

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 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 20, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are “Lived Streamed”

15th 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 3rd and 6th 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

Monday, September 21 – Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Wednesday, September 23 – Conception of St. John the Baptist

**Thursday, September 24 – Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly
and Peter the Aleut**

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7 – Martyr Callistratus

Saturday, September 26 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 27

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham

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

Epistle Reader: Reader Bud Graham

EPISTLE: 2nd Corinthians 6:1-10 GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11



AFRICAN BIRTH SONG

There is a tribe in Africa where the birth date of a child is counted not from when they were born, nor from when they are conceived but from the day that the child was a thought in its mother's mind. And when a woman decides that she will have a child, she goes off and sits under a tree, by herself, and she listens until she can hear the song of the child that wants to come. And after she's heard the song of this child, she comes back to the man who will be the child's father, and teaches it to him. And then, when they make love to physically conceive the child, some of that time they sing the song of the child, as a way to invite it. And then, when the mother is pregnant, the mother teaches that child's song to the midwives and the old women of the village, so that when the child is born, the old women and the people around her sing the child's song to welcome it. And then, as the child grows up, the other villagers are taught the child's song. If the child falls, or hurts its knee, someone picks it up and sings its song to it. Or perhaps the child does something wonderful, or goes through the rites of puberty, then as a way of honoring this person, the people of the village sing his or her song.

In the African tribe there is one other occasion upon which the villagers sing to the child. If at any time during his or her life, the person commits a crime or aberrant social act, the individual is called to the center of the village and the people in the community form a circle around them. Then they sing their song to them.

The tribe recognizes that the correction for antisocial behavior is not punishment; it is love and the remembrance of identity. When you recognize your own song, you have no desire or need to do anything that would hurt another.

And it goes this way through their life. In marriage, the songs are sung, together. And finally, when this child is lying in bed, ready to die, all the villagers know his or her song, and they sing—for the last time—the song to that person.

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You may not have grown up in an African tribe that sings your song to you at crucial life transitions, but life is always reminding you when you are in tune with yourself and when you are not. When you feel good, what you are doing matches your song, and when you feel awful, it doesn't. In the end, we shall all recognize our song and sing it well. You may feel a little warbly at the moment, but so have all the great singers. Just keep singing and you'll find your way home.

Heartwarming. Much inspiration. Wow. So beautiful we could all cry a thousand tiny tears.

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Statement of Archbishop Benjamin on Wildfires in Western US

SAN FRANCISCO, CA [DOW]

The news from the West has been practically apocalyptic of late with wildfires throughout the West, especially in California, Southern Oregon and Washington State.

I am presently aware that several families have lost everything to these fires and others are threatened. Not only that, whole towns have gone up in flames affecting the lives of many with loss of homes and jobs.

Yesterday the skies in San Francisco were dark orange - so dark that the streetlamps were still lit at noon. Thankfully, while threatened, no churches have been lost.

Fr. Matthew Tate of the Annunciation Orthodox Church, Milwaukie, Oregon wrote:

“Seven families are in the Red Zone (leave now) and have evacuated. At least two of the homes are likely to burn. The others are in the path of one of the fires. Most of us are either in the Yellow (get ready now) or Green (be prepared to leave) Zones. This includes the whole area around the church property. The winds have abated but the fires are very active and close. From my office window I cannot see beyond about 100 feet due to smoke. It is eerie and worrisome for everyone.”

Fr. Andreas Blom, who lives in Talent, Oregon was evacuated with his family yesterday. There was really concern his home and church were lost to the flames. He was able to return home today to pick up a few things and found everything across the street from his house was totally lost to the fire. His home and the church have survived so far. At this writing, three families from his mission were burnt out though.

First of all, we ask for your prayers for everyone, Orthodox and non-Orthodox who have experienced loss. Secondly, should you wish to send a donation, checks may be made out to: Diocese of the West, and sent to: Fire Fund c/o Archangel Gabriel Mission, PO Box 823 Ashland, OR 97520

Donations will be used to help not only our own parishioners, but also our neighbors in this time of crisis.

We thank you in advance.

**+Benjamin
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West**

FALL TIME 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 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 13, 2020

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Candles: | \$ 37.00 |
| Offerings; | 1,382.00 |
| Improvement Fund: | 25.00 |
| “Snow Cones” sales | 14.00 |
| <u>Special Offering:</u> | <u>20.00</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$1,478.00 |

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.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the following events of the will be virtually by ZOOM:

THE FELLOWSHIP TEA, October 18: 2-4 pm. Presented by Dr. Bill Shaheen, MD: *“In Wonder of the Supreme Artist – A Reflection on the Orthodox View of Ecology and the Environment.*

THE BOOK STUDY will begin on October 5.

Please send your email address to Nikki Bober (nibober@gmail.com) so you can be invited. You will need the ZOOM link in order to attend these events.

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)