

WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 23, 2021

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA



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*



Jesus said to him: "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING – John 5:1-15

A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda

5 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, ^[a]Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, ^[b]paralyzed, ^[c]waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath. 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed. 11 He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” 12 Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” 13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being *in that place*. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 3 – SUNDAY OF THE GOSPEL OF THE CURE OF THE PARALYTIC

Saturday, May 22

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, May 23

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 Gospel: John 5:1-15

MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST

Tuesday, May 25

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

Lesser Blessing of Water

Today's celebration is the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. Saint John tells us (John 7:14) that "in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught."

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 4 – SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Saturday, May 29

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10

Sunday, May 30

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 Gospel: John 4:5-42

Midfeast of Pentecost



The Midfeast of Pentecost – May 26 - is the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. Saint John tells us (John 7:14) that ***“in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught.”*** The Feast in question is the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Church has appointed John 7:14-30 to be read for the Midfeast, thereby linking Pascha and Pentecost. In Chapter 8 of Saint John’s Gospel, the Lord came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him. After leaving the Temple, he encounters the man born blind. We will hear about him on the Sunday of the Blind Man.

The Troparion of the Midfeast: ***“In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink [John 7:37]. O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!*** hints at the encounter of Christ and the Samaritan Woman in just a few days.

On the Midfeast we perform the Lesser Blessing of Water.

CANDLES, CANDLES EVERYWHERE

Every time we light a candle, the flame and the light reminds us of God Who in the history of salvation has appeared time and time again as fire and light as to Moses in the Burning bush and as a pillar of fire that led the Israelites through desert

The Sanctuary Lamp, otherwise known as the Eternal Light, that burns constantly in the church, suspended from the ceiling before the Royal Doors, reminds us of God's constant Presence in our midst. He never leaves us or forsakes us. Romano Guardini, meditating on the Eternal Light, said, "***Lord, the Ever-Burning Light is like my soul which is at all times in Your Presence.***"

Many Orthodox Christians light candles upon entering the Church. This simple act is deeply meaningful. It means that in the Liturgy when the Word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit will come to remove the veil (2 Cor. 3:15 and 4:6) of blindness from our eyes, the veil of lack of understanding and make the Light of Christ shine in our hearts. Lighting a candle(s) on entering church expresses our belief that Jesus is the Light of the world and that as His disciple, I am called daily to reflect His light in my life. It reminds that when we were baptized we received Jesus Who is the Light of the world. Like Him, instead of cursing the darkness, we are to be lighting candles of hope and love in the lives of people. As we light the candle(s) we can pray the beautiful words of the psalmist: "***The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?***" (Psalm 27:1)

We light the Paschal Candle at the midnight Paschal Liturgy to remind us that Christ, the unwaning Light, has gone before us into the darkness of death and has overcome that darkness. The Paschal Candle proclaims our faith in the Resurrected Christ.

The Holy Fire, brought in 1917, from the tomb of Christ in Jerusalem, has been burning before the Golgotha in our church and all the candles in the Church, including the Paschal Candle and the Eternal Light, are lit from the flame of the Holy Fire.

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!

*Christ is risen! Christos Voskrese! Christos Aneste!
Christus ist auferstanden! El Messieh kahm!
Cristo e' risorto! Le Christ est ressuscite!*

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)

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

Subdeacon Martin Paluch

Martin and Rose Marie Vronick

Niki Bober (President of the Orthodox Christian Women)

Matushka Myra Kovaiak and Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak

Matushka Christine Zebren;

Matushka Laryssa Huntyan

“SAVE THE DATE”

This year , 2021, is the 75th Anniversary of St. Elia’s founding as a Parish. Save the date, September 4 – 5, Labor Day Weekend. Archbishop Alexander will be with us for this celebration. Mark your calendars!

Our Stewardship - Sunday, May 16, 2021

Candles:	\$ 23.00
Pascha Offering:	100.00
Improvement Fund:	25.00
Candle Desk Offering:	40.00
Sunday Offering:	1,540.00
TOTAL	\$1,728.00

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

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

AS OF NOW - In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps:

- 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.**

Changes or updates will be provided as needed!

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan Guidelines, to pre-register Please call Fr. Don at 330-724-7009