

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 9, 2022

Vol. 39, No. 2

Sunday After the Theophany of Christ



SAINT 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 Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

29th 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 3rd & 6thHours: Reader Aaron Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

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

Friday, January 14 - Leavetaking of Theophany

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -Tone 5
Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy
Apostle Peter. SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

Saturday, January 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 16

9:10 am 3rd & 6thHours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

MEMORY ETERNAL

Sandra Lucia Dodovich, mother of Tony Dodovich,
reposed in the Lord on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.
Visitation will be at Redmon Funeral Home (Stow) on
Tuesday, January 11, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and
the Funeral Service will be held at the Immaculate
Heart of Mary Church, Cuyahoga Falls, at 10:00 am
on Wednesday, March 12. MEMORY ETERNAL



THE THEOPHANY ICON

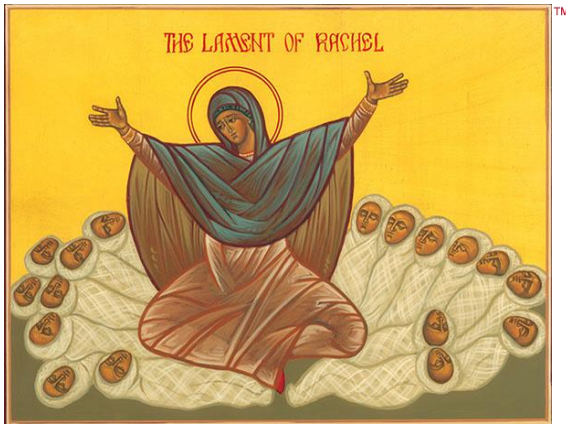
In the Icon of the Theophany, we are immediately drawn to the Person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The Icon expresses very vividly that not just part but the entire body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan.

The Icon's illustration of the total immersion of Christ as well as His right hand blessing the waters signifies the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. No longer is water just an image of death as for example in the flood at the time of Noah, but the image of birth into New Life which we share with Christ Who took upon Himself the sins of the world. In Christ we celebrate the renewal of all creation.

A further illustration of our coming to share the NEW LIFE IN CHRIST is the sign of Christ undergoing baptism "*clothed in the naked body of Adam,*" the father of all mankind. We hear the Scriptures as they refer to Christ as the NEW ADAM. The first Adam brought death into the world; the second Adam, Christ, brought life into the world. Through Christ's sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on the robes of incorruptibility: **"for as many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ! Alleluia!"**

Christ is baptized in the Jordan! Glorify Him!

PRAYERS FOR THE UNBORN



Matthew 2:16-18

“Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.’”

In his prophecy Jeremiah pictures Rachel, wife of Jacob, who had long been dead, weeping even in her tomb, for the fate that had befallen her people, her children, who were being led away into exile. Now, the mothers of Bethlehem weep for the slaughter of their children, the Holy Innocents. As Rachel was told

Continued on next page

her children would return from exile in Babylon, so Jesus will return from His exile in Egypt. This Carpatho-Russian Carol sings of the Holy Innocents:

Do not weep, O Rachel.

See your children they are whole,

They did not die, they are alive, they are in heaven.

In their new sanctuary, they are incorruptible.

For God the Son they were condemned.

They were doomed to death

For the sins of Herod innocents were slaughtered.

Rachel is weeping, her children are sleeping.

Though they were mortals, their souls are immortal.

For the loss of their lives, they were crowned as martyrs.

The children aborted in our time are the Holy Innocents of our day and age.

Please join ZOE for Life!® and St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral for a Prayer Service as we Pray for the Unborn, **on Sunday, January 16th, 2022 at 6:00 pm**, 6306 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134.

We are deeply honored to be led in prayer by His Grace, IRINEJ of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and Fr. Dragoslav Kotic.

Bishop Irinej will offer his comments at 6:45, followed by a live question and answer period.

Registration is free, but required to receive a Zoom link if you are unable to join us in person.

Please register before January 14:
<https://forms.gle/f3HVhEXrj9j4pF3w6>.

Sanctity of Life Sunday Announced for 2022

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated **Sunday, January 16, 2022** as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we witness our society becoming increasingly polarized and divided, we approach the anniversary of one of the most bitter of these divisions: the legalization of abortion in the United States of America. We grieve on this anniversary for the many lives cut short, the emotional and psychological devastation done to so many women, the numerous wounded families, and the persistent hostility embittering our society.

