## THE VOICE

Parish Newsletter: February – March 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 and Canada
His Eminence, Archbishop Alexander, Diocese of Toledo
Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Rector
Reverend Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached

#### **2019 Parish Council**

President: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas

Vice President: John Bohush IV

Secretary: Sandy Graham

Treasurer: Anthony Dodovich

Members: Veronica Bilas, Bud Graham,

Sarah Niglio, Joshua Wherley

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A .Bilas

Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush, Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Reader Michael Luc

**Church School**;

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude Staff: Reader Aaron Gray, Sarah Niglio

2019 Sisterhood of St. Juliana

President: Veronica Bilas; Vice President: Sandy Graham Secretary: Sarah Niglio; Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr

Coordinators: Reader Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

# HOURS AND EPISTLE READERS February-March 2019

Sunday, February 3
Hours: Bud Graham
Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

**Epistle: Bud Graham Epistle: Sue Ellen Turscak** 

Sunday, February 10 Sunday March 10

Hours: Sarah Niglio Hours: Reader Aaron Gray Epistle: Sarah Niglio Epistle: Reader Aaron Gray

Sunday, February 17
Hours: Reader Michael Luc
Epistle: Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, February 24
Hours: Subd, Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, March 31: Hours and Epistle: Bud Graham

#### REMEMBER THOSE SERVING THE ARMED FORCES

**Subd, Anthony Freude**, son of Fr. Don and Popadia Donna **Egor Cravcenco**, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

#### **REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN**

**Mickey Stokich** Elaine Pedder Leonora Evancho Lisa Nastoff Sandra Dodovich Larissa Freude Anastasia Haymon Angelo Lambo Joseph Boyle Florence Lambo **Phyllis George Gary Turner Connie Pysell Infant Child Aria** Tom Ritzman Carl Palcheff

Matushka Myra Kovalik Matushka Laryssa Huntyan Matushka Christine Zebren Matushka Suzanne Senyo

#### **MEMORY ETERNAL**

In Blessed repose grant eternal rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy newly departed handmaid Betty Jean Wulff and make her memory eternal. MEMORY ETERNAL!

#### **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

# **Holiday** - THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IN THE TEMPLE

Friday, February 1 – 6:00 PM Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3 – AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE. Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess

Saturday, February 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 3

9:45 am Hours: Bud Graham

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham** 

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 GOSPEL: Matt.15:21-28

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

37<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4 SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS.

Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly Saturday, February 9

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 10

9:45 am Hours: Sarah Niglio

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Epistle Reader: Sarah Niglio** 

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

**Panakhida** for the repose of the soul of +Bessie Alexandrovich as requested by her family (1 year) 1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday – FAST FREE WEEK **SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE – Tone 5 Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit** 

Saturday, February 16

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 17

9:45 am Hours: Reader Michael Luc

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc** 

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 GOSPEL Luke 18:10-14

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 6
First and Second Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet and Baptist John

Saturday, February 23

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 24

9:45 am Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush** 

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday

MEATFARE SUNDAY – Tone 7 - Sunday of the Last Judgment

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions General Panakhida for all the Faithful departed this life in the hope of the Resurrection

Sunday, March 3

9:45 am Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak** 

EPISTLE: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2 GOSPEL: Matt. 25:31-46

#### 4th Pre-Lenten Sunday

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY-Tone 8 - FORGIVENESS SUNDAY. The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise Saturday, March 9

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions Sunday, March 10

9:45 am Hours: Reader Aaron Gray
10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Vespers and Mutual Forgiveness Service

**Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray** 

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4 GOSPEL: Matt. 6:14-21

#### **BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT**

Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast...and with prayers and tears let us seek our Lord and Savior!

