

THE VOICE

Parish Newsletter: February – March, 2020
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*

2020 Parish Council

President: Sandy Graham

Vice President: Veronica Bilas

Secretary: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

Treasurer: Tyler McKelvey

Members: John Bohush IV, Anthony Dodovich, Bud Graham,
Mary Marcin, 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

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

Sunday, February 2

Hours: Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Joshua Wherley

Sunday, February 9

Hours: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, February 16

Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

Epistle: Reader Aaron Gray

Sunday, February 23

Hours: Subd. Terrence Bilas

Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

Sunday, March 1

Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, March 8

Hours: Sarah Niglio

Epistle: Sarah Niglio

Sunday, March 15

Hours: Bud Graham

Epistle: Bud Graham

Sunday, March 22

Hours: Sandy Graham

Epistle: Sandy Graham

Sunday, March 29

Hours: Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Joshua Wherley

Sunday, April 5

Hours: Reader M. Luc

Epistle: Reader M. Luc

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

Leonora Evancho

Larissa Freude Newman

Anastasia Haymon

Joseph Boyle

Phyllis George

Connie Pysell

Matushka Laryssa Huntyan

Matushka Suzanne Senyo

Carl Palcheff

Lisa Nastoff

Sandra Dodovich

Angelo Lambo

Florence Lambo

Gary Turner

Infant Child Aria

Matushka Myra Kovalik

Matushka Christine Zebren

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES
FEBRUARY - MARCH - 2020

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST, IN THE TEMPLE.

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Saturday, February 1

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 2

9:45 am Hours – Joshua Wherley

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Hebrews 7:7-17 1 Timothy 4:9-15

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 Luke 19:1-10

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]

1ST Pre-Lenten Sunday

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

Leavetaking of the Meeting of Our Lord in the
Temple. Martyr Nicephorus in the Temple

Saturday, February 8

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 9

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 Hebrews 7:7-17

GOSPEL: Luke 18: 10-14 Luke 2:22-40

2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday

**35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

**St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of
Japan**

Saturday, February 15

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 16

9:45 am Hours – Reader Aaron Gray

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

GOSPEL: Luke 15:11-32

MEMORIAL SATURDAY – Saturday of Meatfare

Friday, February 21

6:00 pm Vespers of the Deceased

**General Panakhida for All the Faithful Departed this
life in the Hope of the Resurrection**

3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday

MEATFARE SUNDAY – Tone 3

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

Saturday, February 22

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 23

9:45 am Hours – Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

4th Pre-Lenten Sunday

**CHEESEFARE SUNDAY– Tone 4
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**

The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

Saturday, February 29

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 1

9:45 am Hours – Sue Ellen Turscak

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11-14:4

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:14-21

5:00 pm VESPERS AND MUTUAL

FORGIVENESS SERVICE – Beginning of Great Lent

GREAT LENT

The Lenten Spring has come!

***The light of repentance! Let us cleanse ourselves
from all evil, crying out to the Giver of Light:***

Glory to Thee, O Lover of mankind!

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Monday, March 2 – 6:00 pm

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

Tuesday, March 3 – 6:00 pm

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

Wednesday, March 4 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *3rd Section*

Thursday, March 5 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *4th Section*

Friday, March 6 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Blessing of the Boiled Wheat in memory of St. Theodore the Recruit. ***Lenten Covered Dish***

SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 5 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Saturday, March 7

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 8

9:45 am Hours – Sarah Niglio

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Sarah Niglio

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:24-26,32-12:2

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

5:00 pm SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS

**At George Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Grace, Bishop Anthony presiding**

Wednesday, March 11 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 13 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Covered Dish

THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 6

St. Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 14

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 15

9:45 am Hours – Bud Graham

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

5:00 pm Lenten Mission Vespers at

Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church

Wednesday, March 18– 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 20 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Covered Dish

FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 7

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 21

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 22

9:45 am Hours – Sandy Graham

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

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

5:00 pm Lenten Mission Vespers at

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY
LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN
MARY**

