

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

December 4, 2022, • Vol. 39, No. 48

25th Sunday After Pentecost



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.saintlia.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*

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, December 4 – Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, December 11 - Bud Graham

Sunday, December 18 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, December 25 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, January 1, 2023 – Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES DECEMBER 2022

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8
Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana, at Heliopolis in Syria; Venerable John of Damascus

Saturday, December 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, December 4

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Lighting of the 4th Candle on the Advent Wreath

**SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

Monday, December 5

**6:00 pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Saturday, December 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, December 11

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

**9:30 am Pontifical Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom. Subdiaconate Ordination of
Reader Aaron Gray**

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Lighting of the 5th Candle on the Advent Wreath

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Saturday, December 17

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, December 18

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy 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: the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. The Prefestive Vespers will be celebrated at 6:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 19, Tuesday, Dec. 20, Wednesday, Dec. 21, Thursday, Dec. 22. and the Royal Hours on Friday, Dec. 23.

Monday, December 19 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Tuesday, December 20 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Wednesday, December 21 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Thursday, December 22 – 6:00 pm

Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Friday, 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.

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord

Saturday December 24 -Christmas Eve – *Strict Fast*

5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas – Compline and Matins

Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY.

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord.

Monday, December 26

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Tuesday, December 27

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

GLAD TIDINGS

God approaches us with glad tidings: ***“And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great JOY which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.’”*** (Luke 2:10-11)

The Holy Season of Advent anticipates the JOY of Christmas. When we become penetrated with the glad tidings, first announced to the shepherds, that God has come to forgive us our sins, all our sorrows will turn into joy, all our trials will be graces and all our faults will become happy faults because they are forgiven. The remembrance of our sins will remind us only of the goodness, the tenderness, the JOY with which God forgives them.

When we become penetrated with the JOY of God, God will become God again, He will be a Father again, and we will become His children. To be sure Christian JOY is not an easy contentment, a naïve self-satisfaction, or even a naïve satisfaction for the sake of others. It is sadness overcome, darkness dispersed in Christ the Light.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light. For those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a Light is risen. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and of His peace there shall be no end.” (Isaiah 9:2,6)

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, December 4, we will light the fourth 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

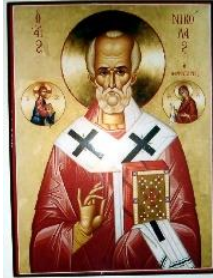
Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw *them*, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS



Monday, December 5

**6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

***Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us
for our St. Nicholas Celebration on Saturday,
December 10 and Sunday, December 11.***

Saturday, December 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, December 11

**9:00 am Greeting of the Archbishop
Entrance Prayers**

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

**9:30 am Subdiaconate Ordination of
Reader Aaron Gray
Pontifical Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom.**

**We will have a SPECIAL VISITOR:
St. Nicholas will be visiting & just maybe he will
leave something good in their shoes**

ORDINATION OF A SUBDEACON

READER AARON GRAY will be vested with the *Sticharion* and the girded with *Orar* of the Subdeacon.

Then Archbishop Alexander, makes the Sign of the Cross three times on his head, and then laying his hand upon him, says the following prayer:

O Lord our God, Who, through one and the same Holy Spirit, distributes gifts unto each of them Whom Thou hast chosen, bestowing various Orders in Thy Church, and appointing various degrees of ministry therein for the service of Thy Holy and Undeiled Mysteries; Who, in thine ineffable foreknowledge, does also appoint this Thy servant to be worthy to serve in Thy Holy Church: do Thou Thyself, O Master, preserve him undeiled in all things, and grant unto him to love the beauty of Thy House, to stand at the doors of Thy Holy Temple, and to kindle the light of the tabernacle of Thy glory. And plant him in Thy Holy Church as a faithful olive tree that bears the fruit of righteousness; and at the same time of Thy advent, show Thy servant perfected that he may receive the reward of them that have been acceptable unto Thee.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Following the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, December 4, the Sisterhood of St. Juliana will hold their monthly meeting.

ST. NICHOLAS FEASTDAY LITURGY

Monday, December 5 – 6:00 pm
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a combined Parish Council Meeting of the 2022 and 2023 members on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

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

2023 CHURCH CALENDARS

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

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of 2023 Offering Envelopes will be sent to your home by mail by the Church Budget Envelope Co. in December 2022. If you do not receive them, please inform Fr. Don.

**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

Rose Marie Vronick

Village of St. Edward
at Green, 3813 Fortuna Drive 44312



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 27, 2022

Candles:	\$ 53.00
Memorial Donation:	50.00
Christmas Flowers:	35.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>465.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 803.00

Tithley Offerings: \$188.87

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 Maurin 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.

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>**

Orthodox Christian Women

Winter Mini-Retreat
Saturday January 21, 2023
9:30 am to noon

St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Church

3204 Ridgewood Road, Fairlawn 44333
Free Event - Everyone Welcome!
Continental Breakfast provided

“Breaking Christian
Education Paradigms”
Speaker: Robert Snyder

Contact: Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638 or
nlstudebaker@gmail.com

Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or
sandy.menhorn@gmail.com

For questions or additional information