

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

January 8, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 2



## SAINT 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](http://www.saintlia.com)

[www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron](https://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: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

## Scheduled Readers - 2023

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

**Epistle - Subdeacon Aaron Gray**

**Sunday, January 15 Deaconisa Heidi Gresh**

**Sunday, January 22 Hours-Subdeacon Terrence Bilas**

**Epistle – Anastasia Bohush**

**Sunday, January 29 Tyler McKelvey**

# SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

## JANUARY 2023

*Christ is Baptized in the Jordan!*  
*Glorify Him!*

**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Tone 5

Afterfeast and Sunday After the Theophany

Saturday, January 7

**5:00 pm** Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 8

**9:10 am - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours:** Mary Beth Gray

**9:30 am** Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Panakhida for the repose of the soul of

+Sandra Dodovich as requested by her

son, Tony Dodovich

**Epistle Reader:** Subdeacon Aaron Gray

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:7-13    **Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

**31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Tone 6

Venerable Paul of Thebes

Saturday, January 14

**5:00 pm** Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 15

**9:10 am - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours:** Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

**9:30 am** Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Panakhida (1 year) for the repose of the soul of

+Larissa Freude as requested by her

family

**Epistle Reader:** Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17    **Gospel:** Luke 18:18

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READING

## Ephesians 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: "***When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.***" (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

***"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."***

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***"

# Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Commemorated on **January 6**

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind. The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

*Continued next page*

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms. The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

# The Great Sanctification of Water



The Great Blessing of Water is prescribed in the Church on the Feast of Theophany. It begins with the chanting and censuring of the water placed in the center of the church building, surrounded by candles and flowers as the sign of the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification through Christ and the Holy Spirit in the Kingdom of God. The service of the Great Blessing of Water itself reveals the meaning of the event for the Christian People. The readings from the Holy Scriptures, particularly the messianic words from the Prophecy of Isaiah, and the litanies and prayers and hymns all serve to tell us what the great meaning of the Epiphany, and indeed of the entire Christian Faith, is for us men and our world.

*Continued next page*

## **Sanctification of the World**

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has appeared in the world, immersed in the streams of the Jordan River (which is itself full of biblical significance), all flesh and all matter is sanctified and made pure and holy in Him, purged of its death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the evil and wickedness of men.

In the Lord's epiphany to the world, all creation becomes good again, indeed "very good," the way that God called it and created it to be in the beginning of time. <sup>(Genesis 1:31)</sup> For in the beginning the Voice of the Lord spoke, as at the time of Jesus' baptism, and ***"the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters."*** <sup>(Genesis 1:2)</sup> At this time as well the "Breath of Life" was breathing in man and in everything that was made to be alive by God for a life of living communion with Him. <sup>(Genesis 1:30, 2:7)</sup>

The world and everything in it is indeed "very good." And when it becomes polluted and corrupted and dead, filled with evil and not with God, then God Himself does everything to save it and glorify it once more. This is what Epiphany, and the Great Blessing of Water specifically tells us: that God has saved and glorified by Christ and the Spirit the "very good" creation that He made through the same Christ and the same Spirit in the very beginning of the world.

*Continued next page*



## **The Blessing of Homes**

The Central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River, is the act of blessing the homes and to pray with the faithful in the place where they live, blessing the surroundings with the sanctified water.

Father Don is planning to bless homes this week (with Popadia's Donna's driving assistance) – Monday through Friday, January 9 -13. If it is your wish that Father comes to your home for this special blessing, please sign the list on the Candle Desk or call Father at 330-724-7009

When Father comes for the blessing, the following general principles should be observed:

1. A lighted candle, an icon or cross., and a bowl for the blessed water should be placed on a clean table, covered, if possible, with a white cloth,
2. All radios, televisions, etc. should be turned off.
3. All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table.
4. The first Christian names of all the members of the household, both living and deceased, should be clearly printed on a piece of paper. A form for this purpose is on the Candle Desk.



**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

## **SISTERHOOD OF ST JULIANA**

**The Sisterhood Monthly Meeting will be held today, Sunday, January 8, 2023, following the Divine Liturgy.**

### **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**The Church Budget Envelope Company has informed me, Father Don, that they are having printing and mailing backup issues with their equipment. There is going to be a delay in sending out the boxes of 2023 Offering Envelopes and we will hopefully receive them in January.**

**In the meantime, please use the envelopes on the Candle Desk marked “My Offering,” or give your offerings through Tithely or Pay Pal using the information connection on our Website: [www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com)**

### **STEWARDSHIP**

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

**Candles: \$ 42.00**

**Sunday Offering: 1,088.00**

**TOTAL: \$1,130.00**

**Tithely Offerings: \$163.77**

**PayPal Offerings: 100.00**

**\$263.77**

**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](mailto:nlstudebaker@gmail.com)**  
**Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or**  
**[sandy.menhorn@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.menhorn@gmail.com)**

**For questions or additional information**

# ZOE for Life! Prayer Service followed by Special Guest Speaker

The Archangel Michael Orthodox Church community invites you to join a prayer service and guest speaker presentation on **Sunday January 22, 2023**. The prayer service and presentation will be in-person at

Archangel Michael Orthodox Church  
5025 East Mill Road  
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147

His Grace Bishop Nathaniel will begin the **prayer service at 6:00 pm** and his **presentation will start at 6:45 pm**.

The prayer service and speaker presentation will also be streamed live via Zoom. It will be accessible by computer or ANY phone. Registration is FREE but required. Please register below by providing the name, email, parish, and phone number of each participant. You will be emailed with the link to join the Zoom meeting before the event.

Donations are appreciated. Checks may be sent and made out to:

St.'s. Constantine and Helen Cathedral  
3352 Mayfield Road  
Cleveland, Heights Ohio 44118  
Attn: ZOE For Life!®

Please write "ZOE for Life" in the memo line"

If you have any questions or trouble registering, please reach out to Paula Kappos at [paulamk@roadrunner.com](mailto:paulamk@roadrunner.com)  
Sign into Google to save your progress. Learn more