

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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[www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com)      [www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron](http://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 – August 16, 2020

Vol. 37

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are “Lived Streamed”

**10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1 – Afterfeast of the Dormition. Translation of the Image “Not-made-by-hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople**

**Saturday, August 15 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, August 16**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Bud Graham**

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

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16    GOSPEL: Matthew 17:14-23**

**Panakhida (40<sup>th</sup> day) for the repose of the soul of Mary Christa as requested by her family**

**11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 – Leavetaking of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**

**Saturday, August 22 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, August 23**

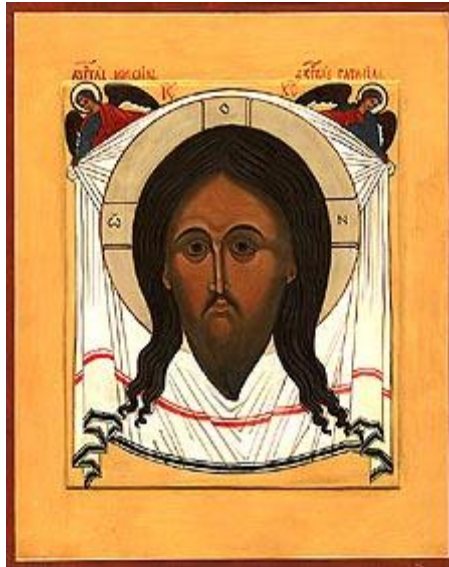
**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sandy Graham**

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

**Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham**

**EPISTLE: Philippians 2:5-11    GOSPEL: Matthew 16:23-35**

# Translation of the Image “Not-Made-By-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople.



The Transfer from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ Not-Made-by-Hands occurred in the year 944. Eusebius, in his *History of the Church* (I:13), relates that when the Savior was preaching, Abgar ruled in Edessa. He was stricken all over his body with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles worked by the Lord spread throughout Syria (Mt.4:24) and reached even Abgar. Without having seen the Savior, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God. He wrote a letter requesting Him to come and heal him. He sent with this letter to Palestine his own portrait-painter Ananias, and commissioned him to paint a likeness of the Divine Teacher. Ananias arrived in Jerusalem and saw the Lord surrounded by people. He was not able to get close to Him because of the large throng of people listening to the preaching of the Savior. Then he stood on a

high rock and attempted to paint the portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but this effort was not successful. The Savior saw him, called to him by name and gave him a short letter for Abgar in which He praised the faith of this ruler. He also promised to send His disciple to heal him of his leprosy and guide him to salvation.

Then the Lord asked that water and a cloth be brought to Him. He washed His Face, drying it with the cloth, and His Divine Countenance was imprinted upon it. Ananias took the cloth and the letter of the Savior to Edessa. Reverently, Abgar pressed the holy object to his face and he received partial healing. Only a small trace of the terrible affliction remained until the arrival of the disciple promised by the Lord. He was Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21), who preached the Gospel and baptized Abgar and all the people of Edessa. Abgar put the Holy Napkin in a gold frame adorned with pearls, and placed it in a niche over the city gates. On the gateway above the icon he inscribed the words, ***“O Christ God, let no one who hopes on Thee be put to shame.”***

For many years the inhabitants kept a pious custom to bow down before the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands, when they went forth from the gates. But one of the great-grandsons of Abgar, who later ruled Edessa, fell into idolatry. He decided to take down the icon from the city wall. In a vision the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to hide His icon. The bishop, coming by night with his clergy, lit a lampada before it and walled it up with a board and with bricks.

Many years passed, and the people forgot about it. But in the year 545, when the Persian emperor Chozroes I besieged Edessa and the position of the city seemed hopeless, the Most Holy Theotokos appeared to

Bishop Eulabius and ordered him to remove the icon from the sealed niche, and it would save the city from the enemy. Having opened the niche, the bishop found the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands: in front of it was burning the lampada, and upon the board closing in the niche, a copy of the icon was reproduced. After a church procession with the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands had made the circuit of the city walls, the Persian army withdrew.

In the year 630 Arabs seized Edessa, but they did not hinder the veneration of the Holy Napkin, the fame of which had spread throughout all the East. In the year 944, the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos (912-959) wanted to transfer the icon to the Constantinople, and he paid a ransom for it to the emir of the city. With great reverence the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-by-Hands and the letter which He had written to Abgar, were brought to Constantinople by clergy. On August 16, the icon of the Savior was placed in the Tharossa church of the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the time of the Iconoclast heresy, those who defended the veneration of icons, having their blood spilt for holy icons, sang the Troparion to the Icon Not-Made-by-Hands.

**Troparion** (*"Icon not-made-by-hands"*)

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**St Elia Parish Council virtual meeting for the month of August has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 26 at 7:00 pm**

## **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 to Tony Dodovich for owing and trimming the grounds of our Parish Temple

## **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.

# **Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services**

We have the blessing from our Diocese for Stage 4 for our faithful to attend liturgical services. Pews have been roped off for available and not available seating. There will be an usher to assist you and/or your family to be seated (it may not be in your 'usual' place). In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan Guidelines we all must follow these mandatory steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) Accordance with Governor's state mandate **ALL** must wear masks in Church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 3) Sanitize your hands before entering and exiting the church building.
- 4.) All required to keep 6 feet social distancing.
- 5.) No physical contact with icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or Father's hand.

**Due to limited seating PLEASE pre-register for Sunday Divine Liturgy by calling Fr. Don at (330) 724-7009 or (330) 472-6456 by Saturday.**

All services will continue to be live streamed by visiting our website [www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com). Saturday Evening Vespers @ 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30

*“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I with them” says our Lord. (Mathew 18:20)*