

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 13, 2020

Vol 37



St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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www.saintelia.com www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron

ALL SERVICES ARE “LIVE STREAMED”

*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 of the Forefathers

Commemorated on [December 13](#)

Troparion — Tone 2

Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: She who bore You without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion — Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, / for You are merciful and able to do as You will

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. This occurs this year on December 13, 2020. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

"The life of the righteous fathers and mothers of ancient days, like that of all God's saints, is Christ. God's holy people live for Him alone, for the living God, and for His Word. Their reason for being is to praise God, not only in words but in deeds, ***and so to live.***

There is a great difference between *existing* and *living*. Many people exist. Very few people really live. Only those who seek God have life. Only those who delight in His commandments and rejoice in accomplishing His will pass beyond mere existence and actually find life. "***Seek God and you shall live***" (Psalm 69:32. This is the cry of the psalmist David who is especially hymned on this Sunday and on the Sunday after Christmas.....

The holy forefathers and mothers, together with all their descendants, have chosen life. They find it in God's Messiah, Jesus Christ, Who is Life itself, God's Incarnate Word. The celebration of the Winter Pascha, Christmas, is a celebration of Life in God's Word. For Christ, "***Who is our Life***" has already appeared (Col. 3:4). "***We have beheld His glory.***" (John 1:14)"

The Winter Pascha, Father Thomas Hopko

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

5th Sunday of Advent

**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 –
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. Repose of
Venerable Herman of Alaska. St. Lucia of Syracuse
Saturday, December 12**

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 13

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Joshua 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 5th Candle on the Advent Wreath

CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

6th Sunday of Advent

**28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3 –
Forefeast & Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ.
Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch
Saturday, December 19**

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 20

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John

Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Lighting of the 6th Candle on the Advent Wreath

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

***The Nativity According to the Flesh of
our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ***

Wednesday, December 23

6:00 pm Royal Hours of Christmas

Thursday, December 24 *CHRISTMAS EVE*

5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas

Friday, December 25 - *CHRISTMAS DAY*

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

**SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY – Synaxis of the Theotokos**

Saturday, December 26

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

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4

THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE

**NATIVITY. Sunday after the Nativity. Holy
Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the
King, and James the Brother of the Lord.**

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 27

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

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

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

At the last Parish Council Meeting it was decided to once again have a **virtual coffee hour**. One will be held **TODAY, Sunday, December 13th at 12:30 pm**. The ZOOM link has been sent to your email.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please make your donations for flowers for the celebration of the Feast of Christmas. Flower Offering envelopes are available at the Candle Desk.

2021 CHURCH CALENDAR and OFFERING ENVELOLPES

Please pickup yours up from the front pew.

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, DECEMBER 6, 2020

Candles:	\$ 26.00
Sunday Offering:	688.00
Improvement Fund:	40.00
Flower Fund:	88.00
Bookstore:	20.00
TOTAL:	\$862.00

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.

ADVENT MEDITATION

DIVINITY IS ALWAYS WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT TO FIND IT



There is no room in the Inn, but there was room in the stable. An Inn was usually a gathering place where the problems of the world discussed, and where opinions were stated on almost every subject. The inn was the rallying place of the popular and successful. The stable, on the other hand, was a place for outcasts, the ignored, the forgotten. The world might have expected the Son of God to be born – if He were to be born at all – in an Inn. A stable would be the last place in the world where one would have looked for Him. *Divinity is always where one least expects to find it.*

No worldly mind would ever have suspected that He Who could make the sun warm would one day have need of an ox and an ass to warm Him with their breath; that He Who clothed the fields with grass, would Himself be naked; that He from Whom came planets and worlds would one day have tiny arms that were not long enough to reach the heads of the animals; that the Eternal Word would have to learn to speak; that the all-powerful would be wrapped in swaddling clothes; that salvation would be in a manger. No one would ever suspect that God coming to earth would be so helpless. And that is why so many miss Him. *Divinity is always where one least expects to find it.*

"There are only two classes of people who heard the cry Christmas night. Shepherds: those who know they know nothing. Wise Men: those who know they do not know everything. Only the very simple and the very learned discovered God – never the man of one book."

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Rest of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America –

Commemorated on December 13

In 1794, a group of ten Orthodox Christian missionaries from Russia reached Alaska. It was an unusually long journey, taking a year to traverse 7,900 miles by land and by sea. Father Herman was one of the men to arrive at Kodiak island. From there he went to live on the smaller Spruce Island. He lived there for more than forty years and worked on behalf and prayed for the natives until his death in 1836. On August 9, 1970 he was proclaimed a saint and is known throughout the world as St Herman of Alaska.

Troparion — St. Herman

O joyful north star of the Church of Christ, /
guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom; /
teacher and apostle of the true faith; /
intercessor and defender of the oppressed. /
Adornment of the Orthodox Church in
America, / blessed Father Herman of Alaska, /
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ / for the salvation
of our souls!

Virgin Martyr Lucy of Syracuse, Sicily

Commemorated on December 13

Saint Lucy was born in Syracuse, Sicily, during the reign of Diocletian. She distributed her wealth to the poor, and made a vow of virginity. Since she refused to marry him, a rejected suitor denounced her to the prefect Paschasius as a Christian, and she was arrested. She was sentenced to be defiled in a brothel, but with God's help she preserved her purity.

Then the pagans attempted to burn her alive, but she was not harmed by the fire. Finally, she was killed by a sword thrust to the throat.

The name Lucy (Lucia) is derived for the Latin word for light (lux), and so she is often invoked for afflictions of the eyes. There is a tradition that she was blinded by her torturers, and the church of San Giovanni Maggiore in Naples even claims to possess her eyes..

The story of Lucy's death was carried especially to Sweden. Since the Saint's day comes at the season of deepest winter darkness, the legend of the young martyr whose name means "light"

took deep root in popular imagination in the North. Observance of Lucy's festival in Sweden, as elsewhere, has come down through hundreds of years.

Saint Lucy, represented by a young girl wearing a white dress, crimson sash and a leaf crown with lighted candles, visits each household at dawn with a tray of coffee and cakes..

Accompanied by other young girls, wearing white dresses, carrying lighted candles, they sing the Italian folk song, Santa Lucia. This starts the Christmas festival welcoming the birth of Christ who truly is the Light that comes into the darkness.

Troparion — Tone 5

Wearing the radiant mantle of virginity, and virginally betrothed to the Life-giver Christ, you forsook the love of your earthly betrothed; therefore, as a bridal gift, you brought to Him the outpouring of your blood. O Virgin Martyr Lucy, intercede with Him for us all!

Kontakion — Tone 3

We honor you, pure Virgin and trophy-bearer Lucy, and we praise your illustrious contest; for you desired only the beauty of Christ, disdaining all corruptible things. When you were beheaded, you received incorruptible glory.

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website www.saintelia.com.

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 (330) 472-6456 by Saturday.