

WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 21, 2021

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Sunday of Orthodoxy



St. ELIA
ORTHODOX  CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

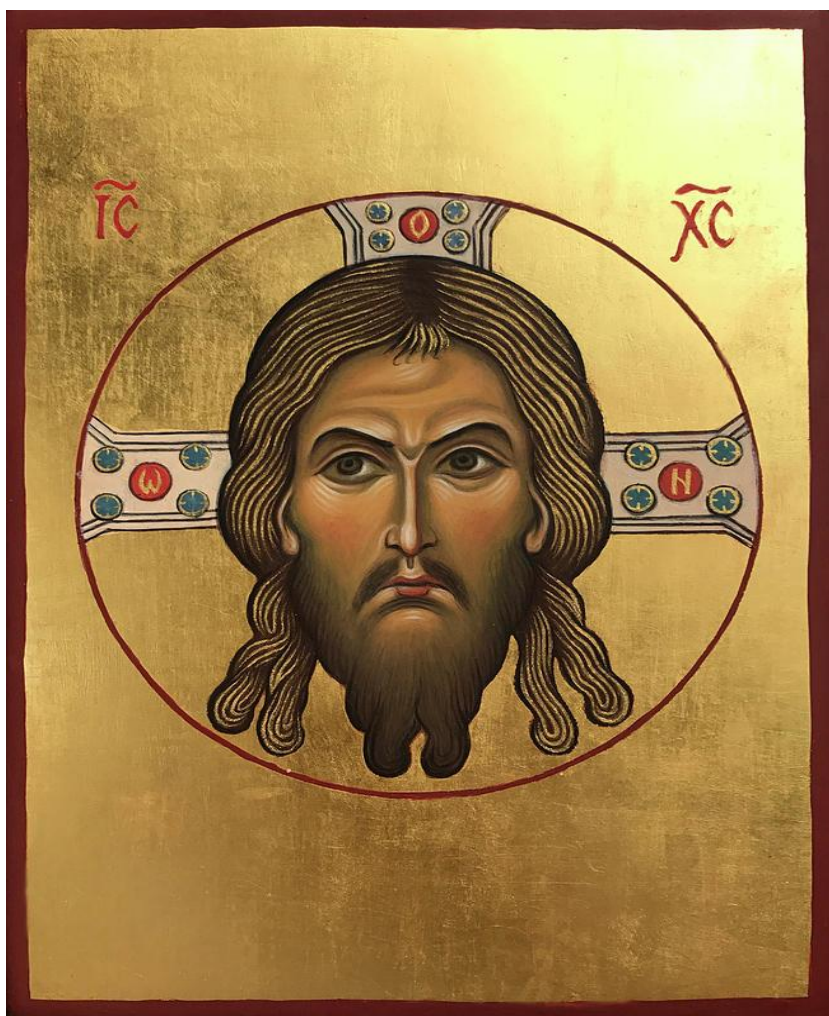
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www.saintelia.com

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*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*



We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: "You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."



BULGARIAN DIOCESE — OF TOLEDO — Orthodox Church in America

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GREAT LENT 2021

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

In light of the developing situation with the Coronavirus in the United States, I recently issued a set of slightly modified guidelines for the celebration of the 40 days of Great Lent. In the upcoming weeks, I will continue to assess the situation in our communities and consider what to do for Holy Week and Pascha. If things improve, God willing, we will be able to loosen our restrictions somewhat.

I begin my Lenten message with the above information because of the great desire among our clergy and faithful to return to the usual rhythms of parish life, especially as we prepare for our Lenten liturgical cycle. There is a valuable lesson for us as we reflect on this desire.

Writing about our liturgical celebrations, St. John Chrysostom said, "For although they are done on earth, yet nevertheless they are worthy of the heavens... The Church is heavenly, and is nothing else than heaven." When we gather for our services, we stand before the divine Presence, the Presence that overshadowed the Temple and the Tabernacle, the Presence before whom Moses stood on Mount Sinai.

