

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## The Voice

January 29, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 5

Sunday of Zacchaeus



## St. Elia the Prophet 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 29 Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Sunday, February 5 Bud Graham

Sunday, February 12 Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, February 19 Sandy Graham

Sunday, February 26 Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, March 5 Reader Joshua Wherley

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

## **JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023**

**33<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subdeacon Aaron Gray**

**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: Subdeacon Aaron Gray**

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

**THE MEETING OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS  
CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

**Wednesday, February 1**

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

*1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday*

**34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 1 – SUNDAY  
OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE Afterfeast of the  
Meeting of our Lord in the Temple**

**Saturday, February 4**

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

**Sunday, February 5**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Bud Graham**

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

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

**Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14**

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this *end*<sup>3</sup> we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one<sup>4</sup> despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,<sup>5</sup> in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to<sup>6</sup> doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

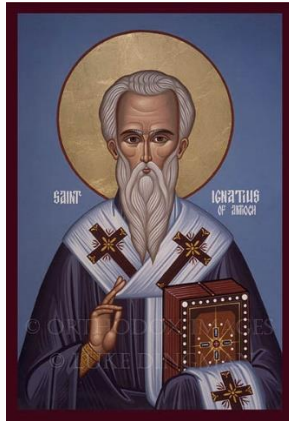
## Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

### Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus' House

Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who *Jesus* was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. And when *Jesus* came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he <sup>[c]</sup>made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

And *Jesus* said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

## Translation of the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius, the Godbearer and Bishop of Antioch Commemorated on January 29



The Transfer of the Relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer. After the holy hieromartyr Ignatius was thrown to the lions in the year 107 on the orders of the emperor Trajan, Christians gathered up his bones and preserved them at Rome. Later, in the year 108, the saint's relics were collected and buried outside the gate of Daphne at Antioch. A second transfer, to the city of Antioch itself, took place in the year 438. After the capture of Antioch by the Persians, the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius were returned to Rome and placed into the church of the holy Hieromartyr Clement.

Saint Ignatius introduced antiphonal singing into Church services. He has left us seven archpastoral epistles in which he provided instructions on faith, love and good works. He also urged his flock to preserve the unity of the faith and to beware of heretics. He encouraged people to honor and obey their bishops, "We should regard the bishop as we would the Lord Himself." (To the Ephesians 6)

In his Letter to Polycarp, Saint Ignatius writes: "Listen to the bishop, if you want God to listen to you... let your baptism be your shield, your faith a helmet, your charity a spear, your patience, like full armor." (Compare Eph. 6:14-17 and the Wisdom of Solomon 5:17-20)

# The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on [February 2](#)



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die

until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,<sup>1</sup> and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: *“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel”* (Luke 2:29-32).

Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: *“Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”* (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: *“This Child has established Heaven and earth.”*

### **Troparion — Tone 1**

Hail, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! / From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / enlightening those who were in darkness! / Rejoice, O righteous Elder; / you received in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, / Who grants us the Resurrection.

***The Vesperal Divine Liturgy for this Feast will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 1, at 6:00 pm***

## **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

With the celebration of the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we move from the Christmas/Epiphany cycle to the Lenten/Paschal Cycle.

With the Sunday of Zacchaeus today, the four Pre-Lent Sundays are announced: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Meat-fare Sunday and Cheese-fare Sunday. **Great Lent begins this year on Monday, February 27.**

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**, celebrating the *“Triumph of Orthodoxy”* over Iconoclasm and the restoration of the veneration of Icons. On the **Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5**, the Akron Orthodox Churches this year will gather together to celebrate Vespers at St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church at 5:00 pm. A combined choir will be formed under the direction of Basil Kochan.

