

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 28, 2021

Vol. 38, No. 48

23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



## St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

**A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America**

**64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301**

**Church Hall: 330-724-7129**

**Office: 330-724-7009**

**[www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron](https://www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron)**

*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*

## **GENERAL PARISH MEETING TODAY**

A General Parish Meeting will be held **TODAY, Sunday, November 28, 2021** following the Divine Liturgy.

The Agenda for this meeting is specifically to elect the 2022 Parish Council. Father Don will open the meeting and ask **the Nominating Committee, Sandy Graham and Anastasia Bohush**, to present the slate of officers, who then will be voted on by the Parish Family.

The Slate of Officers then will be presented to His Eminence Archbishop Alexander for approval. Once we have received the blessing of the Archbishop, the 2022 Parish Council will be installed at the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022.

### **2022 CALENDARS**

**The 2022 Church Year Calendars** are available courtesy of **Anthony Funeral Homes**. Please pick your calendar from the front pew.

#### **OUR STEWARDHIP – November 21, 2021**

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Candles:                | 38.00             |
| Special Offering:       | 100.00            |
| <u>Sunday Offering:</u> | <u>1,935.00</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>           | <b>\$2,073.00</b> |

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

## ***Advent - The Christmas Fast***

**23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6**  
**Monk Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New**

**Saturday, November 27**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, November 28**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley**  
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**  
**Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley**

**Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**  
***Lighting of the 3rd Candle on the Advent Wreath***

**November 30 - Apostle Andrew, the First-called**  
**December 4 - Great Martyr Barbara**

**24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 7**  
**Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified**

**Saturday, December 4**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, December 5**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subd. Terrence Bias**  
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**  
**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**

**Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19**  
***Lighting of the 4th Candle on the Advent Wreath***

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

**Monday, December 6**

**8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

## **TODAY'S EPISTLE – Ephesians 2:4-10**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## **TODAY'S GOSPEL – Luke 13:10-17**

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day. The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

# **THANKSGIVING**

**Richard A. Henniger**

My eyes stopped suddenly on a sentence it read the other day: ***“Those who can be thankful only for prosperity are forever threatened by adversity.”***

To live in the spirit of Christ endows you and me with the capacity to live thankful lives despite our circumstances. How I wish more of us really understood this. This companionship of Christ – whether travelling along the bright hilltops of life or through dark valleys filled with failure, sorrow and challenge – under-grades our whole outlook and approach to life. God yearns for us to find our joy, our satisfaction, our needs fulfilled, not in material things and prosperity, but in HIM.

The loss of prosperity, and indeed, the disappointing search for it, can ruin our sense of thanksgiving. ***“Those who can be thankful only for prosperity are forever threatened by adversity.”***

[On Thanksgiving Day], take the time to think about the reasons for being thankful. How deep are they? Perhaps, you will want to take this season to accept more fully God’s companionship as your richest possession. Worship Him with a thankful heart.

***“O give thanks unto the Lord: for He is good: for His mercy endures forever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 136:1-2***

# THE ADVENT WREATH



**On Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, forty days prior to the celebration of the Feast of our Lord's Nativity, the Holy Orthodox Church began the Christmas Fast. This period of six weeks is often called *Advent*, which means *the Coming*, and refers to the Coming of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Mystery of His Holy Nativity.

Christmas and Epiphany are Feasts of Light, celebrating the Coming and Manifestation of Christ, the Light of the world. Nature itself helps us to experience these Feasts of Light. With the coming of the winter the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas Day itself the reverse begins to happen. Nature prepares for the Coming of Christ, the Light in the darkness – and so do we during the Holy Season of Advent.

To help in our preparation, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, has six candles on it – one for each week in Advent. **Today, Sunday, November 28, we light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle on the Advent Wreath** along with special prayers, as we prepare ourselves to receive Christ the Light of the world into our hearts.

Please pick up an Advent Calendar to assist you during the Fast

# ADVENT - COME LORD JESUS

*Come Lord Jesus* ! O Christmas we celebrate the coming of the Son of God in the flesh a His birth in Bethlehem.

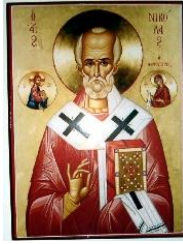
*Come Lord Jesus!* As Christians we are always standing the HOPE of His awesome and glorious Second Coming when He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords over His own creation.