In the life of the Church, our first priority is that all be done "on earth as it is in heaven." Our desire to return to a regular rhythm of liturgical services is nothing less than a desire to stand together, as frequently as possible, before the One "who is seated on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." (Hebrews 8:1)

Like the Prodigal Son, we want to be home again, embraced by our ever-merciful Father, partaking in his Banquet of love. May we use our Lenten journey this year as an opportunity to prepare our hearts for this encounter with God, first in the celebration of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha, and ultimately at our Lord's Second Coming.

With love in Christ,

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese –Orthodox Church in America

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Saturday, March 20

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 21

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32:12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51

**PROCESSION OF HOLY ICONS
AND AFFIRMATION OF ORTHODOX FAITH**

***Please bring your personal Icons to carry in the
Procession***

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**

Thursday, March 25

**6:00 pm Great Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of
Saint John Chrysostom**

THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 1

St .Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 27

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 28

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

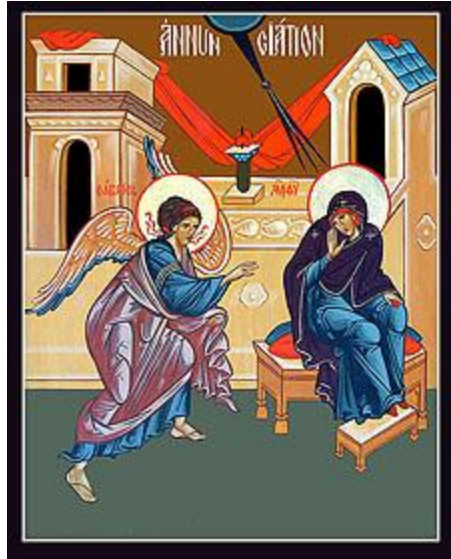
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on [March 25](#)



The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke (1:26-38)..There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God’s promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): “I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel.” The Fathers of the Church understand “her seed” to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34). "And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth

month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1: 35-38)

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven. In a famous icon from Sinai, a white dove is shown in the ray of light.

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint Basil or Saint John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr .Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco. Son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Metropolitan Herman
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)
Phyllis George (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Angelo Lambo and Florence Lambo
Larissa Freude Newman
Reader William Paluch
Martin and Rose Marie Vronick
Margaret Gresh (mother of Protdeacon James Gresh)
Niki Bober (President of the Orthodox Christian Women)
Matushka Myra Kovaiak and Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Chrisitne Zebren;
Matushka Laryssa Huntyn

“ZOOM” PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **TUESDAY, MARCH 23 AT 7:00 PM**

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Candles: \$ 20.00

Sunday Offering: 1,528.00

Improvement Fd.: 215.00

TOTAL \$1,763.00

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Candles: \$ 30.00

Sunday Offering 980.00

Improvement Fund: 10.00

TOTAL \$1,040.00

SUPPORT ST. ELIA – AMAZON PURCHASES

Step 1: Go to: www.smile.amazon.com

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.

Help those in need: Bring in toiletries and other needed items during Lent!

During Great Lent we are called upon to fast not only for reasons of self-control and prayer, but also for reasons of love: to deny ourselves something that we may share with someone else who is in need. This Lent, our parish family will be collecting items for the Peter Maurin Center (<http://www.petermaurincenter.org>). Located just 5 minutes north of St. Elia at 1096 N. Main St., the Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families in the Greater Akron area by offering prepared meals, warm clothing and friendship at their facilities and in the community.

Look for the bin located near the entrance of church, and drop off your items as you come in each week. If you are not currently attending services, contact Aaron Gray (330-413-8324, grayaaron@outlook.com) to pick up your donations. Below is a list of ideas of items that are currently in need at the Center:

- Toilet paper
- Toiletries and personal hygiene items
- Bottled water
- Aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Plastic zip bags: sandwich, quart, or gallon
- Cleaning supplies
- One-day Metro bus passes (these cost \$2.50 each and can be purchased at the Metro Station and frequently at Giant Eagle stores)

Thank you for doing your part to help those in need!

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 at 330-724-7009