

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 – August 23, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are “Lived Streamed”

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 – Leavetaking of the

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos St. Irenaeus of Lyon

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

Sunday, August 23

9:10 am 3rd and 6th 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

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET,

FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

Saturday, August 29 – STRICT FAST DAY

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3

Saturday, August 29 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 30

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: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 GOSPEL: Matthew 19:16-26

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 for beautifying 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.

Sunday, August 16, Offerings; \$1,198.00.

“Tithley” Electronic Offerings: 7/20/2020 – 8/20/2020: \$636.32

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

PARISH LIBRARY

We have been gifted with two new books to our Parish Library:

“Royal Monastic, Princess Ileana of Romania”, the story of Mother Alexandra, who was called to build the first English language women’s monastery in the United States – The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Elwood City, Pennsylvania. This book was donated from the library of +Elaine Pedder by her daughter Barbara Di Puccio.

“Chosen For His People - A Biography of Patriarch Tikhon”, also known as the Enlightener of North America, who humbly accepted the call of God and the people to guide the Church in Russia during the most turbulent times of the Communist persecution of the Church. This book was donated to our Parish Library by Veronica Bilas.

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John



The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

**THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET,
FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN
Saturday, August 29 – STRICT FAST DAY**

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 are 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. 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)