

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 26, 2021

Vol. 38, No. 52

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ



## SAINT 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*

# SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES



## *The Adoration of the Magi*

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

**27<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Troparion of Christmas**

**Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world  
the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped  
the stars, were taught by a Star to adore You, the Sun of  
Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on  
High. O Lord, glory to You**

## **Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

**Christos razdajetsja!**

**Christos se rodi Mir Boze!**

**C Rozdectvom Christovim!**

**Christos Gennati !**

**Masheeh Wuleda!**

**Buon Natale!**

**Feliz Navidad!**

**Joyeux Noel!**

**Wesoly Swiat!**

**Krisztus Szuletik**

**Frohe Weihnacten!**

**Chestita Koelda**

## 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 Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
the Great *Prayers for the New Year***

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Michael Luc**

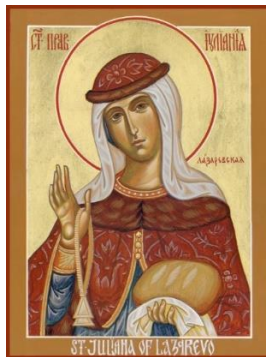
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

**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 Sisterhood***





**FEAST OF THEOPHANY  
CHRIST IS BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN  
GLORIFY HIM!**

**THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND  
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**Wednesday January 5 - *Strict Fast***

**6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
the Great  
Great Sanctification of Water**

**29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -Tone 4 -  
Afterfeast of Theophany Sunday After Theophany.**

**Saturday, January 8**

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

**Sunday, January 9**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Michael Luc**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc**

**Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matt. 4:12-17**

**3:00 pm Holy Mystery of Matrimony for  
Kostadin Kostadinov and Sarah Niglio**

# Christmas Pastoral Message Metropolitan Tikhon

## Nativity of our Lord 2021

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the  
Orthodox Church in America,  
My Beloved Children in the Lord,

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

I greet you all today on this Great Feast of our  
illumination. At the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Saint  
Basil the Great for this Feast we sing:

***When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy virgin,  
the whole universe was filled with light. The  
shepherds watched in the fields. The wise men  
worshipped, and the angels sang. But Herod was  
troubled, for God had appeared in the flesh. He is  
the Savior of our souls!***

(Third Sticheron at “Lord, I Call”)

The Lord’s entry into the world invites us all to  
pursue this spiritual illumination, which is Christ,  
the Wisdom of God Himself. In the Gospel we read  
of the shepherds who leave their pastures to find

the Infant Christ. Likewise, Magi, the wise men from the East, traveled in pursuit of true Wisdom, which they found lying in a manger. They came at great cost and with great effort to worship Christ and offer their gifts to Him. In return, the darkness of their hearts was lifted, and they left, refusing to return to Herod, but instead “departed to their own country by another way” (Mt 2:12).

But we know that not everyone wants this light that our Lord offers. Herod did not. We remember that he also pursued the Wisdom of God. But instead of seeking illumination from Him, Herod sought His blood, preferring earthly power to heavenly blessings. His vision was too narrow to see that in trying to protect his throne he was keeping himself in the darkness of sin, ignorance, and selfish ambition.

Seeing these examples before us, we need the light of Christ’s Nativity in our world darkened with confusion, anxiety, and temptations. We might struggle to see this light in our suffering world, racked by a pandemic, and with societal changes coming at an alarming rate. We acutely feel the words of St. Paul: “We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan

inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (Rom 8:22–23).

Be encouraged! It is into our world, “groaning in travail,” that our Deliverer is born. God in His love for mankind did not leave the world in darkness but came as its Savior. Even today Christ has “shone to the world the light of wisdom” (Nativity Troparion). We can see this light by unreservedly following the gospel and trading the earthly for the heavenly. Because of the light which shines from the cave this morning, the shadows of ignorance are dispelled and we are able to perceive the world as an object of God’s eternal love. For Herod, Christ’s Nativity brought anxiety and a troubled heart. For us today, we are offered illumination and joy. Like the shepherds, Magi, and angels let us behold the Incarnation of the Son of God with reverence and pious hope, in full knowledge that the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Rev 19:16) is born for our redemption.

With all the blessings of the Feast, I remain  
sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada





## **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!!!***

## **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.

### **OUR STEWARDHIP – December 12, 2021**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 12.00</b>
<b>Christmas Ornament:</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Special Offering:</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Offering:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,7hrist,70.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,802.00</b>



### *The Flight into Egypt*

*The Child Jesus, Mary His Mother, Joseph the Betrothed and James the brother of the Lord.*

## **The Christmas Message of Fr. Don**

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN.**

**UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN**

My dearly beloved in Christ,

When everything was ready, ***“in the fulness of time”*** (Galatians 4:4) God brought to a decisive turning point the plan He had for humanity’s joy.

***“God chose us in Him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in His sight, to be full of love.”*** (Ephesians 1:4)

God has created humans in His Image. To be in God’s Image is to be given a share in God’s

creative love. It means to be authentically human, to fulfill God's intention in creating us, to fully live and not just to exist, we must love -selflessly, creatively. Not to love is to be subhuman. As St. Paul put it in his famous hymn of love: ***"If I have not love, I am nothing."***

Sadly, men and women over the years chose self-love over creative love. This choice destroyed them. To regain their human dignity, they would need to be shown the way. To this end, God ***"sent forth His Son,"*** Who was perfectly in God's Image.

People could see in Jesus what it was like to be gloriously human. Jesus shared their weaknesses, their ordinariness, their uncertainty, fear, and pain. Jesus rose above these obstacles by denying Himself and by loving creatively and selflessly.

And He did this as one of us. This is the whole point of the Incarnation - of Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of humanity. Christmas is a ringing proclamation that human life is precious, destined for glory. Christmas says once more that the secret of human fulfillment and joy is love, human love - the love of men and women created to share the creative love of their Creator.

Let us celebrate this Christmas by fully living the Gift that Jesus has given to us by loving Him and embracing one another in the fulness of His love.

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

Yours in the love of our Lord Jesus,

Father Don

**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

## A NATIVITY SERMON OF ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

The Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world -  
so let us no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One -  
Let no one be cruel;

This is the night of the Humble One -  
Let no one be proud;

Now is the day of joy -  
Let us not revenge;

Now is the day of Good Will -  
Let us not be mean;

In this Day of Peace -  
Let us not be conquered by anger;

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;

So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;

Let us open our doors to those who ask our forgiveness;

Today the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of our humanity,

In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of Divinity.