father of Jesus. Joseph's facial expression betrays his bewilderment and the doubts that puzzle him concerning the virginal birth. The hows and whys of men's redemption were still hidden from human understanding. Mary's hand gesture and penetrating look of compassion for the confused Joseph illustrates how difficult the life of faith on Earth is.

We can appreciate and understand Joseph's consternation in our world where temptations of doubt and irreverence constantly surround us. But Mary's faith in God and Joseph's obedience to God's will successfully overcome all doubts surrounding God's Incarnation - His coming in the flesh.

In the Old Testament we read that: *“The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib.”* This prophecy from Isaiah shows us to what extent all creation recognizes the hand of God at work in the Birth of Jesus Christ. What we classify as dumb **animals**, Isaiah the prophet describes as having an awareness of **God's Presence on Earth**. That is why the animals receive such a prominent position at the manger's side.

Angels minister to Him, Wise Men bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, Shepherds see and hear the glory of God surrounding the Child's birth. And ALL BELIEVE. The LIGHT OF GLORY radiantly breaks through the darkness of the cave, namely, JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WHO DISPELS THE DARKNESS OF SIN AND DEATH.

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

Christos razdajetsja! Christos

se Rodi! Mir Boze!

C Rozdectvom Christovim!

Christos Gennatai!

Masheeh Wuleda! Buon

Natale! Feliz Navidad! Joyeux

*Noel! Wesoly Swiat! Krisztus
Szuletik! Froliche Weihnachten!*

Chestita Koleda.

A Nativity Sermon of St. Isaac the Syrian

*This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole
world-*

So let no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One -

Let no one be cruel;

*This is the night of the
Humble One -*

Let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy -

Let us not revenge;

*Now is the day of Good
Will -*

Let us not be mean.

In this Day of Peace -

Let us not be conquered by anger.



Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;

So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;

So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;

Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Today the DIVINE BEING took upon Himself the seal of our humanity, In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of DIVINITY

THE THEOPHANY ICON

IN THE ICON OF THEOPHANY, we are immediately drawn to the person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The Icon expresses very vividly that not just part but the entire body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan as a sign of His eventual three-day burial. For in St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, we read; *"In baptism you were not only buried with Him but also raised to life with Him because you believed in the power of God Who raised Him from the dead (Col. 2:12).*



The Icon's illustration of the total immersion of Christ as well as His right hand blessing the waters signifies the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. No longer is water just an image of death as for example in the flood at the time of Noah, but an image of birth into New Life which we share with Christ Who took upon

Himself the sins of the world. In Christ we celebrate the renewal of all creation.

A further illustration of our coming to share the NEW LIFE IN CHRIST is the sign of Christ undergoing baptism "clothed in the naked body of Adam", the father of all mankind. We hear the Scriptures as they refer to Christ as the NEW ADAM. The first Adam brought death into the world; the second Adam, Christ, brought life into the world. Through Christ's sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on the robes of incorruptibility: *for as many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ! Alleluia!*

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED

IN THE JORDAN!

GLORIFY HIM!

Orthodox Christian Women

Presents:

Our Annual Winter Mini-Retreat

Saturday, January 19, 2019

9:30 a.m.– 12 noon

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Mogadore, Ohio

Speaker: Dr. Bill Shaheen

"ICONS"

Continental breakfast will be served

Questions? Contact Sandy Graham (330.988.8107)



God's Christmas gift

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

It is a wonderful thing that there are Christmas carols that are written for the real world of sorrowful joy, as well as the real world of exuberant joy. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is one of them. You can hear it in the “O” that begins every verse. This is the “O” of longing. *And every name for Jesus is full of hope.*

As “**O come, Emmanuel**” ([Isaiah 8:8](#)) — “God with us”
As “**O come, Rod of Jesse**” ([Isaiah 11:1](#)), springing from a dead stump, he will free his people, by death and resurrection. As the “**O come, Day-spring**” ([Luke 1:78](#)) — the dawn of God’s kingdom — he will be the light of the world, and banish the hopelessness of darkness. As the “**O come, Key of David**” ([Isaiah 22:22](#)), he unlocks the door of heaven, and brings us home. And as the “**O come, Desire of nations**” ([Haggai 2:7](#)), he will draw every people and make them a kingdom of peace. This is who Jesus is. And so with every verse, the refrain reaches down musically into our weak hearts and pulls us up, in faith, to see the certainty of the end. **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**