

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

November 20, 2022, • Vol. 39, No. 46

23rd 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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www.saintlia.com

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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*

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2022 Parish Council

President: John Bohush

V. President: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

Secretary: Reader Aaron Gray

Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley

Members: Veronica Bilas Bud Graham Sarah

Costadinova COCA Representative: Mary Marcin

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas

Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

Church School: Anastasia Bohush

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:

President: Veronica Bilas, Vice President, Sandy Graham, Secretary: Sarah Niglio; Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Reader Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers

Sunday, November 20 - Reader Joshua Wherley

**Sunday, November 27 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle Anastasia Bohush**

Sunday, December 4 – Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, December 11 - Bud Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6

Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Venerable Gregory of Decapolis

Saturday, November 19

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, November 20

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Lighting of the 2nd Candle on the Advent Wreath

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

*Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow,
by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin.*

*In fulfillment of her vow,
today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord
the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.*

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7

Greatmartyr Jacob the Persian

Saturday, November 26

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, November 27

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Lighting of the 3rd Candle on the Advent Wreath

***LET US LIFT UP OUR HEARTS!
LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!
A BLESSED THANKSGIVING DAY***

AWAKE YOU SLEEPERS

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11)

Our **Advent** disposition is one of attentiveness. The quote from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans has a sense of urgency in that we are called to be watchful, to stay awake, to be on guard.

Jesus is constantly breaking into our lives through the Sacraments and Scripture, through our encounter with others and in the inner movements of our hearts. By responding in obedience to the Lord’s advances of grace, we deepen our relationship and our friendship with our Lord. And it is by living Gospel values that we come to know the Lord Jesus, not abstractly but with a knowledge that is experiential and enduring. Our call is to be God-like, putting on the mind and heart of Jesus. We are to put into action the Christian values of love, forgiveness and compassion.

Advent is about friendship; it’s all about how God is in His love for us in Jesus. Advent is a *time to wake out of sleep* and respond to God’s initiative and by so doing come to know that peace and joy that are beyond all understanding.

Prayer: *O Lord, continue to gift us with watchful hearts so that as You come into our daily lives by Your grace and friendship, we might be open to Your love and come to witness to that love in our concern for others. Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

THE ADVENT WREATH

Six weeks prior to the celebration of Christmas we observe a Fast, often called *Advent* which means *The Coming*, and refers to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord together with Feast of His Baptism in the Jordan 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 winter, the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas 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 during this Christmas Fast, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, will have six candles on it. **This Sunday, November 20, we will light the second candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers.**

Prepare O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself O Ephrathah, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: For if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

Gospel: 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” ’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

“So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple

Commemorated on [November 21](#)



According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances

and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ

2023 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

On Sunday, **November 13**, the 2023 Parish Council members were elected subjected to the approval of our Father and Archbishop Alexander.

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: John Bohush
Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley
Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas,
Bud Graham,
Reader Aaron Gray,
Sarah Kostadinova

The 2023 Parish Council will be installed at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2023. Date to be announced

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY CELEBATION

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us for our St. Nicholas Celebration. **On this festive occasion, Reader Aaron Gray will be vested with the Sticharion and the girded with Orar of the Subdeacon. Then Archbishop Alexander, with the Laying of Hands, will ordain Reader Aaron a Subdeacon of the Church of Saint Elia.**

Mark your calendars and keep this date!

***“Gratitude turns everything you have
into enough”***

**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING 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

Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Florence Lambo
Martin Vronick
Rose Marie Vronick
Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober
Pani Dolores Zuder
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan
Ted Theodore
Sarah Costadinova
Geoffrey Michael Lubic
Kalie Obeng-Fiorg
Marybeth Gray

Rose Marie Vronick – Village of St. Edward
at Green, 3813 Fortuna Drive 44312

Memory Eternal! Angelo Lambo, being
fortified with Holy Communion, fell asleep in
the Lord on Sunday, November 13,2022

Visit the St. Elia Bookstore

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying several new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts (check-out our new 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

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Candles:	\$ 30.00
Special Intention:	100.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>794.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$924.00

Tithley Offerings:	\$234.00
<u>PayPal Offering:</u>	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$274.00

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

Please make your donations for the flowers and decorations for Christmas celebration. We will need to shop and purchase the in time. Thank You!

