

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 5, 2021 Vol. 38, No. 49
24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

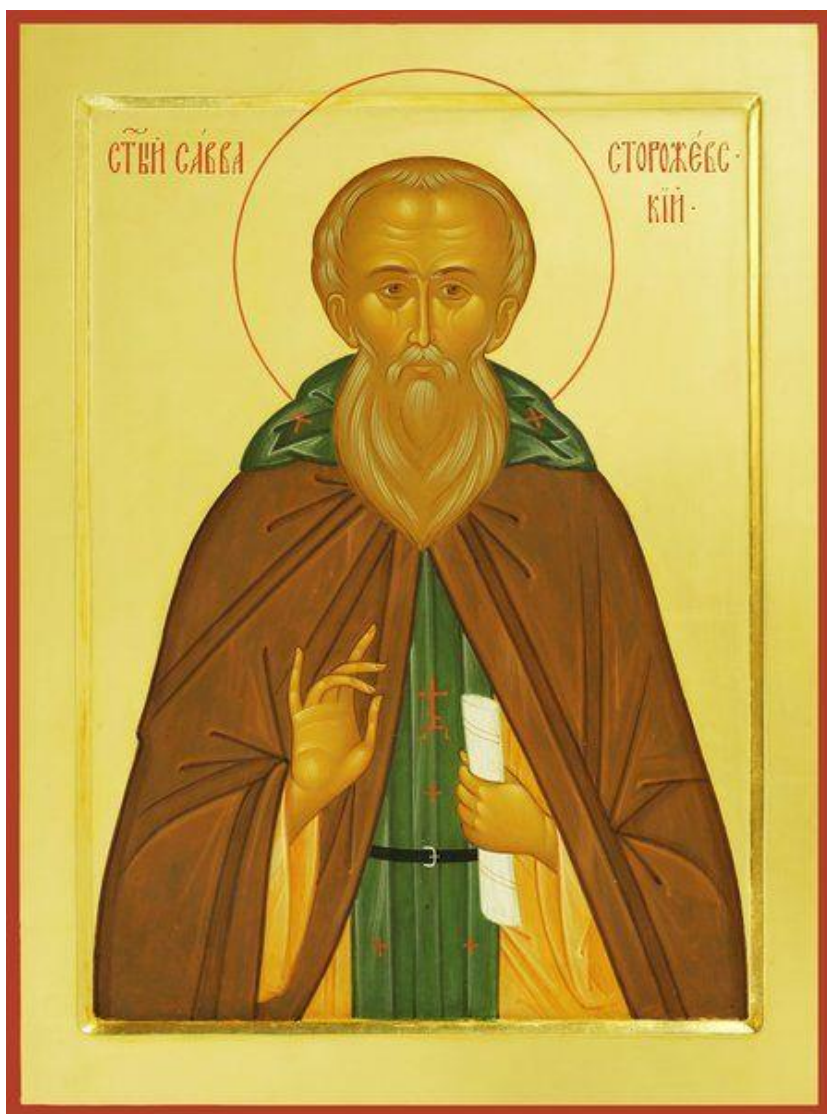
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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archbishop Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*



**Venerable Sabbas
the Sanctified**
Commemorated today, December 5

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Advent - The Christmas Fast

24th 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 3rd & 6th 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

FEASTDAY OF SAINT NICHOLAS THE
WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA
Monday, December 6

8:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 8
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus

Saturday, December 11
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 12

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24
Lighting of the 5th Candle on the Advent Wreath

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -Tone 1 - Sunday of the Holy Fathers. Sunday Before the Nativity.

Saturday, December 18

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 19

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Bud Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

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

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Lighting of the 6th Candle on the Advent Wreath

CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is preceded by a Holy Week. Prefestive Vespers will be celebrated at 6 pm on Monday, Dec. 20, Tuesday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 22 and the Royal Hours on Thursday, Dec. 23.

Monday, December 20 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Tuesday, December 21 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Wednesday, December 22 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Thursday, December 23 – 6:00 pm

Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ

CHRISTMAS

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas

Saturday, December 25 -Christmas Day

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

TODAY'S EPISTLE - Ephesians 2:14-2

Christ Our Peace

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

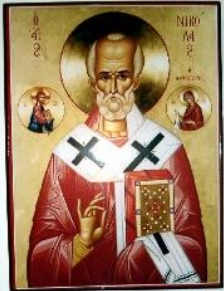
Christ Our Cornerstone

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

TODAY'S GOSPEL – Luke 13:10-17

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So, when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. ***Continued on next page***

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."



