

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

All Saints of America Sunday - June 21, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are "Lived Streamed"

APOSTLES FAST: June 15 -June 28

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1 - ALL SAINTS OF

NORTH AMERICA *Happy and Blessed Father's Day*

Saturday, June 20 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, June 21

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Romans 2:10-16 GOSPEL: Matthew 4:18-23

NATIVITY OF THE HOLY PROPHET AND BAPTIST JOHN

Wednesday, June 24 - 8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2

Saturday, June 27 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, June 28

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: Romans 5:1-10 GOSPEL: Matthew 6:22-3

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE HOLY PROPHET,
FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN**

On Wednesday morning, June 24, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated **at 8:00 am** for the *Feast of Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*. This weekday Divine Liturgy is an opportunity for an additional service and the reception of Holy Communion.

BIBLE STUDY – PASCHAL GOSPELS OF ST. JOHN

Our “Zoom” at-home Bible Study will be held this week **on Wednesday, June 24: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**. To join the Bible Study go to the Parish Website (www.saintelia.com). There is a post on the website and click on the link provided. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Veronica. We would love to have you join!

“SPRING CLEAN-UP”

Thank you Subdeacon Terry Bilas, Tony Dodovich and Bud Graham for responding to the call for “spring” clean-up. We are in need during the “summer” months for grass cutters, flower beds cleaners, wood choppers and weed pullers.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

A great thank you to all for maintaining your stewardship to St. Elia. Your regular generous donations have enabled the Parish to meet the bills and maintain stability during these unprecedented times.

AMAZON SMILE - Support St. Elia

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

Important Update on Current Service Schedule & Gradual Reopening

We have been given the blessing from our Diocese to begin the process of the gradual reopening for the faithful to attend liturgical services. Please read completely as there are important procedures and guidelines we all must follow. All services will continue to be streamed online. We encourage those who cannot or should not be with us in person to join us via online streaming. **Saturday Evening Vespers will begin via streaming at 5 p.m. and Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.**

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) Only enter and exit through the front church door.
- 3) Please... there will be no gathering in the vestibule/office/and in the parish hall.
- 4) All side and hall doors will be locked (in keeping with AFD and codes all of our church doors can be exited from the inside).
- 5) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).
- 6) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 7) Sanitize your hands before exiting the church building.

In church: it is required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Therefore, pews will be marked for available and not available seating. There will be assigned ushers to assist you and/or your family to be seated (it may not be in your 'usual' place).

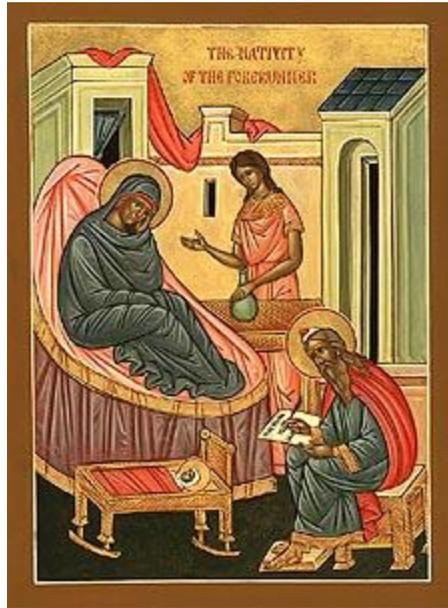
So sorry to say but we cannot kiss the icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or father's hand.

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan guidelines, parishioners must pre-register to attend liturgical services. Please call Fr. Don at (330) 724-7009 or (330) 472-6456 by Saturday morning before 12 noon to attend.

...where two or three are gathered together there am I," says our Lord according to St. Matthew's Gospel.

Love in Christ our Lord, Fr. Don

Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John



Commemorated on June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that

in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79). After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord

Fasting is an essential part of our Orthodox journey

Fasting was established by God Himself, as clearly seen in both the Old and New Testaments. The Lord Jesus Christ even went out into the desert for 40 days of fasting before beginning His early ministry.

Regarding fasting Christ said “When you fast...” (Matt. 6:16), rather than If you fast. Our Lord also said that we can overcome the devil only through prayer and fasting, after His disciples reported to Him that they had been unable to cast out a demon.

The Church has established fasting periods that actually total up to about half of the year, averaging about 180 days, when you add them all together. Each of the seasons of the Church calendar has its particular fasting period. The winter fast before Christmas; the spring fast of Great Lent; the summer Apostles fast; and the fall Dormition fast, have all been integral parts of the Church’s calendar from the earliest of times.

Throughout the rest of the year, two days of the week, Wednesdays and Fridays, have been assigned as fast days, as well as individual special fast days connected with feasts, such as the Eve of Theophany, the Beheading of Saint John the Forerunner, and the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

Let us with a joyful heart embrace the Apostles Fast, knowing that our reward will be great. For not only is fasting healthy for the soul, but it has great benefits for our bodies as well.