

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

December 18, 2022, Vol. 39, No. 51

Sunday Before Christmas



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: Subdeacon 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 18 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, December 25 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, January 8, 2023 –Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle - Subdeacon Aaron Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

DECEMBER 2022

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

JANUARY 2023

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

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Thursday, January 5

6:00 pm Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”^[b] ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

²² By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

²³ By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered

kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning;^[d] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Genealogy of Christ

1 The book of the ^agenealogy ¹of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. **3** ^aJudah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, ^bPerez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. **4** Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. **5** Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, **6** and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her ²who had been the wife of Uriah. **7** Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. **8** Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. **9** Uzziah

begot Jotham, Jotham begot ²Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. **10** Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. **11** Josiah begot ⁵Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. **14** Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. **15** Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. **16** And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Birth of Christ

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being ⁶a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is ⁷conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name ⁸JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** “*Behold, ⁹the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*” which is translated, “God with us.”

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, **25** and ¹did not know her till she had brought forth her ²firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

*The following is an excerpt from **The Winter Pascha**,
by Fr. Thomas Hopko*

The gospel reading for the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Christmas is "the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham," taken from the gospel according to St. Matthew. This genealogy lists the generations of people from Abraham to David, to the Babylonian captivity of the people of Israel, to the birth of Jesus. It is a selected genealogy, ending in the appearance of "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ" (Mt 1:16). It differs from the genealogy presented in St. Luke's gospel which begins with Jesus "being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph," and goes back all the way not simply to Abraham but to Adam (Lk 3:23-38).

There are many purposes for presenting the genealogy of Jesus in the gospels, chief among which is the affirmation that Jesus, being in truth the Son of God, as all the gospels testify, has come "in the flesh" as a real human being. This affirmation was critically important in the time of the apostles and the first Christian generations because, unlike today, the temptation of the early period of Christianity was not to deny Jesus' divinity, but to deny His real and authentic humanity.

As a matter of historical fact, the first Christian heretics were those who said that Jesus was some sort of divine being (how this was explained had many variations and versions) who only appeared to be a true man but was not really one since "flesh and blood" were taken to be intrinsically degrading if not downright evil. Thus, the apostle Paul had to insist that in Jesus, who belongs to the Jews "according to the flesh" (Rom 9:5), the "whole fulness of deity dwells *bodily*" (Col 2:9), and that it is the same Jesus who died and was buried and raised in the flesh as a real man, who is Messiah and Lord.

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 18, we will light the sixth 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!*

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)

*“God can take broken tiles and
turn them into a beautiful mosaic”*

St. Paisios

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Candles: \$ 36.00

Bookstore: 11.00

Sunday Offering: \$ 570.00

TOTAL: \$ 617.00

Tithley Offerings: \$ 224.74

PayPal: 61.10

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS

Our Father and Archbishop Alexander was with us last Sunday, December 11, and ordained Reader Aaron Innocent Gray as Subdeacon of Saint Elia Church. Subdeacon Aaron was tonsured a Reader on October 8, 2006 and has been faithfully serving in that capacity and now is called to serve as a Subdeacon.

Our Prayerful Congratulations to you Subdeacon Aaron, to your wife Kathryn and children Andrew and Marybeth. MANY YEARS!



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

**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

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