

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

64 West Wilbeth Road, Akron, Ohio 44301      Office: 330-724-7009

[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 –September 13, 2020

Vol. 37

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

*All Services are “Lived Streamed”*

**14<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

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

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

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

**UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS, LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

Monday, September 14: 8:00 am - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6 – Afterfeast and Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Saturday, September 19 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 20

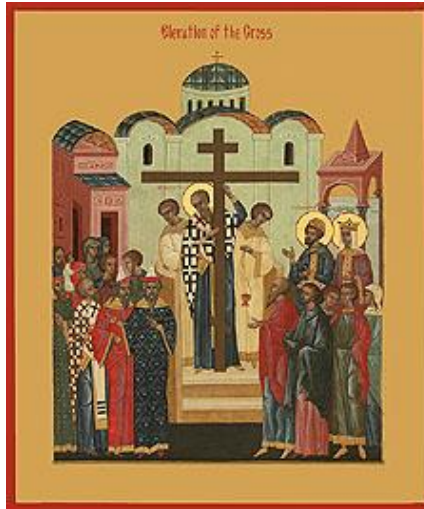
9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

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

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

EPISTLE: Galatians 2:16-20 GOSPEL: John 8:34-9:1

# Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross



The Forefeast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross is celebrated for only one day (September 13) and there are seven days of Afterfeast (September 15-21). The Leavetaking of the Feast falls on September 21.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is preceded by the Saturday and Sunday before the Exaltation, and it is followed by the Sunday after the Exaltation.

Today we also commemorate the Consecration of the church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem.

Saint Constantine the Great (May 21) built the church of the Resurrection on Golgotha. On September 13, 335, the Fathers of the Council of Tyre consecrated it and, at that time, ordained the annual commemoration of its consecration.

# Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem

The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by Saint Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt.13:1-2). Later on the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name. He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts. In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults. The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulchre of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails. In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about. The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulchre of the Lord, located near each other. The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

## **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 Subdeacon Terry Bilas, Tony Dodovich, Bud Graham, Tyler McKelvey, Joshua Wherley Thank you for beautifying the grounds of our Parish Temple and dedicated labor.

## **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, September 6, 2020**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 91.00</b>
<b>Offerings;</b>	<b>675.00</b>
<b>Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Special Offering:</b>	<b>176.50</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$972.50</b>

### **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.

### **‘PROLOGUE FROM OCHRID’**

In his early years, the future Bishop Nikolai once had a conversation with a spiritual father on the Holy Mountain of Athos. The young Nikolai asked the monk, “Father, what is your main spiritual exercise?” The Elder (starets) replied: “The perfect visualization of God’s presence.” “Ever since then,” Bishop Nikolai said in later life, “I have sought to achieve this visualization of God’s presence. And, little though I have succeeded, it has helped me enormously in keeping me from sin when I was in freedom, and from despair when I was in prison. If we could preserve the vision of the invisible God, we would be happier, wiser and stronger in every walk of life.”

St.Nikolai Velimiriovic

# **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](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)*