## GREAT LENT

#### FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Monday, March 11 – 6:00 pm-

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete –  $I^{st}$  Section **Tuesday, March 12 – 6:00 pm** 

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete  $-2^{nd}$  Section

Wednesday, March 13 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete  $-2^{nd}$  Section

Thursday, March 14 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete  $-2^{nd}$  Section

Friday, March 15 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Blessing of the Koliva (Boiled Wheat) in remembrance of

Saint Theodore of Tyre Lenten Covered Dish

# SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 1 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Venerable Alexius the Man of God. St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland Saturday, March 16 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions Sunday, March 17

9:45 am Hours – Sandy Graham 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

EPISTLE: Heb.11:24-26, 32-12:2 GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

5:00 pm — Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church

Wednesday, March 20-6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday March 22 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Lenten Covered Dish

#### THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 2 St. Gregory of Palamas. FOREFEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Saturday, March 23 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions Sunday, March 24

9:45 am Hours – Joshua Wherley

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

**Epistle Reader:** Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Heb.1:10-2:3 GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

5:00 pm – Great Vespers of the Annunciation at

#### **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**

# THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND

#### EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Monday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 27 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 29 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Lenten Covered Dish

## FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 3 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday, March 30

5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, March 31

9:45 am Hours – Bud Graham

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

EPISTLE: Heb 4:14-5:6 GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-9:1

5:00 pm – Vespers at St. George Antiochian **Orthodox Church** 

Wednesday, April 3 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 5 - 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Lenten Covered Dish

## FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 4 St. John Climacus

Saturday, April 6 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions Sunday, April 7

9:45 am Hours – Sarah Niglio

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Sarah Niglio

EPISTLE: Heb.6:13-20 GOSPEL: Mark 8:17-31

#### 5:00 pm – Vespers at Presentation of Our Lord **Orthodox Church**

Wednesday, April 10 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 12 – 6:00 pm

Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God

#### SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 5

St. Mary of Egypt

Saturday, April 13 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions Sunday, April 14

9:45 am Hours – Reader Michael Luc

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

EPISTLE: Heb.9:11-14 GOSPEL: Mark 10:32-45

#### 5:00 pm Vespers at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Wednesday, April 17 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 19 – 6:00 pm

Vigil of Lazarus Saturday Beginning of Holy Week Saturday, April 20 –LAZARUS SATURDAY – 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

#### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Parish Family will be held on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. There will be a covered dish following the Divine Liturgy, followed by the meeting.

At that Meeting the Members of the 2019 Parish Council, and the Officers of the Sisterhood of St. Juliana will be installed.

<u>Council Members</u>: President-Subdeacon Terence Bilas; Vice President-John Bohush; Secretary-Sandy Graham; Treasurer-Tony Dodovich; Advisors: Veronica Bilas, Bud Graham, Sarah Niglio, Joshua Wherley.

<u>Sisterhood Officers:</u> President-Veronica Bilas; Vice President-Sandy Graham; Secretary-Sarah Niglio; Trreasurer-Mary Magensky

#### ST. ELIA PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORMS

The Parish Council asks everyone to fill out and sign a Membership Form asking for your commitment to the Parish Family of St. Elia This is not a pledge card, but the Membership Form will be used to establish voting eligibility and quorums for Parish Meetings. Contact information will be used to maintain communications for Parish purposes. Your house address, email addresses, and phone numbers are vital for our Parish unity and development.

Please take the time to pickup a Membership Form, fill it out and handed it in to Father Don or to a Parish Council Member. Thank you!!!

#### **2019 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Your 2019 boxes of Offering Envelopes are available on the front pew of the Church. If you have not already picked your envelope box up, please do so as soon as possible.