The Orthodox Church continues to hold fast to its ancient belief that all human life, from conception in the womb to our very last moment, is sacred to God. For the Holy Scripture tells us that “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the

death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist” (Wis 1:13-14). So we say, humbly but firmly, that the willful destruction of a person in the womb is an evil act and a rejection of a gift of God.

For Orthodox Christians, the darkness of abortion transcends the political. It extends even beyond morality and ethics. It cuts to the heart of our faith in the Resurrection. On that bright morning of Great and Holy Pascha, Christ forever destroyed death, the last enemy of mankind (cf. 1 Cor 15:26). The empty tomb ennobles humanity and transforms us into a people forever dedicated to life, utterly opposed to death in all its forms. All people, even those still unborn, are created for eternity with God, and it is our unshakable conviction in the Risen Christ which makes the thought of the termination of a child unimaginable.

We also know that the unequivocal message of the New Testament is that followers of Christ are to “love one another” with the same self-sacrifice with which Christ loved us (cf. Jn 13:34). I encourage all Orthodox Christians to show that Christ-like, self-sacrificial love in the face of this darkness. I ask that we assist mothers in every way possible to relieve them of the temptation to abortion. Likewise, support the fathers as they step up to embrace their new and blessed family responsibility.

As we “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15) we must not condemn others but leave judgment to the Lord. Our call is a call to repentance, beginning with ourselves, so that we might restore the likeness of God and become bright mirrors reflecting the light of Christ to a wounded, confused, and anxious people. Let the only thing that our society sees in us be overflowing love, piety, and forgiveness to all. We remember with gratitude that the Lord always gives us, personally and as a nation, a path out of our sin through repentance—even sin as devastating and horrific as abortion. Let our parishes and communities become beacons of that divine love and forgiveness, where all human life is valued as deeply as Christ values it, as we forever speak with a Paschal voice: “Christ is risen and life reigns.”

May the Holy Spirit, whom we confess in the Creed as “the Lord, the Giver of life,” ever inspire us with love, humility, and conviction as we speak to this issue.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet
Orthodox Church will be held following the Divine
Liturgy on Sunday, January 23, 2022**

On Sunday, November 28, 2021, a Parish Meeting was held following the Divine Liturgy to elect the 2022 Parish Council. 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 will be installed at the Annual Meeting. All are encouraged to attend and participate in the important past-year assessment and the next year planning session for our parish.

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

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of Offering Envelopes are being 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.



St. Elia Christmas Ornament

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

OUR STEWARDHIP – January 2, 202

Candles:	\$18.00
Improvement Fund::	50.00
Bookstore:	65.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>615.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$748.00

“PayPal” Donations - 2021: \$640,00

Tone 1 - Theophany Troparion

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee
and called Thee His beloved Son;

and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.

O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

**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
Fr. Moses Berry
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Angelo Lambo
Florence Lambo
Larissa Freude Newman
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Reader William Paluch
Martin Vronick
Rose Marie Vronick
Pani Dolores Zuder
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Sarah Niglio



Orthodox Christian Women

presents

Our Annual Winter Mini-Retreat

Saturday, January 22, 2022

9:30 am to Noon

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

Free Event-Everyone welcome

***“Race, Life, People & Faith:
Addressing the Racial Divide”***

**Speaker: Fr. Martin Johnson,
Butler, Pa.**

Fr. Martin holds an MDiv in Theology and Philosophy from Bryn Athyn College, a MS in Business Management from Colorado Technical University, and a Doctor of Ministry in Practical Theology from Barry University. After completing his service in the US Navy Chaplain Corps, Fr. Martin converted to Eastern Orthodoxy. He was ordained a Deacon in 2018 and elevated to the Holy Priesthood in 2020. He is Staff Chaplain at Allegheny General Hospital.



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 St. Elia Parish will follow these directives:

- 1) If you are sick and/or exhibit coronavirus symptoms, you must refrain from attending services.**

- 2) The CDC recommends masking while indoors for both vaccinated and unvaccinated and to maintain social distancing.**

- 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**