

WEEKLY BULLETIN

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA

Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector

Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached

March 10, 2019

Vol. 36 No. 10

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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.

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Monday, March 11 – 6:00 pm-

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *1st Section*

Tuesday, March 12 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *2nd Section*

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

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

Egor Cravenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Mickey Stokich

Leonora Evancho

Larissa Freude

Anastasia Haymon

Joseph Boyle, (Kathy Gray's brother)

Phyllis George, (Rose Marie Vronick's sister)

Connie Pysell

Lisa Nastoff

Elaine Pedder

Sandra Dodovich, (mother of Tony Dodovich)

Angelo and Florence Lambo

Carl Palcheff

Gary Turner (father of Joseph Turner)

Infant Child Aria

COFFEE HOUR: Church School Fundraiser

PROSPHORA: Veronica Bilas

OUR STEWARDSHIP: March 3, 2019

Sunday Offering: \$706.78

Candles: 25.50

Improvement Fund: 70.00

Bookstore: 8.00

TOTAL \$810.28

PARKING LOT

To Date: \$17,450.00

FURNACE/AC

To Date: \$8,150.00

QUARTER AUCTION: \$1,700.00

AMAZON SMILE – Support St. Elia whenever you shop

Step 1: Go to: www.smile.amazon.com

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

PROJECT MEXICO – HOME BUILDING

Our own Joshua Wherley will be leaving today, Sunday, March 10, to offer his services to Project Mexico. Joshua will spend a week working with other members of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship on behalf of the needy in Mexico.

Since 1988, Project Mexico has been building safe, secure and weather-tight homes for some of the most impoverished families in Northern Mexico. Every home is constructed over the course of four days and built entirely with volunteer labor. Once complete, these homes are provided so that these families can build a brighter future for themselves and their children

Let us remember Joshua in prayer for his health, salvation and safety.

SERVICE OF MUTUAL FORGIVENESS

TODAY, Forgiveness Sunday, March 10th, 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,

What if you don't think you ever done anything wrong to someone? Why would you need forgiveness? Some times we annoy people and didn't know it; or hurt their feelings and didn't realize it. It takes humility that we might have done wrong things without even knowing it.

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

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. Thank you!!!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

First Week of Great Lent continued

Wednesday, March 13 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete –*2nd Section*

Thursday, March 14 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete –*2nd 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 Akron Area Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Archangel
Michael Serbian Orthodox Church

Presiding: His Grace, Bishop Irene, Serbian Diocese;

His Eminence our Archbishop Alexander, OCA Bulgarian
Diocese ; and His Grace Bishop Paul, OCA Midwest Diocese

Serving: Akron and Canton Clergy

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

Fasting and Prayer as a Longing for God

"Longing for God is expressed with fasting, with an empty stomach... Fasting has a unique meaning by expressing the longing for God... The same occurs for prayer. If prayer to myself had meaning, then my prayer life would be a human endeavor, a tendency and revival, it wouldn't be God. My prayer has meaning because it exactly expresses my longing: '*Come and abide in us...*', *the: 'Where are you, my God?'*"

"With fasting, vigil, and prayer, chaos and malaise are shown to be our rags before God, as the poor man shows his rags to his fellow man in order for him to have pity on him to help him, or like the blind man cried out to Christ to give him light. Thus, we show our poverty and he ask that He open our eyes in order to understand that we are sinners, that we might repent and so He can forgive us..."

"The approach therefore is an uncreated energy, a true projection of His being. Because of this, my life as well is a true communion with the true God. While God acts, I commune with Him. While God is unapproachable, I partake of Him..."

"Only the: 'Where are you, my God?', can make visible the invisible presence of God... We give Him our consent, our being, and He directs everything, He kneads us..."

Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra Monastery, Mt. Athos

*Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God,
have mercy on us and save us! Amen!*

SPEND LENT WITH THE PSALMS

Once again our parish prayer group will be praying the Psalms together throughout the 40 days of Lent. The prayer group provides us an opportunity to pray through the entire book of Psalms twice during the Lenten season, as well as share prayer requests and reflections with one another.

If you would like to sign up to take part in this, please either add your name and email address to the sign-up sheet at church, or **visit www.saintelia.com/prayer-group-sign-up** before Lent beg Please see Aaron Gray if you have any questions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

St. Elia Church School Class 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.

GREAT LENT – A TIME OF RENEWAL

On Monday, March 11th, we begin the Holy Season of Great Lent. It is a very valuable season of the Church Year and the appointed time for our spiritual renewal. 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 off 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.”***