*Come Lord Jesus!* In this Holy Season of Advent – *a time of prayer, fasting and silence* – we prepare for His Coming to us in grace. What does this mean? Every day we grow in Christ, or we weaken in our relationship with Him because of our lack of purpose and commitment. This fasting season before Christmas is given to us once again by the Church as an opportunity to renew ourselves in Christ, to restore His Life in us, to prepare the *good soil* for His Kingdom to come to us.

Every day of Advent, therefore, is to be for us a step forward out of the darkness of our selfish, self-centered and sinful world and into the light of God's Kingdom – into the Presence of Christ Who is the *Star of Bethlehem and the Light of the world*.

Our **prayer** during Advent, therefore, can be summed up in the words: *Come Lord Jesus!* These words and this prayer are the last words in the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. Each day of Advent as we pray *Come Lord Jesus*, we will be filled with more and greater power which drives away those thoughts and passions that are incompatible with the Christian life.

But our prayer is to be joined with **fasting**. Fasting allows us to have our mind, heart and soul in control of our bodies and therefore allows us to give God our full attention. When He has our attention, He can take up His abode in us and grant us the peace and the joy of a full Christian life.



*O who loves Nicholas the saintly, O who serves  
Nicholas the saintly, Him will Nicholas receive, and give help  
in time of need. Holy Father Nicholas!*

**Celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas  
Sunday, December 5, following the  
Divine Liturgy.**

Please sign the list on the coffee table in the hall  
what meatless covered dish you will be bringing.

The main dish of fish will be provided.

**P.S. – to the Children: St. Nick will be visiting & just  
maybe he will leave something good in your shoes**



**St. Elia Christmas Ornament**

**Designed by Reader Aaron Gray, as a fundraiser  
for St. Elia Church This new Ornament is available  
now for purchase in our Bookstore for \$10.00.**



# Be a part of The Workers of St. Elizabeth!

We are looking for interested individuals to help this ministry of St. Elia in planning a schedule of charitable activities and initiatives that we can all participate in throughout the year.

Talk to Aaron Gray (330-413-8324) or [grayaaron@outlook.com](mailto:grayaaron@outlook.com) if you are interested, and we will schedule a date and time to meet and share ideas.

The Workers of St. Elizabeth is named after St. Elizabeth the New Martyr, a grand duchess of Russia who, following the assassination of her husband, took monastic vows and founded a convent dedicated to serving those in need. She was killed by the Bolsheviks in 1918 and later glorified as a martyr of the Church.



**REMEMBERING THOSE IN THE**

## **ARMED FORCES**

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

## **REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Metropolitan Herman  
Archbishop Paul  
Archbishop Benjamin  
Archbishop Nathaniel  
Archbishop Michael  
Fr. Moses Berry  
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)  
Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)  
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)  
Angelo Lambo  
Florence Lambo  
Larissa Freude Newman  
Subdeacon Martin Paluch  
Reader William Paluch  
Martin Vronick  
Rose Marie Vronick  
Niki Bober (President of Orthodox Christian Women  
Pani Dolores Zuder  
Matushka Myra Kovalak  
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak  
Matushka Christine Zebren  
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan  
Geoffrey Michael Lubic  
Sue Ellen Turscak

## **PANDEMIC GUIDELINES**

**Since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic we have been taking every PRECAUTION to protect the health and well-being of all our people. In accordance with the CDC, the State of Ohio, and our Diocesan Directives, St. Elia Parish will follow these directives:**

- 1) If you are sick and/or exhibit coronavirus symptoms, you must refrain from attending services.**
  
- 2) While the CDC and the State of Ohio have lifted the mask mandate, the social distancing and capacity restrictions, the State officials recommend that unvaccinated people continue to wear the masks indoors. The Diocesan Directives stress that everyone is welcome to continued wearing face coverings if there is any level of discomfort.**
  
- 3) The kissing of Icons, the Cross, the Gospel Book, the Chalice and the priest's hand when receiving the blessing is permitted if you are comfortable doing so**
  
- 4) The sanitizer and masks are available in the vestibule for your convenience**