

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

February 5, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 4
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee



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, 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

Sunday, March 12 Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2023

1st Pre-Lenten Sunday

34th 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 3rd and 6th 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

FAST FREE WEEK

Wednesday, February 8 – NO FAST

Friday, February 10 – NO FAST

2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Saturday, February 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, February 12

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

MEMORIAL SATURDAY –SATURDAY OF MEATFARE

Friday, February 17

6:00 pm Vespers of Memorial Saturday

General Panakhida for all the faithful departed

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

Commemorated on February 5



The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the *Triodion* (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very

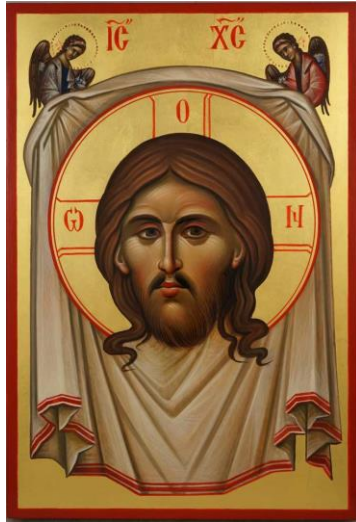
good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

The Prayer of the Publican
God be merciful to me, a sinner!



THE JESUS PRAYER

**LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF
GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME
A SINNER**

United to Jesus through Holy Baptism, we are called and given the grace to know Jesus in a personal way. Jesus is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing and comforting power of the Name of Jesus, the Jesus prayer is a simple prayer around this “Name that is above all other names...the Name by which we are saved” [Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11]

The Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name of Jesus itself.

This simple prayer, prayed with faith and with perseverance, calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us.

Jesus calls us to make our home in Him; as He will make His home in us:

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. [John 15:4-5]

Abiding in Christ is living out our union with Him in faith, baptism, love and obedience. The figure of the vine and the branches shows our union with Christ as intimate and real. We are a new people with Christ.

This simplest of prayers, prayed from time to time throughout the day will gradually lead us into the Presence of Jesus in our thoughts.

Focused wholly on Jesus, in time, this prayer will begin to strike roots in our heart, where its continued practice will ever deepen the reality of Jesus living in us – to heal us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us in our faith.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church will be held following the Divine Liturgy this **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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Candles: \$ 82.00

Memorial Donations: 175.00

Sunday Offering: 410.00

TOTAL: \$667.00

Tithely Offerings: \$132.31

PayPal Offerings: 40.00

TOTAL: \$172.31

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

Great Lent begins this year on Monday, February 27, 2023

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 during Great Lent:

March 5 – St. Thomas Church

March 12 - St. Archangel Michael Serbian Church

March 19 - St. Elia the Prophet Church

March 26 - St. George Antiochian Church

April 2 - St. Nicholas Church.

Feast of the Annunciation - March 24 at Annunciation

WHEN THE PRIEST ANNOUNCES

“Let us go forth in Peace.”

What does it mean?

“Let us go forth in peace” is the last commandment of the Liturgy.

What does it mean?

It means, surely, that the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy is not an ‘end’ but a beginning.

These words, “Let us go forth in peace,” are not merely a comforting epilogue. They are a call to serve and bear witness.

In effect, those words, “Let us go forth in peace,” mean the Liturgy is over, but the Liturgy after the Liturgy is about to begin.

This, then, is the aim of the Liturgy: that we should return to the world with the doors of our perceptions cleansed. We should return to the world after the Liturgy, seeing Christ in every human person, especially in those who suffer.

In the words of Father Alexander Schmemmann, the Christian is the one who wherever he or she looks, everywhere sees Christ and rejoices in Him.

We are to go out, then, from the Liturgy and see Christ everywhere.

*+Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of blessed repose
(+2022)*

**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
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