2023 CHURCH CALENDARS

Through the generosity of ANTHONY FUNERAL HOME, 2023 Church Calendars have arrived. Please pick your calendar up from the front pew in the Church.

Help those in need during the Nativity season!



During the fasting seasons of the Orthodox Church, we are called upon to fast not only for reasons of self-control and prayer, but also for reasons of love: to deny ourselves something so that we may share what we have saved with someone else who is in need.

During this year's Nativity Fast our parish charitable group, the *Workers of St. Elizabeth*, will be collecting items for the **Peter Matrin Center**. Located just 5 minutes north of St. Elia at 1096 Old South Main St., the Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families in the greater Akron area by offering meals, warm clothing and other necessities, and friendship.

Look for the bin located near the entrance of church and drop off your items as you come in each week. Below is a list of ideas of items that are currently in need at the Center:

- Hand warmers (many needed!)
- Socks, large athletic type (many needed!)
- Gloves and hats
- Underwear, men and women, all sizes
- Hygiene items, either full or travel size, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, razors (ALL hygiene items very much needed!)
- Boots, waterproof, especially men size 12-14, women all sizes
- Hoodies, especially men size L and XL with zipper
- Akron Metro one-day bus passes
- Meal cards, such as for McDonald's, Burger King, or Subway
- Backpacks, adult
- Flashlights, including batteries

For use in prepared meals at the center, meat donations would also be welcome (these can be stored temporarily in the St. Elia fridge/freezer), such as ground beef, sausage links, pork, chicken breasts, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Gray at 330-413-8324 or grayaaron@outlook.com. Thank you for doing your part to help those in NEED.

THANKSGIVING - REFLECTIONS

“On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go your way; your faith has made you well.” —

Luke 17:11-19

Examine your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any attitudes—for example, discontentment, taking God’s benefits for granted, holding on to your own agenda, complacency—that blind you to God’s blessings and block you from experiencing and expressing gratitude. What could you do to overcome such hindrances and change your outlook? To make giving thanks to God a more conscious and active part of your life? Count your blessings! Write your own personal “litany of thanks.”

We should not accept in silence the benefactions of God, but return thanks for them.

St. Basil the Great

LEST WE FORGET

Christmas comes on December 25, but for many it starts before that: on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. The ads announce glad tidings of great joy with five pounds of advertisements. Big-screen TVs, for several hundred dollars – can you believe it. Blu-ray players for next to nothing. The entire stock of clothing at 50% off. Unbelievable deals. And the stores open their doors at three, four, five o'clock in the morning. Now that's good news.

Several years ago, the good news turned to tragedy for a Walmart employee, Jdimytai Damour, on Long Island, New York. His job was to stand at the door at 4:55 a.m. There were two thousand people standing outside in the cold, eager to get a great buy on some sale item. The door looked like it was going to open, then it closed again. The people were frustrated, pushed on the glass doors, and surged forward. The glass shattered, and the frame fell on top of Jdimytai Damour. Even knowing he was hurt people went on with their shopping, buying Christmas presents. Before the morning was over Jdimytai Damour was pronounced dead. It's a story of Christmas run amok – a kind of amnesia illustrating how ordinary people forget the real meaning of Christmas. Advent is the Church's response to this amnesia. Advent is a six-week period when Christians pause and say, "Let's remember what this is all about and remember Who the Child is, born in Bethlehem, and the hope and the promise that comes from Him.

Sisterhood of St. Juliana Fundraiser: Get a Jump Start on Your Holiday Shopping!



Support the projects of the Sisterhood of St. Juliana and get a jump start on your holiday shopping at the same time! **[Shop at St. Elia's special fundraising website](#)** for St. Elia Christmas Ornaments, gifts, teas, candies, snacks, cookie dough, candles, magazines, home decor, holiday items, kitchen items, and more!

Items can be shipped directly to your home or choose to have your items shipped to the church at no additional charge. Items delivered to the church will be available for pick up starting Sunday, December 4.

St. Elia will receive a large percentage of your purchase as a donation. The fundraising website will remain open through November 28.

We appreciate your support!

Shop online at: **<https://bit.ly/stelia-fundraiser>**