

# 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)

*Archbishop Alexander of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA*

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

*Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh*

**Sunday, November 22, 2020**

**Vol. 37**

## **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

*All Services are "Live Streamed"*

**Due to the pandemic situation, a precautionary step is being taken at St. Elia Church this weekend. Services on Friday evening and Saturday evening are cancelled. A Reader Service (without Holy Communion) will be held on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7 – Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**

**Sunday, November 22**

**9:30 am - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6th Hour and READER SERVICE**

Epistle : Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-2

**Monday, November 23 – Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**

**Tuesday, November 24 - Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple      Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria**

**Wednesday, November 25 – Leavetaking of the Entrance of the**

**Theotokos into the Temple.      Hieromartyr Clement of Rome**

**Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8 – Martyr Paramon**

**Saturday , November 28 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, November 29**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc**

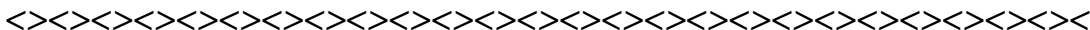
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc**

Epistle : Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

*Lighting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle on the Advent Wreath*



### **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 15, 2020**

**Candles: \$ 19.00**

**Sunday Offering: 1,212.00**

**2021 Rubrics Books: 85.00**

**TOTAL 1,316.00**

**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 ae 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.

### **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR**

At the Parish Council Meeting this past Tuesday, concern and need for more communication with each other as a Parish family was discussed. It was decided to once again have a **virtual coffee hour**. One will be held on **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm**. Interested? Please forward your email address to [prophetelia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prophetelia@sbcglobal.net) so that the link can be forwarded to you.

## ADVENT – PREPARING FOR EMMANUEL

**Advent** is the season of the Church year that call us to prepare for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Advent began on November 15 and continues through Christmas Eve, December 24. During Advent we are challenged to think more seriously about our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who took on our humanity to reveal God's love for us.



**REJOICE, O ISAIAH! A virgin is with Child, and bear a son, and shall call Him Emmanuel – God with us!** With these words, the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah anticipated the coming of the Savior. These words embody the longings, hopes, and desires of God's people as they prepared to receive the One who come to grant them new life.

During Advent we anticipate and prepare for the celebration of the Birth of the Savior and the joy we experience on the Feast of Christmas depends on how well we have prepared ourselves to receive Him.

We spend a great deal of time getting ready for Christmas in shopping, decorating and menu planning. Important as these matters are, **our spiritual preparation is critical if we are to catch the true Christmas spirit.**

### **INCREASED PRAYER**

Prayer is communication with God. Not only should we pray when we need help in our daily lives, but we should pray to thank and glorify God for the many blessings He has given us. **“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for tis is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (Philippians 5:16-18).** During Advent, we should especially reflect on the gift of eternal life made possible by the Birth of Jesus Christ.

## ***FASTING***

When we fast, we should not only avoid certain foods and their quantity, but we should also avoid anything and everything which tends to control us. Fasting is ***doing without*** those things which are not essential for our lives. Fasting, by cleansing our bodies helps to clear our minds, enabling us to gain control once again of those things which so often control us.

## ***REPENTANCE***

Repentance is the conscious effort to change our lives and to turn things around from those things which create barriers between us, God, and others.

During Advent we are offered the opportunity to devote time to self-reflection, to reassess our relationships with God and with others, and to be reconciled and reunited with those from whom we have grown apart. Our thoughts should turn to the miracle of God's love and forgiveness which our Lord proclaims and to the new life He gives.

## ***HELPING OTHERS***

While we pray and fast and repent, it is equally important to share our time, our talent and treasures with others, the poor, the needy, the hungry and especially the lonely. Advent should bring us together, uniting us around the new born King – His Life, His message, His death and resurrection as the King of Glory.

## ***A BLESSED THANKSGIVING DAY***

*Count your blessings instead of your crosses.*

*Count your gains instead your losses.*

*Count your joys instead of your woes.*

*Count your friends instead of your foes*

*Count your smiles instead of your tears.*

*Count your courage instead of your fears.*

*Count your full years instead of your lean.*

*Count your kind deeds instead of your mean*

*Count your health instead of your wealth.*

*Count on God instead of yourself.*

## **THE ADVENT WREATH**

To help in our preparation during the Fast, we have an ***Advent Wreath*** in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, will have six candles on it – one for each week in Advent.

***Today, Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>***, along with special prayers, we will light the **second candle** on the Advent Wreath – as we prepare to empty ourselves in repentance and open our hearts to receive Christ the Light of the World into our hearts.

***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.  
For those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a Light is risen.  
For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.  
And of His peace there shall be no end. Isaiah 9:2,6***

## **THE CHRISTMAS CANON**

**On November 21<sup>st</sup>**, 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 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.

With the celebration of the Feast of Mary's Entrance into the Temple, we begin to sing the Irmos from the Matins of Christmas:

***Christ is born; Glorify Him!  
Christ is on earth; be exalted!  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
And praise Him in gladness, O people,  
for He has been glorified!***

# **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](http://www.saintelia.com).

**Sunday, December 22, 2020 - Reader Service 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 OR 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.**