Tuesday March 24

7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation

at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Wednesday, March 25

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John

Chrysostom at St. Elia Church

Friday, March 27 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Covered Dish

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 8

Saint John Climacus

Saturday, March 28

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 29

9:45 am Hours – Joshua Wherley

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20 GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31

5:00 pm Lenten Mission Vespers at

St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

Lenten Supper

Wednesday, April 1– 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 3 – 6:00 pm

Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

***FIFTH* SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 1**

Saint Mary Egypt

Saturday, April 4

5:00 pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 5

9:45 am Hours – Reader Michael Luc

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

EPISTLE: Hebrews 9:11-14 GOSPEL: Mark 10:32-45

5:00 pm Lenten Mission Vespers at

St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church



CHURCH SCHOOL – 2019-2020

Our Church School Class began on **Sunday, November 3rd**. Twenty-five Classes are scheduled through 2019-2020, Classes are held on Sunday mornings in the Church Hall following Holy Communion.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our Parish Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 2, 2020** following the Divine Liturgy (not as previously announced in “**The Voice**”). The meeting will be opened following the Divine Liturgy in Church with the Installation of the 2020 Parish Council. Sandy Graham, Veronica Bilas, Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, Tyler McKelvey, John Bohush, Anthony Dodovich, , Bud Graham, Mary Marcin, Sarah Niglio, Joshua Wherley.

Following the Installation of Officers, we will go to the Church Hall for a Covered Dish Dinner and the continuation of St. Elia’s Annual Meeting.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pickup your offering envelopes for 2020 along with your **2020 Membership Forms** from the front pew.

**Annual COCA
Cabaret Dinner Dance
To Benefit the Seminarian
Scholarship Fund**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16,
2020**

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
129 S. Union Street
Akron, Ohio 44304**

**ADULTS \$20
STUDENTS (all) \$10
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE**

**For Tickets:
See our COCA Representative - Mary
Marcin**

**Cocktails @ 5:30 pm
Dinner @ 6:00 pm
Dance @ 7:30 pm**

Silent Auction closes at 8 :00 pm

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

MARCH 8, 2020

VESPERS 5:00 PM

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Ridgewood Road, Copley, Ohio**

Presiding and Guest Homilist

**His Grace Bishop Anthony
Antiochian Archdiocese**

Sponsored by:

**Orthodox Clergy Association
Christian Orthodox Council of Akron
Orthodox Christian Women**

Program Booklet

**Please make your donations in support of the
Sunday of Orthodoxy to Mary Marcin
Benefactor: \$50 Supporter: \$25
Patron: \$10 Sponsor \$5**

**LENTEN MISSION VESPERS
AKRON ORTHODOX
COMMUNITY**

March 8 – 5:00 pm

Sunday of Orthodoxy

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox
Church**

March 15 – 5:00 pm

**Presentation of Our Lord
Orthodox Church**

March 22 – 5:00 pm

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

March 25 – 7:00 pm

**Vespers of the Annunciation –
Annunciation Greek Orthodox
Church**

March 29 – 5:00 pm

**St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox
Church**

April 5 – 5:00 pm

**St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox
Church**

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on **February 2**



On February 2nd, 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 without defilement. 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 let 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”* (Luke2:29-32).

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.

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the Christ, the members of the Church also can claim their own “meeting” with the Lord Jesus

***KONTAKION OF THE FEAST OF THE MEETING
OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE***

***By The Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb,
and didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ our God. Now
Thou hast come and save us through love. Grant peace
to all Orthodox Christians, O only lover of man.***

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Commemorated on February 2, 2020

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3).

The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

THE ZACCHAEUS SONG

**Zacchaeus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see**

**And when the Savior passed that way
He looked up in the tree
And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today!
For I'm going to your house today!'**

**Zacchaeus was a wee little man
But a happy man was he
For he had seen the Lord that day
And a happy man was he;
And a very happy man was he**

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

Commemorated on March 25



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.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, as well: *"When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."*

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 favored, 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.