

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 12, 2021 Vol. 38, No. 50

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers



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

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

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Advent - The Christmas Fast

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

Monday, December 13
Rest of Saint Herman of Alaska

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



FEAST OF CHRISTMAS
CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

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

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - *Strict Fast*
5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas
Compline and Matins
Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, December 25 -Christmas Day
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -Tone 2 -
SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY.**
**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David
the King, James the Brother of the Lord.**
Synaxis of the Theotokos

Sunday, December 26

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

Epistles: Galatians 1:11-19 Ephesians 6:10-17
Gospels: Matthew 2:13-23 Luke 18:18-27

THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Monday, December 27
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

January 2022

**THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST.**

**St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in
Cappadocia**

Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

**6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
the Great - *Prayers for the New Year***

**28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -Tone 3 -
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY. Forefeast of the
Theophany of our Lord
Saint Juliana the Merciful
Repose of Ven. Seraphim Wonderworker of Sarov**

Sunday, January 2

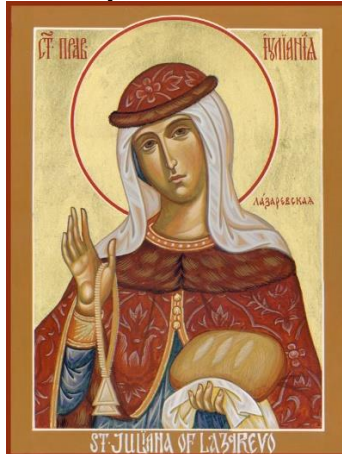
9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospels: Mark 1:1-8

**SLAVA OF SAINT JULIANA THE MERCIFUL
*Patroness of St. Elia's Sisterhood***





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

On 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 be 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 Wherely, Kostadin Kostadinov, Alexander Bojanov, Tyler McKelvey and so many others who are helping in this project.

OUR STEWARDHIP – December 5, 2021

Candles:	\$ 19.00
Improvement Fund:	5.00
Christmas Ornament:	260.00
Christmas Flowers:	30.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>700.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,014.00

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 12, we light the 5th 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.

ADVENT MEDITATION

PERSONS ARE GIFTS

PERSONS ARE GIFTS...At least Jesus thought so. He said
“Father, I want those You have given Me to be where I am”
(John 17:24)

I agree with Him. “I also want those whom the Father has given me, to be where I am.

Persons are gifts which the Father sends me wrapped.

- ...some are wrapped beautifully; they attract me immediately
 - ...some come in very ordinary wrapping paper.
 - ... some have been mishandled in the mail.
 - ...once in a while there is a “special delivery.”
- ... some are gifts which come very loosely wrapped
- ...some are gifts that come very tightly wrapped.

But the wrapping is not the gift.

- ...it is so easy to make this mistake
 - ...some are very easy to open up
 - ...with others I need help.
 - ...is this because they are afraid?
 - ...does it hurt to be opened?
- ...have they been opened before, and thrown away?
 - ... could it be that this gift is not for me?

I am a person, so I am a gift too.

- ...a gift to myself, first of all. Father gave me myself.
 - ...what do I think of me?
 - ...have I ever really looked inside the wrappings?
 - ...am I afraid to?
- ...maybe I have never seen the wonderful gift I am.

Can the Father's gifts be anything but beautiful?
...I love the gifts which those I love give me.
Why not love this gift of myself?

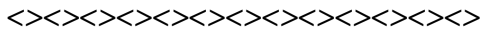
Am I a gift to other persons?

...Am I willing to be given to others?
...do others have to be content with the wrappings only?
...are others permitted to know me as I really am?
...can others enjoy the gift of me?

Every meeting of persons is an exchange of gifts.

...a friend is a gift – not just for me – but to others through me
...I destroy the “giftness” when I try to possess and am jealous
...If I try to save that life for me alone, I lose it.
...If I share it with others, I save it.

Persons are gifts ... gifts received and gifts given!



GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Tag:” For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

The Wrapping: “And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12)

The Trimmings: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Good will toward men.’” (Luke 2; 13,14)

The Contents: “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4,5)

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-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 continue 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**