*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 remember to bring your
meatless covered dish .
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. *Spread the word!!!*

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

With the celebration of Christmas just weeks away, please consider making a special donation for Poinsettias and decorations. Envelopes are available on the Candle Desk marked "Flower Fund." Thank you for your generosity.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of Offering Envelopes will be sent this year directly by mail by the Church Budget Envelope Co, of Salem, Ohio. They are to be mailed directly to your home in December of this year, 2021. If you do not receive them, please inform Father Don so that the envelope company can be informed.

PARISH COUNCIL 2022

This past Sunday, November 28, 2021, a Parish Meeting was held following the Divine Liturgy to elect the 2022 Parish. Sandra Graham of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of those Nominated and accepted their nomination.

Elected were:

President: John Bohush IV

Vice President: Subdeacon Terence A. Bilas

Secretary: Reader Aaron Gray

Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley

Members: Veronica Bilas, Bud Graham, Sarah Niglio. Mary Marcin - COCA Representative

The Parish Council 2022 will be presented to His Eminence Archbishop Alexander for approval and then be installed at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2022, following the Divine Liturgy.

A special word to the 2021. We thank you for your willingness to serve this past year. *Many Years!*

CARPETING INSTALLATION

Our new carpeting is scheduled for installation on December 13th – 17th. by Spanky's Carpeting. The down payment – one half – has already been paid. The total cost is \$11,709.00 and has been made possible by generous donations. The remodeling of the Altar steps is nearing completion. We thank Bud Graham, Subdeacon Terrence Bilas and their helpers Reader Aaron Gray, Reader Joshua Whereley, Kostadin Kostadinov and so many others who are helping in this project.

THE ADVENT WREATH



On Monday, November 15th, 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, December 5, we light the 4th Candle on the Advent Wreath** along with special prayers, as we prepare ourselves to receive Christ the Light of the world into our hearts with faith, hope, love, joy, peace and kindness.

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

ADVENT - THE CHRISTMAS FAST

AN ADVENT MEDITATION: CHRISTMAS JOY

Strange as it may seem, that all Christians, whether young or old, rich or poor, sick or healthy, should have happy hearts comes as a revelation to many; and on the other hand, those who do understand the joy of the faith often do not seem able to show it in their lives. But the Church never tires of proclaiming this truth – this reality – as she constantly repeats from her Holy Scripture: “*Rejoice in the Lord; again, I say, rejoice* (Philippians 4:4)

“*But dear holy Church: Do you not see the distress of so many thousands who are suffering, who are starving? Do you not see the sad state of all those who cause you and others streams of tears?*”

“*Dear followers of Christ: I do see it all. I know suffering better than any of you. My heart is like that of a mother as I feel each shaft of pain that afflicts my children or that my children cause me. And yet, I rejoice and bid all to rejoice. Why? Because you are children of God, because the Son of God has come to bear the burdens of our sinful humanity; in short, because you are divinely privileged, and our God has loved us so much that He has come to take us home to Himself in heaven.*”

“Oh, Holy Church: Heaven is so far away, and this earthly life can be so hard, and who knows?

*“Now listen. Do you know my children why you do not have true joy? Because you lack a deep, full, strong and lively faith. Yes, I admit, faith means walking in the dark – in some respects. ‘The dove of eternal joy sits upon heaven’s high roof, while the sparrow of present satisfaction is in your hand.’ To release the sparrow to get the dove, that requires faith. Only a Christianity aware of Divine Life that it can sacrifice earthly thrills for eternal peace, only this true and genuine Christianity can attain perfect joy. Nevertheless, it is such Christian joy and such Christian faith that the Church expects of us today: **“Rejoice in the Lord; again, I say, rejoice.***

God approaches man with glad tidings: ***“and the Angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold I bring good news of great JOY which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.’”*** (Luke 2:10-11)

When we become penetrated with the joy of God, God will become God. He will be a Father again, and we will again become His children.

To be sure Christian JOY is not an easy contentment, a naïve self-satisfaction, or a naïve satisfaction for the sake of others. It is sadness overcome; darkness dispersed in ***CHRIST THE LIGHT!***

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) 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-bring 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

OUR STEWARDHIP – November 28, 2021

Candles:	\$ 27.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>585.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$612.00