

# 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, December 6, 2020**

**Vol. 37**

## **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

*All Services are "Live Streamed"*

*Prepare for the Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion on Sunday*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

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

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

**Sunday, December 6**

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

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

**Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray**

**Epistle : Ephesians 5:9-19**

**Gospel: Luke 17:12-19**

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

**Wednesday, December 9 -Conception of the righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos**

### **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.

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska**

**Saturday, December 12 - 5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, December 13**

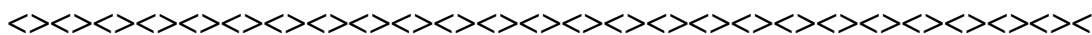
**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Joshua Herman Wherley**

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

**Epistle Reader: Joshua Herman Wherley**

**Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24**

***Lighting of the 5<sup>th</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.

<b><u>Sunday, November 29, 2020</u></b>	
<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Offering:</u></b>	<b><u>1,006.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,011.00</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 ae the only one in Akron.**

**“Tithley” Electronic Donations:  
Nov. 1 – Dec. 1: \$806.41**

**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR**

At the Parish Council Meeting, 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 **NEXT 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:



## GIVING AND RECEIVING

In a few short weeks we will celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas has become a time to exchange gifts with our families, our friends and other loved ones, but occasionally, we are warned that we might be getting to commercialized and to concerned about impersonal gifts and that we should not forget to keep Christ in Christmas – or perhaps said better – we need to put Christ in Christmas.

Christ Himself has told us to love one another as He has loved us. And it is in this *very spirit of love*, the very spirit that typifies St. Nicholas whose Feast Day we celebrate today, Sunday, December 6. It is St. Nicholas' love that has endeared him to Christians, and non - Christians, throughout the world, that has prompted such gift-giving at Christmas time.

It is a real joy for us to give a gift to a loved one – it makes us feel good inside – but it is just as important that we receive or accept the gift in love also. ***There are gifts that we can give to one another that don't cost a cent:***

***The Gift of listening*** – But you must really listen. No interrupting, no day dreaming, no planning our response. Just listening!

***The Gift of affection*** – Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and hand shakes!

***The Gift of a compliment*** -A simple and sincere “You did a super job” or “That was a wonderful meal” can make someone's day.

***The Gift of a cheerful disposition*** – the easiest way to feel good is to make *others* feel good!

# Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Commemorated on [December 6](#)

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

Upon the death of Archbishop of Patara, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

He worked many miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now.

# 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).

Saturday Vespers – 5:00 pm.      Sunday, Divine Liturgy- 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.**