

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## The Voice

February 19, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 6

Meatfare Sunday – Last Judgment 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](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

## 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**

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday***

**MEATFARE SUNDAY Tone 3 – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sandy Graham**

**9:30 am Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2**

**Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

**This week we begin to fast from meat until Pascha**

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Pre-Lenten Sunday***

**CHEESEFARE SUNDAY - Tone 4 – FORGIVENESS  
SUNDAY. Expulsion of Adam from Paradise**

**Saturday, February 25**

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

**Sunday, February 26**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Michael Luc**

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

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc**

**Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21**

**5:00 pm - VESPERS**

**MUTUAL FORGIVENESS SERVICE**

***Beginning of Great Lent – Strict Fast***

# ***GREAT LENT***

*The Lenten Spring has come! The light of repentance! Let us cleanse ourselves from evil, crying out to the Giver of Light: Glory to Thee, O Lover of Mankind!*

## **FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

**Monday, February 27 – 6:00 pm**

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *1<sup>st</sup> Section*

**Tuesday, February 28 – 6:00 pm**

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *2<sup>nd</sup> Section*

**Wednesday, March 1 – 6:00 pm**

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *3<sup>rd</sup> Section*

**Thursday, March 2 – 6:00 pm**

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *4<sup>th</sup> Section*

**Friday, March 3 – 6:00 pm**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts - Blessing of Boiled Wheat –  
in Commemoration of Greatmartyr Theodore

*Lenten Covered Dish*

## **SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 5 –**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

**Saturday, March 4**

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

**Sunday, March 5**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great**

**Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley**

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2**

**Gospel: John 1:43-51**

**5:00 pm SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS**

**at Saint Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church**

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a <sup>[c]</sup>stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the <sup>[d]</sup>seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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## **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 Lent:

March 5 – 5:00 pm - St. Thomas Church

March 12 – 6:00 pm St. Archangel Michael Church

**March 19 – 5:00 pm St. Elia the Prophet Church**

March 26 – 5:00 pm St. George Antiochian Church

April 2 –

5:00 pm St. Nicholas Church.

# Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

Commemorated on February 19



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).



The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God’s mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ’s brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fast prepares us gradually for the strict fast of Great Lent.

## A LENTEN THOUGHT



## **Journey to Pascha with the Psalms!**

### **The Goal**

This year, we will continue an annual tradition at St. Elia since 2008 of praying the Psalms together as a parish community during Lent. It's an opportunity for us to draw nearer to Christ and one another during the fast, as we journey toward Holy Pascha.

### **How it works**

The Orthodox Church has traditionally divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections. In our St. Elia prayer group, we will all pray a new section each day throughout the 40 days of Lent, beginning on February 27, so that we will pray through the entire book of Psalms twice during the course of the fast.

## **Bonus**

As we all join in praying the Psalms, we can use this opportunity to pray for one another, for our parish, and for any special intentions that any of us may have by sharing prayer requests with one another via email. Additionally, you will receive Lenten reflections throughout the fast via email with quotes from the saints and other edifying material.

## **What You Need**

To participate, all you need is a Bible and a little bit of time to set aside each day.

## **How Do I Join**

You can join by going to <http://saintelia.com/news/lenten-prayer-group/> and filling in the online form. Shortly before Great Lent begins, you will receive an email with a schedule of which Psalms to pray each day and the names of everyone else who is participating in the prayer group, so that we can remember one another in our daily prayers.

## **One Last Thing**

May the Lord bless us as we pray the Psalms together, and may He draw us nearer to Himself and to one another during this Lent. Have a blessed 40 days!

**St. Elia Prayer Group**

**A ministry of St. Elia Orthodox Church**

**Prayer Group Moderator: Subdeacon Aaron Gray**

**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

## **SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING**

**Today, Sunday, February 19**

### **ST. NIKOLAI MISSION ANNIVERSARY**

Our Diocesan Mission of St. Nikolai is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their founding this weekend, February 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. His Eminence, our Father, and Archbishop Alexander, will be there for the weekend.

Father Don has been serving as Administrator of the Mission and will be there for the Anniversary weekend. Thank you to **Protodeacon James Gresh** for serving at St. Elia for Vespers on Saturday, February 18, at 5:00 pm and the Typika Service with the Presanctified Gifts for Holy Communion on Sunday February 19 at 9:30 am.

Thank you to Deaconisa Heidi Gersh for choir directing on Friday for Vespers and Panakhida and for Saturday Vespers

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**Sunday, February 12, 2023**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 71.00</b>
<b>Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>60.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Offering:</u></b>	<b><u>315.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$446.00</b>

<b>PayPal:</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b><u>Tithely Offerings:</u></b>	<b><u>\$328.81</u></b>

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$804.81**



***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**