A Sunday of Orthodoxy Program Booklet is being prepared and your donations will support the work of the Orthodox Clergy Association, Christian Orthodox Council of Akron, and Orthodox Christian Women. Please give your donations to Mary Marcin: **Benefactor \$100; Supporter \$50; Patron \$25; Sponsor \$10.**

The **Combined Lenten Vespers** will be served each Sunday: March 12-St. Archangel Michael; **March 19-St. Elia the Prophet**; March 26 - St. George; April 2 - St. Nicholas.  
Feast of the Annunciation - March 24 at Annunciation



## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**The Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church** will be held following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**. There will be a **covered dish dinner** following the Divine Liturgy. The main dish of chicken will be provided. Please sign the list on the coffee table in the hall what side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

The members for the **2023 Parish Council**, elected on Sunday, November 13, 2022, will be installed: **President: Veronica Bilas; Vice President: Sandy Graham; Secretary: John Bohush; Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley. Advisors: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas; Bud Graham, Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Sarah Kostadinova. COCA Representative: Mary Marcin.**

All are encouraged to attend and participate in past-year assessment and next year's planning session for our parish. The Minutes will be read, the Treasurer's Report, the Sisterhood's Report, the Church School Report and the Rector's report will be presented.

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**Candles: \$ 57.00**

**Sunday Offering: 2,885.00**

**TOTAL: \$2,942.00**

**Tithely Offerings: \$ 199.98**

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

**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE  
ARMED FORCES**

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and  
Popadia Donna Freude  
Egor Cravenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila  
Cravenco

**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  
Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon aaron Gray)

**Rose Marie Vronick**

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



***Orthodox Christian Women***  
***Presents***

**Annual Lenten Retreat**

**Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10:00 am — 3:00 pm**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

**755 S. Cleveland Ave. Mogadore, OH 44260**

***“The Prayer of St. Ephraim”***

Presented by Rev. Nicholas Halkias

Fr. Nick graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in Religious Studies in 1996 and also from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline with a Master of Divinity degree in 2001. After serving in Sts. Constantine and Helen (Reading, PA) as an assistant for 6 years and in Holy Trinity (Steubenville, OH) for 10 years, he is currently the Priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Canton, OH. He and his wife, Presbyteria Anne-Charissa, reside in Canton, OH with their three daughters: Marianthi, Hope and Kyra.

\$20 Tickets include Continental Breakfast Morning Session, Lenten Lunch, and Afternoon Session

Make checks payable to OCW and remit to:

Pat Gorsuch 124 Beech St., Doylestown, OH 44230

RSVP by Friday, March 10, 2023

For more information call: Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638





## Who is St. Ephraim the Syrian?

St. Ephraim was born about 306 in Mesopotamia. Baptized between the age of 18 and 28, Ephraim studied and taught in his native town of Nisibis. Due to a Persian invasion, he emigrated in 363 to the town of Edessa in modern day Turkey where he continued his writing and teaching career. He was ordained to the diaconate about 335, but it still remains undetermined as to whether or not he was ordained to the priesthood. He died in Edessa in the year 373. We celebrate his feast on January 28.

Living during the years of the earliest Trinitarian and Christological heresies, St. Ephraim became one of the defenders of the faith. He attacked the Arians, Gnostics and Emperor Julian the Apostate by upholding the true teachings on the Trinity and the Incarnation. His moving hymns, dynamic homilies, and other commentaries and treatises have earned him the titles of “Lyre of the Holy Spirit,” “Prophet of the Syrians,” the “Syriac Chrysostom.,” the “Eloquent Mouth,” and the “Column of the Church.”

It is noteworthy that Ephraim had a great devotion to the Mother of God. There have come down to us twenty homilies and twelve prayers to the Theotokos.

St. Ephraim is probably best known by one of his penitential prayers recited during the Great Fast. A very terse yet moving prayer, it eloquently sums up the Lenten theme of growing closer to God. This prayer is a three-fold petition to grow out of the ways of evil, to grow in the life of Christ, and to increase our self-awareness rather than our self-righteousness.

***O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.***

***But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.***

***Yea, O Lord, and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, not ages of ages.***