

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

January 22, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 4

Sanctity of Life Sunday



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: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2023

Sunday, January 22 Hours-Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle – Anastasia Bohush

Sunday, January 29 Tyler McKelvey

Sunday, February 5 Bud Graham

Sunday, February 12 Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, February 19 Sandy Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

JANUARY 2023

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 7

Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

Saturday, January 21

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 22

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

**Panakhida for the repose of the souls of
+Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich and
+Archpriest John Bohush as requested by
their grandson John Bohush and family**

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: 1Timothy 1:15-17 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS.

**Translation of the relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the
Godbearer**

Saturday, January 28

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 29

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Tyler McKelvey

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

**Panakhida (1 year) for the repose of the soul
of +Samir Hakim as requested by his wife
Frances and family**

Epistle Reader: Tyler McKelvey

Epistle: 1Timothy 4:9-15 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

***“God’s love for the biggest sinner is greater than the love of
the holiest person of God.” Monk, Fr. Arsenie Boca***

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the
Orthodox Church in America,
My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic Epistle to Diognetus, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians 'marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh' (ch. 5). Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through

whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17). Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, Sanctity of Life Sunday has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning. We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, that used that voice to speak against the enormities that

the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes, abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions. But we must never, ever allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ, +TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to ^[a]God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging.

¶ And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "***Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.***"

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan
Pani Dolores Zuder
Ted Theodore
Sarah Costadinova
Geoffrey Michael Lubic
Kalie Obeng-Fiorg

Rose Marie Vronick

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
of 2022 and 2023 Members
Tuesday, January 24 @ 7:00 pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Sunday, February 5, 2023

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Hopefully you have received your box of 2023 Offering Envelopes from the Church Budget Envelope Company. If you have not received yours , please inform Father Don.

Your Support of Saint Elia is Critical!

Meeting our spiritual home's basic operating expenses is of critical importance.

So, when for some reason you have missed making your Offering, please remember to make up your weekly or monthly contribution by whatever means you choose to do so.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Candles: \$ 82.00

Memorial Donations: 85.00

Sunday Offering: 1,073.00

TOTAL: \$ 1,240.00

Tithely Offerings: \$132.31

**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

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 Eminence Archbishop 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
Sign into Google to save your progress. Learn more

Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

Commemorated today, January 22

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and, in his Epistles, called him his son remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of Saint Andrew (November 30) and Saint Luke (October 18). The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but is thinking about yourself less.” C.S. Lewis