

WEEKLY BULLETIN

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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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 –September 6, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are “Lived Streamed”

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4 – Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae

Saturday, September 5 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 6

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Joshua Wherley

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

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-42

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS

Tuesday, September 8 - 8:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5 – Forefeast and Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 12 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 13

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: Galatians 6:11-18 GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

Panakhida for the repose of the soul of Fr. John Bohush as requested by his son John Bohush and family

September 1st is the Liturgical New Year and begins a new year of grace for all believers. To all those in our Parish Family who have not been able to attend the Divine Services, a candle is being lit for a prayer on your behalf. (Made possible by a special donor)



Happy Liturgical New Year!

Our current conditions make it hard for us all to worship together in person.

We are all still parish family and you are being remembered.

A votive candle will be lit for your family and for our first liturgy of September and prayers are being lifted for you and your family.

As you join us for liturgy online, please offer an extra prayer for a successful new year for our parish.

May we grow in love.

May God guide us as we offer and share our lights to the world.

May God Protect teachers and students as they head back to school.

May we remember we are Christians first, let peace and God's love prevail first over politics and strife.

If you have any special prayer requests, feel free to respond to this email or reach out to us.

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcame the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and

Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East

**Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls”
(2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I Have Cried”, Tone 6).**

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion

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 30, 2020

Candles:	\$ 45.00
Offerings;	674.00
<u>Special Offering:</u>	<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$739.00

“Tithley” Donations: August 2020: \$580.00

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 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)