

WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 20, 2022 • Vol. 39, No. 12



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

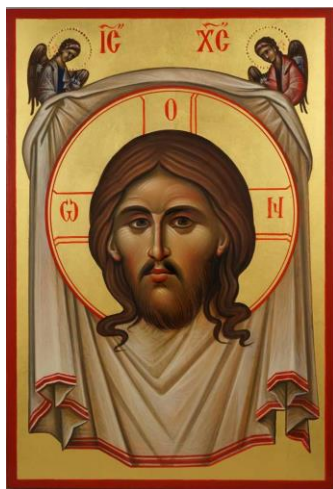
www.saintelia.com

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

THE LENTEN TRIODION



Third Week of Great Lent

SECOND SUNDAY GREAT LENT - Tone 6
St. Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 19

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 20

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Romans Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

6:00 pm LENTEN MISSION VESPERS

**St. Archangel Michael Serbian
Orthodox Church**

Wednesday, March 23

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF
OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS
AND EVER VIRGIN-MARY**

Thursday, March 24

7:00 pm Vespers at Annunciation Church

Friday, March 25

**6:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy at
St. Elia the Prophet Church**



Fourth Week of Great Lent

**THIRD SUNDAY GREAT LENT - Tone 7
VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

Saturday, March 26

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 27

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

Epistle: Romans Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

5:00 pm LENTEN MISSION VESPERS

St. George Orthodox Church

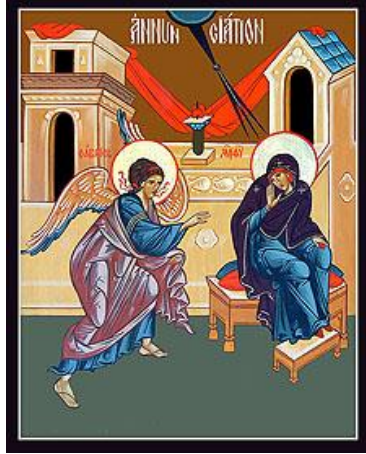
Wednesday, March 30

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 1

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary



The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the “beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery,” for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, as well: "When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be

called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel’s message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).

“And the angel answered and said unto her, ‘The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore, also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.’ And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1: 35-38)

In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, Saint Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that “the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world.” He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God’s will, but also involves the Virgin’s free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God’s will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven.

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent.

ORTHODOX COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

**MARCH 20 – St. Archangel Michael Church–
Vespers 6 pm**

**MARCH 24 – Annunciation Church –
Vespers 7 pm**

March 27 – St. George Church – Vespers – 5 pm

APRIL 3 – St. Thomas – Vespers 5 pm

**APRIL 10 - St Nicholas Church –
Holy Unction – 5 pm**

Visit the St. Elia shop

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying a number of new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts and baseball caps. If you are interested in a piece of St. Elia "spirit wear" in a certain size or style that's not currently available, please see Aaron Gray about a special order. All proceeds go toward the life and ministry of our parish. Thank you for your support!

OUR STEWARDHIP – March 13, 2022

Candles:	\$ 13.00
Memorial Donation:	1,000.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,314.00

Tithely Donations:	\$ 90.81
<u>PayPal Donations:</u>	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$120.81

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 22 – 7 PM

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 SHUTINS

Metropolitan Herman
Archbishop Paul
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Angelo Lambo
Florence Lambo
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
Gregory Sugden
Eve Tavenier
Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

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 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 if you are unvaccinated, sanitizing your hands 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

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God.” 1John 4:7