

WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 4, 2021

Vol. 38 No. 14

Third Sunday of Lent



St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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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*

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 2

Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, April 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14

Sunday, April 4

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Friday, April 9

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 3

Saint John Climacus

Saturday, April 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25

Sunday, April 11

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 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Wednesday, April 14

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 16

6:00 pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 4

Saint Mary of Egypt

Saturday, April 17

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25

Sunday, April 18

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Wednesday, April 21

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 23

6:00 pm Vigil of LAZARUS SATURDAY



PALMS AND FLOWERS DONATIONS

Flowers adorn the CROSS on the Third Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, **TODAY, April 4th**, and will adorn the Tomb of our Lord on Good Friday., **April 30th**, and the Altar Area on Pascha, **May 2nd**. Please make your donations at the Candle Desk for the flower and Palms for Palm Sunday, **April 25th**, at the Candle Desk.

Along with palms, pussy willows are also blessed on Palm Sunday. Pussy willows have been called the herald of the spring and new life. Thank you to Subdeacon Terrence and Veronica Bilas for providing St. Elia with this years willows



THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

At the Vigil Service of the Third Sunday of Great Lent, immediately after the singing of the Great Doxology, the Cross of Christ is brought in solemn procession to the center of the church. It remains enthroned there for the entire week for our veneration and contemplation. Prostrating ourselves before the Cross, we sing: *Before Thy Cross, O Master we bow down in worship and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify!*

THE CENTER OF OUR EXISTENCE

The very center of our Christian faith, and indeed the whole of human history, is the Cross of Christ. The Cross contains and reveals to us the very meaning of existence. It shows us the Truth and the Love and the Life of God Himself.

When the world lay in evil, and man found himself sold under sin to death, the Son of God became Man. And not only a Man, but a slave of men. And not only a slave, but dead. And not only dead, but dead on a Cross. (Phillipians 2:5-8)

Our Lord Jesus could not have gone further for us; for there was no further to go. He became sin for us though He knew no sin.

He became a curse for us, though He was the Blessed of God, the Beloved Son of God. He became dead for us so that He could be our Resurrection and our Life

TAKE UP THE CROSS.

If men wish to be disciples of Christ, they must ***“take up their cross and follow Him.”*** This means first of all that they must suffer with Him in truth and love. This means that they must experience the rejection of this world for the sake of the righteousness of God. This means that they must put into practice the very life that Christ Himself lived, ***the life that Christ Himself is***, the life which is given to men in Christ’s Spirit in the Church.

It is for this reason that the Cross of Christ is placed in the middle of Great Lent in the center of the church building where we gather together. It tells us of God’s Coming to us and of our return to Him, both accomplished by the way of the Cross, which is foolishness to the “wise” of the earth, and very scandalous to the “powerful”. “Yet for those who believe, it is the Wisdom and Power of God Himself”.

This the teaching of the Apostle Paul:

For Christ sent me to preach the Gospel not with eloquent wisdom lest the Cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the Jews demand signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a scandal, to the pagans foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is more powerful than men. (1Corinthians 1:17-18)

This is what we venerate and contemplate in the middle of Great Lent as we bow down before the Cross and rejoice in its message for it tells us the truth about life. It tells us the truth and the love of God for the world. And it tells us what we must do to be alive for eternal life in God’s Kingdom.

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 Christine Zebren;

Matushka Laryssa Huntyan

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING

The Church building and grounds is always in need of some special attention. Among the items inside the Church that need to be attended to are polishing the brass candle stands, bread trays; mending of the Server's robes (which can be done even at home), window washing, etc. **On Saturday, April 17, we will gather from 12 noon to 3:00 pm for a "spring cleaning" and ending with Great Vespers.**

On the grounds, the bricks around the wooden sign need to be put back in place, the flower beds need to be cleaned, the timber along side the shed needs to be cleaned-up. If you have time to spare, you can come anytime to accomplish these task. Thank you to John Cheese for donating the cost of cutting the sawgrass.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Candles: \$10.00

Sunday Offering: 655.00

TOTAL \$665.00

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 what we have saved 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 S. 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!

A LENTEN THOUGHT FROM SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

“The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry.
The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him
who is naked.

The shoes which you do not wear are the shoes of one who is
barefoot.

The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor.
The acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices
you commit.”

“Do not limit the benefit of fasting merely to abstinence from
food, for a true fast means refraining from evil. Loose every
unjust bond, put away resentment from your neighbor, forgive
him his offenses. Do not let your fasting lead only to wrangling
and strife. You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother
and sister; you abstain from wine, but not from insults. So all
the labor of your fast is useless.”

Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God, our hope!

Shine, O Cross of the Lord!

Illumine the hearts of those who honor you!

With love inspired by God, we embrace you,
for you are the only hope of the world.

Through you our tears are wiped away,
the snares of death are sprung,

and we pass over into everlasting joy.

Through the Cross reveal Your beauty to us, O Lord!

Help Your servants who ask for mercy in faith!

Bestow upon us the fruits of abstinence!

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, parishioner must pre-register to attend liturgical services. Please call Fr. Don at 330-724-7009