#### **THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS**

Last Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Feast of Theophany and the Great Sanctification of Water. Included in this celebration is the Blessing of our homes. If you would like to have your home blessed, please fill out the form included in today's Bulletin and Father Don will contact you to make further arrangements

## **GENERAL PANAKHIDA**

On Saturday evening, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will celebrate the Vespers of Meatfare Sunday, followed by a General Panakhida for the repose of the souls of all the Faithful departed. Father Don has the list of names from prior Services. However, if you have names to add or if you have never given the names of your deceased loved ones before the Friday evening Panakhida

# **AMAZON SMILE – Support St. Elia whenever you shop**

Step 1: Go to: <a href="www.smile.amazon.com">www.smile.amazon.com</a>
Step 2: search and select "St. Elia the Prophet
Eastern Orthodox Church" as your preferred
charity. There are several St. Elia churches listed. We are the only one in Akron

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

<u>Church School Class</u> is held on Sunday mornings in the Church Hall following Holy Communion. Questions and Answers - Q & A -for Adults follow the Divine Liturgy and Announcements in the Church.

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple Commemorated on February 2



On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple

at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers:

"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

In the year 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one.

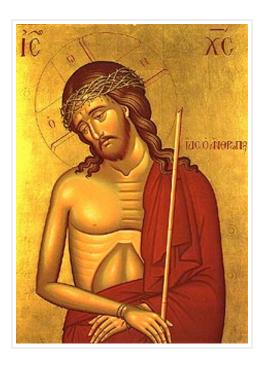
In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

**GREAT LENT – A TIME OF** 

**RENEWAL** 



On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, we begin the Holy Season of Great Lent. It is a very valuable season of the Church Year and he appointed time foe our spiritual renewal. It in truth, it is a *Gift from God!* 

Great Lent is an excellent time to put aside all those things that make us displeasing to ourselves, to others, and to God. Someone once suggested an item called a *spiritual wastebasket*.

**The wastebasket** is a very valuable piece of equipment. A general use of this item is important for efficiency in an office or a home or wherever needed.

Possibly, a wise and generous use of a spiritual wastebasket could also be the secret for spiritual efficiency and blessedness. Many of our lives are encumbered with things that should go into this type of wastebasket.

The Epistle to the Hebrews enjoins in this advice when it says, "We too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started." (Hebrews 12:1) Past sins and errors belong in the wastebasket. We all sin and make

mistakes. Because we are human we have erasers on pencils and deletes on computers. Old grudges, festering anger, old resentments, are only a few of the items we should discard.

St. Paul's life is an example of past sins, errors and omissions. We know the Apostle Paul's past and how he persecuted the early Christians, and how it took the drastic action of God knocking him of his horse, blinding him, to convince him to change his life.

Because of his experience he gives us sound advice: "All I can say is that forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come. I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:13)

Great Lent is a call to repentance. "Repentance is a second regeneration from God" says St. Isaac the Syrian, And also an incomparably great gift and grace from God Who restores that which is fallen. So let us repent and forgive one another. Let us take a deep breath and pray: "Lord, ,help is to forgive, give us repentance that is worthy of Thy forgiveness."

#### **SERVICE OF MUTUAL FORGIVENESS**

On Forgiveness Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy, we will gather together as a Parish Family for Vespers and the Mutual Forgiveness Service.

In asking each other for forgiveness, we prepare to enter Great Lent and prepare to make a good Confession during this Holy Season. The Sacrament of Confession recognizes the Presence of Christ in His Holy Church forgiving His people. In so doing we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the great and glorious Feast of Pascha,

Confessions are held each Saturday evening following Vespers, or, by request to Father Don.

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

#### Commemorated on March 25



The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the

Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34). "And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1: 35-38)

In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, Saint Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that "the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world." He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God's will, but also involves the Virgin's free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God's will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message. The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint Basil or Saint John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

# ANNUAL COCA CABARET-SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE SEMINARIAN FUND

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

# PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD ORTHODOX CHURCH 3365 RIDGEWOOD ROAD AKRON, OH 44333

ADULTS

\$15

STUDENTS

\$10

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER

COCKTAILS @ 5:00 P.M.
DINNER @ 6:00 P.M.
AUCTION @ 7:00 P.M.

EACH PARISH IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A THEMED BASKET FOR THE AUCTION