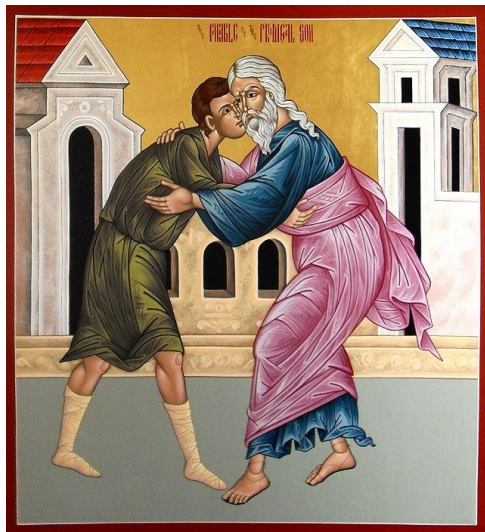


WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

February 12, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 5



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

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

2023 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas

V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley

Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, John Bohush
Bud Graham, Sarah Kostadinova,
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, V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Sarah Kostadinova, Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2023

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

Sunday, March 19 Hours- Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

Epistle – Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2023

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**

3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday

MEATFARE SUNDAY Tone 2 – **SUNDAY OF THE
LAST JUDGMENT**

Saturday, February 18

5:00 pm Vespers – Protodeacon James Gresh

Sunday, February 19

9:30 am Typica Service with the Presanctified Gifts

Protodeacon James Gresh

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham

9:30 am Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For “*the two,*” He says, “*shall become one flesh.*” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to *his* father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me.*’ So, he divided to them *his* livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions

with ^[a]prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it and* let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’”

“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and pleaded with him. So, he answered and said to *his* father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has

devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

+*

Smiles on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son!

A Sunday School teacher asked the children, “Who was upset that the younger brother had returned?”

A child answered: “The fattened calf.”





Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church was held following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**

The members for the **2023 Parish Council**, elected on Sunday, November 13, 2022, were installed at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting:

Officers - President: Veronica Bilas; Vice President: Sandy Graham; Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray; Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley.

Advisors - Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, John Bohush, Bud Graham, Sarah Kostadinova. COCA Representative: Mary Marcin.

Thank you to Bud and Sandy Graham for donating the chicken, and to all who contributed to the Luncheon participated in the meeting. Copies of the reports are available.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Candles:	\$ 26.00
Improvement Fund:	5.00
Sunday Offering:	931.00
TOTAL:	\$962.00

Tithely Offerings: \$204.43

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,166.00

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Today, Sunday, February 12.

MEATFARE - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

The Saturday before Meatfare Saturday is a day of remembering all those who have passed from this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

The Vespers of the deceased will be served on Friday evening, February 17 at 6:00 pm. Father Don has the names of the deceased that were given to him before, but if you have new names to add or if you have never given in the names, please do so before the Divine Services.

Forms for the listing of the names are available on the Candle Desk.

ST. NIKOLAI MISSION ANNIVERSARY

Our Diocesan Mission of St. Nikolai is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their founding on February 18th and 19th. His Eminence, our Father, and Archbishop Alexander will be there for the weekend for Vespers at 4:00 pm on Saturday and Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30 am.

Father Don has been serving as Administrator of the Mission and will be there for the Anniversary weekend. **Protodeacon James Gresh** will be serving at St. Elia for Vespers on Saturday (5:00 pm) and the Typika Service with the Presanctified Gifts for Holy Communion on Sunday (9:30 am).

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 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

A LENTEN THOUGHT

God has taught that you cannot love without giving. He loved you so much that He gave you His Divine Son.

And the Son so loved you that He gave His life on the Cross for you. Now it is our return to show our love.

During Great Lent, a time of prayer and penance, think seriously of your need to be responsible to demonstrate your love.

Be aware that to Christ all of life is stewardship and that we are responsible to the God Who made us for every capacity for which we have been endowed. Someone once asked Daniel Webster about the greatest thought he ever had. Without a moment's hesitation Mr. Webster replied: "The greatest thought my mind has ever grasped is my accountability to Almighty God."

Stewardship is the means by which we satisfy that accountability for it places every man on his own feet. It makes him a steward of what he has, and is, and can become. In a very real sense, it is the only way we can be sure that we have been good disciples of Christ – that we have carried our full share of the work of the kingdom, and that, in some small way, we have helped to make our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh in our life and time.

**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

