

WEEKLY BULLETIN

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Archbishop Alexander of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA

V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Fr. Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector

Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Vol. 37

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

All Services are "Live Streamed"

Beginning of the Christmas Fast - 1st Sunday of Advent

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6

Saturday , November 14 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, November 15 – *Fast Day*

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle : Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Lighting of the 1st Candle on the Advent Wreath

Monday, Nov. 16 - Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew – *Fast Day*

Thursday, Nov. 19 – Prophet Obadiah – *Fast Day*

Friday, Nov. 20 – Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Friday, November 20

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

ADVENT REFLECTION

COME, LORD JESUS! On Christmas, we commemorate the Coming of the Son of God in the flesh at His Birth in Bethlehem.

COME, LORD JESUS! As Christians we are always standing in the HOPE of His awesome and glorious second coming when He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords over His own creation,

COME, LORD JESUS! In this Holy Season of Advent – a time of *prayer, fasting and silence* – we prepare for ***His Coming in grace.***

What does this mean? Everyday we grow in Christ or we weaken our relationship with Him because of our lack of purpose and commitment. This fasting season before Christmas is given to us by the Church as an opportunity given to us once again to renew ourselves in Christ, to restore His Life in us, to prepare the ***good soil*** for His Kingdom to come to us.

Everyday of Advent, therefore, is to be for us a step forward out of the darkness of our selfish, self-centered and sinful world that so often engulfs us and into the light of God's Kingdom – ***into the Presence of Christ Who is the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of the world.***

Our prayer during Advent, therefore, can be summed up in the words: ***COME, LORD JESUS!*** These words and this prayer are the last words of the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. Each day of Advent as we pray ***COME, LORD JESUS,*** we will be filled with more and greater power which drives away those thoughts and passions that are incompatible with a Christian way of life.

But our ***prayer*** must be joined with ***fasting.*** Fasting allows our mind, heart and soul to be in control of our bodies and allows us to give God our full attention. When He has our attention, He can take up His abode in us and grant us the peace and the joy of a full Christian life.

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Seven days within the Season of Advent – on November 21st, the Feast of Mary’s Entrance into the Temple as a child is celebrated. This Feast is filled with important spiritual significance for us the believers.

The Text of the Services tells how Mary was brought by her parents as a small child to the Temple in order to be raised there, consecrated to the service of the Lord, until the time of her betrothal in marriage.

According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place in order to prepare herself to become the ***“holy of holies”*** of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the ***Divine Child Who was to be born of her.***

The main theme of Mary’s entrance into the Temple is the fact that she enters into the Temple to become the ***LIVING TEMPLE OF GOD***, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament that ***“THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IS WITH MAN”*** and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence.

“Mary’s story...tells us that if the Scriptures don’t sometimes pierce us like a sword, we’re not paying close enough attention.”

Kathleen Norris, the Cloister Walk

In celebration of this Feast, the Vesperal Divine Liturgy will be served on Friday evening, November 20 at 6:00 pm.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING

Last Sunday, November 8th, a General Parish Meeting was held to elect the 2021 Parish Council. The following parishioners have agreed to serve and were elected: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, Veronica Bilas, John Bohush IV, John Cheese, Tony Dodovich Reader Aaron Gray, Sarah Niglio, Tyler McKelvey, Joshua Wherley and Mary Marcin as COCA Representative.

“ZOOM” PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – this week **Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Your maintaining of your financial stewardship to St. Elia Parish is astounding. It has enabled the Parish to meet the bills and maintain stability.

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Candles: \$ 18.00

Sunday Offering: 692.00

Parking Lot/Kitchen: 40.00

Bookstore: 11.00

TOTAL: \$761.00

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS OFFERINGS

Please make your donations for flowers for the celebration of Christmas. Flower Offering Envelopes are available at the Candle Desk. Thank you.

Mary’s Virginal “Emptiness”

It is emptiness like the hollow in the reed, the narrow riftless emptiness which can have only one destiny: to receive the piper’s breath and to utter the song that is in His heart... (Mary) was a reed through which the Eternal love was to be piped as a Shepherd’s song...She was the warm nest rounded to the shape of humanity to receive the Divine Bird.

Caryll Houselander: “The Reed of God”

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

We have the blessing from our Diocese for Stage 4 reopening for our faithful to attend liturgical services. 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 a.m.

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 3) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).
- 4) All are required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Pews are marked for available and not available seating.
- 5) Please... there will be no gathering in the vestibule/office/and in the parish hall

So sorry to say... but we cannot kiss the icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or Father's hand.

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan Guidelines, parishioners must pre-register to attend liturgical services. Please call Fr. Don at (330) 724-7009 or (330) 472-6456 by Saturday morning before 12 noon to attend.

“Learning to love is hard and we pay dearly for it. It takes hard work and a long apprenticeship, for it is not just for a moment that we must learn to love, but forever.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky