

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

December 11, 2022, Vol. 39, No. 50

Sunday of the Forefathers



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. Mitrred Archbishop 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 11 - Bud Graham

Sunday, December 18 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, December 25 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, January 8, 2023 – Subdeacon Aaron Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

DECEMBER 2022

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

Saturday, December 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, December 11

9:00 am Greeting of Archbishop Alexander

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

O who loves Nicholas the saintly!

O who serves Nicholas the saintly!

Hm will Nicholas receive

And give help in time of need!

Holy Father Nicholas

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.

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

*The Nativity According to the Flesh of
our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

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

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

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

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 4

Sunday Before the Theophany of our Lord Baptism

Forefeast of the Theophany,

The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 1, 2023

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: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

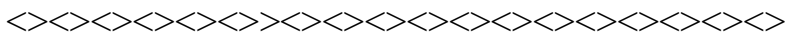
⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

¹⁶ Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses.

The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke

of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ ²⁰ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* ^[a]maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ ²³ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”



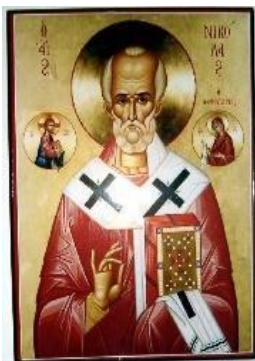
Saint Nicholas Troparion

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you, and your poverty enriched you. O Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

Saint Nicholas Kontakion

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one. you laid down your life for your people and rescued the innocent from death. Therefore, you have been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS



Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us for our St. Nicholas Celebration this weekend: 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

SUBDEACONATE ORDINATION

READER AARON INNOCENT GRAY, as a Tonsured Reader of Saint Elia Church, is brought to Archbishop Alexander vested with the *Sticharion*.

The *Orarion* is brought to the Archbishop who makes the Sign of the Cross over the Orarion. Reader Aaron Innocent kisses the Cross on the Orarion and the Archbishop's hand and is now girded with the Orarion.

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

O Lord our God, Who, distributing through one and the same Holy Spirit gifts of grace to each of them Whom Thou hast chosen, having given to Thy Church various orders and having established through Thine unspeakable Providence various levels of service in it, for the service of Thy Holy and immaculate Mysteries, and Who, through Thine ineffable foreknowledge, hast ordained this Thy servant *Aaron Innocent* to be worthy to serve in Thy Holy Church: do Thou the same Lord, preserve him uncondemned in all things. And grant that he may love the beauty of Thy House, stand before the doors of Thy Holy Temple, and kindle the lamps in the tabernacle of Thy glory. And make him Thy perfect servant in the time of Thy Second Coming, that he may receive the recompense of those who are well-pleasing in Thy sight; 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.

Choir: Amen!

And now the new subdeacon is given pitcher of water and a basin and a towel is laid on his shoulders. He now pours water over the Archbishop's hands. The Archbishop dries his hand with the towel and blesses the subdeacon and the protodeacon, who kiss his hand and all go to their appointed place. **The Divine Liturgy now begins.**

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.

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 11, we will light the fifth candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers.**

*Mary was of David's seed.
So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room in the inn,
The cave became a beautiful palace for the queen.
Christ is born, raising the image that fell of old!*

WAITING IN SILENCE

Rejoice, O Isaiah! “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel,” which is translated “God with us.”

(Luke 1:23; Isaiah 7:14)

With these words, the Old Testament Prophet prophecy embodies the longings, the hopes and desires of God’s people as they prepared to receive the One Who comes to grant them new life.

The JOY we experience on the feast of Christ’s Nativity depends on how well we have prepared ourselves to receive Him. We spend a great deal of time getting ready for Christmas. Countless hours are devoted to shopping, decorating and menu planning. Important as these matters are, our **spiritual preparation is critical** if we are to catch the true Christmas spirit.

Let the longing and the silence of this season of Advent transmute into a proper preparation in prayer and fasting for the world’s Greatest Love.

God walks into our soul with silent steps. God comes to us more than we go to Him. Never will His coming be what we expect, and yet never will it disappoint. The more we respond to His gentle pressure, the greater will be our freedom.

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Thy name is the name dearest to us. To Thee be glory and praise forever!

**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

DO SOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

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, December 4, 2022

Candles: \$ 59.00

Improvement Fund: 5.00

Christmas Flowers: 60.00

Sunday Offering: \$1,020.00

TOTAL: \$1,174.00

Tithley Offerings: \$ 158.37

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.

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