

# 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 29, 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. Vespers on Saturday evening are cancelled. A Reader Service (without Holy Communion) will be held on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.**

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

**25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7 – Martyr Paramon**

**Sunday, November 29**

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

Epistle : Ephesians 4:1-6                      Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

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

**Monday, November 30 - Holy and All-praised Andrew the First-called**

**Tuesday, December 1 – Prophet Nahum**

**Wednesday, December 2 – Prophet Habakkuk**

**Thursday, December 3 – Prophet Zephaniah**

**Friday, December 4 – Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana**

**Glorification of New Hieromartyr Alexander Hotovitsky**

**Saturday, December 5 – Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified**

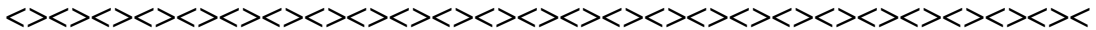
**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1 -St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**

Epistle : Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

*Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Candle on the Advent Wreath*

**SERVICES FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5 AND 6 TO BE ANNOUNCED**



**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 22, 2020**

**Candles: \$ 14.00**

**Sunday Offering: 500.00**

**OCA Pension Donation: 300.00**

**TOTAL \$814.00**

**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.

# AN ADVENT MEDITATION:



## ***THE PROPHETS***

***“This took place what the Lord said through the Prophet...(Matthew:1:22)***

Such statements abound in the Gospels, especially the Gospel according to St. Matthew. An utterly unique event in human history (not to mention a mind-boggling concept in itself), the advent of Jesus Christ was the ultimate goal of all messianic prophecy. Bridging the chasm between Creator and creature, the divine and eternal Son of God came to earth. Yet He was known to most as “son of the carpenter” or “son of Mary,” since HE came *as a man*.

So, the Evangelists, in preaching the Super Great News, had to be careful to show that the radically new doctrine of *God-made-man in Christ* was not just a novelty introduced by a controversial and charismatic Rabbi. Rather, it was the eternal plan of the God of Israel, which He announced ***“in many and various ways...through the prophets.” (Hebrews 1:1)***

The time of Advent – the Christmas Fast – is a time for meditation upon and celebration of the time of the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies in our Lord Jesus Christ. The liturgical calendar is sprinkled with Feast of the Prophets. For example:

October 17 – Prophet Hosea

October 19 – Prophet Joel

November 19 – Prophet Obadiah

*continued on next page*

December 1 – Prophet Nahum

December 2 – Prophet Habakkuk

December 3 – Prophet Zephaniah

December 16 – Prophet Haggai

December 17 - Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy  
Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael

Since all prophecies are fulfilled in Christ, and since He has already come, is prophecy now a dead letter? On the contrary, the spirit of prophecy is alive and active in all those who surrender to the Lord their lives and their lips. The reading of the prophets, especially during Advent, helps to prepare interiorly for the coming in grace of the Son of God into the dark caves of our hearts, that He might speak through us the word of grace and truth to a world in desperate need of the Light of Christ and salvation.

Just what is a prophet anyway? A prophet is literally someone who “speaks for another” and in the context of salvation history – for God. We need to listen to the prophets, read their writings in Holy Scripture and pray for the wisdom to understand their message.

We must be open to God’s grace and call in our own lives. As we go more deeply into our reflection of the first advent of Christ, let us open our minds and our hearts to the Word of God. The time of preparation of the celebration of the Lord’s Nativity is a ***time par excellence*** to listen, to create an inner silence in which the Word can speak. And what you hear in the dark, you may be called to speak in the light. This is to fulfill what was said through the prophet. ***“Would that all people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow His Spirit on them all!” (Number 11:29)***

# Statement of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon on Surge of COVID-19 Cases

November 23, 2020

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

As you know, most parts of the world are currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), in the United States alone, there were over 184,000 cases and around 1,500 deaths reported on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

My prayers and those of the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America are offered for all those who have suffered and continue to suffer because of this virus, especially our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters. Together with the Holy Synod, I also offer fervent prayers for the medical professionals who care for those who are ill with COVID-19.

The national and local authorities across North America are encouraging a greater level of caution while adopting a series of measures in the attempt of limiting the spread of the virus.....For it is not solely for our own health, but out of love for our neighbor, that we must do everything we can to protect one another by limiting the spread of this virus not only in our parishes, but in the greater community...

Further, I take this moment to reiterate the following to all the parishes, monasteries, institutions, and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America: hold fast to the directives and

**guidelines put forward by the Holy Synod for the whole Church, and your diocesan bishop in particular for your specific local situation. Remain vigilant in precautions against COVID-19, and continue to practice good hygiene, maintain social distancing, wear masks, and follow carefully the other important measures and practices directed by the diocesan bishops and the public health authorities. Of primary importance is to be particularly attentive to potential symptoms, and refraining from leaving our house if we are in any way sick.**

**At the same time, I want to encourage all of you not to be fearful but rather to be strengthened and comforted by this blessed season in which we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. I assure you, no steps we take this year to guard against the spread of the coronavirus will prevent us from giving thanks to God for all that he has given us. In anticipation of the coming of the True Light, Jesus Christ, the great Physician and Healer of our souls and bodies, we cling to those words of the Psalmist, “I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my firm foundation, my refuge, and my deliverer (Ps 18.1-2).”**

**May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed eternally with the Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit preserve us in these days and grant us health and his peace.**

**Sincerely yours in Christ,**

**+TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada**

# **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 29, 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.**