

WEEKLY BULLETIN

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 West Wilbeth Road, Akron, Ohio 44301 Church Hall: 330-724-7129

Office: 330-724-7009

www.saintelia.com www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron

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

Sunday – July 26, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are “Lived Streamed”

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6 – Repose of St. Jacob, Enlightener of the People of Alaska

Saturday, July 25 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, June 26

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

EPISTLE: Romans 15:1-7 GOSPEL: Matthew 9:27-35

August 1-14 – Dormition Fast

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7 – Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca 428)

Saturday, August 2 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 3

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 GOSPEL: Matthew 14:14-22

Important Update on Current Service Schedule & Gradual Reopening

We have been the blessing from our Diocese for Stage 4 reopening for our 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 live streamed by visiting our website www.saintelia.com. Saturday Evening Vespers @ 5:00 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.**

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Therefore, pews will be marked for available and not available seating. There will be 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.

SUMMER CLEAN-UP”

We are in need your help during the “summer” months for grass cutters, flower beds cleaners, wood choppers and weed pullers. Thank you Alexander Boyanov for spending time in the heat weed behind the Church

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Your maintaining your stewardship to St. Elia is astounding. THANK YOU! Your regular generous donations have enabled the Parish to meet the bills and maintain stability during these unprecedented times.

- Support St. Elia

Step 1: Go to: AMAZON SMILE

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIA

mountain before Him. After showing the prophet a great wind, a mighty earthquake, and fire, God finally spoke to Elijah in “a still, small voice.”

Through this account, the example is given to us of how we, as the Body of Christ, should reveal God to the world through our words. When we perceive that our society has reverted from Christianity to idolatry, and when we sense that some levels of government in our society are treating Christians unfairly, our task as the Church is not to manifest God through tempestuous outrage, earth-quaking tirades, or emotionally-fired speech. Neither, as Elijah was tempted to do, should we give in to self-pitying or defeatism. Rather, as the Church it is our task to manifest God’s presence through a still, small voice.

God’s still small voice is not condescending, it is not insulting, it does not seek to harm. It is not profane, rude, or violent.

Rather, God’s still small voice is still, because it is balanced and considerate. It is small, because it is humble and often rejected.

But it is nevertheless a voice! And indeed, when we have words to say that glorify God and manifest Truth to the world, then indeed, we should open our mouth, and the Spirit will inspire us to be the heralds of God’s love.

Engaging with one another by remote and online means more than ever in these months, in the midst of forceful and loud storms in society, let us first allow the Lord to speak to us in a still small voice, through engaging with Him in prayer, silence, and contemplation. Then, let us allow Him to speak through us, through whatever physical or media means we are using, to be the vehicles of His still small voice. Through the use of kind words, through the use of considerate speech, through the use of reason - logos - rather than emotion, we fulfill our role as Christ’s Church to be God’s voice.

The Church will always be “small” in the world’s eyes; appearing foolish or irrelevant. Yet we know the truth hidden to the world: Our Church’s authentic voice is the most rational and true voice in the world. This paradox exists because our wisdom does not belong to the world, as Saint Paul says: “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God” (1 Corinthians 3:18-19). Our wisdom is found in the paradox of Christ on the Cross: His death appeared foolish, it appeared irrelevant, but in reality, it was the most important historical event that has ever happened. It ushered in the new Creation, bringing about the Resurrection of all. His death and resurrection, indeed, are the vivid manifestation of God’s still small voice: by appearances small and despised, but in reality, Truth and Life-giving.

So, let us follow the Divine command, and “be still, and know that I Am God” (Psalm 45/46:10). And by our living as still and small men and women of prayer in the midst of the tumults of the world, our great and mighty Lord will paradoxically be manifested to the world through us.

May the Holy Prophet Elijah intercede for us so that we might all humbly transmit the still small voice of our almighty, all-powerful, and all-loving God so that the world might come to know He Who Is.

With love in Christ,

**+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada**