

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

February 26, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 7

Cheesefare Sunday – Forgiveness Sunday



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/sainteliaakronaint

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 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

Sunday, March 26 Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle - Subdeacon Aaron Gray

PASTORAL LETTER FROM OUR FATHER AND ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER

GREAT LENT 2023

Dearly beloved in the Lord,
As we enter the season of Great Lent, I encourage you to remember these words of St. Cyril of Alexandria: “Lent is a time to return to our first love, to rediscover the joy of our salvation, and to renew our commitment to Christ.”

At the threshold of this year’s Lenten journey, let us remember the words of St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:2, which say, “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” Let us also be inspired by the examples of saints such as St. Mary of Egypt, who lived a life of great humility and repentance, and St. Basil the Great, who taught us to “fast not only with our mouth but with our eyes, our ears, our feet, our hands, and all our members.”

In short, our fasting must be understood as an opportunity, not a burden. We have before us a great gift, a time set aside for an intentional and intensified pursuit of spiritual healing and ascent. These are the “most-holy days for the cleansing of souls and bodies, for control of passions, and for hope in the resurrection.” (Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts)

Let us, therefore, enter this Lenten season with humble and joyous hearts overflowing with anticipation for our Lord’s radiant resurrection. May we be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may our Lenten journey lead us closer to the kingdom of God.

with love in Christ,

+Alexander

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2023

4th 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 3rd and 6th 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: Matt. 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 – *1st Section*

Tuesday, February 28 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *2nd Section*

Wednesday, March 1 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *3rd Section*

Thursday, March 2 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete – *4th Section*

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT - continued

Friday, March 3 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

Blessing of Boiled Wheat – in Commemoration of
Greatmartyr Theodore the Recruit

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 3rd and 6th 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

**Procession with Holy Icons and Reading of the Synadicon
for the Sunday of Holy Orthodoxy**

**5:00 pm SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS
at Saint Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church**

Troparion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ
our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to
ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy
creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.”

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

The day is at hand.

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to wake up out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive

men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Fasting to Be Seen Only by God

“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the ^[a]hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Thou hast said, O Lord: ask, and it shall be given to you; knock, and it shall be opened to you.

Lo, I ask, and I knock. Before my end comes, O Lord, cleanse me of all sin.

Venerable Ephraim the Syrian

Cheesefare Sunday: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

Commemorated on February 26

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

Great Lent begins 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 24 – 6:30 pm Annunciation Vespers at
Annunciation Church

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

April 2 – Holy Unction - 5:00 pm St. Nicholas Church.

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 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

Thank you from the
Peter Maurin Center
1096 Old South Main Street, Akron, Ohio

February 14,2023

Dear Father Freude, Aaron Gray, The Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr, and the Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church Parish Family –

I know that it is closer to Lent than Advent, but I wanted to say “thank you very much” for your Advent collections to help the unsheltered and marginalized souls we journey with at the Peter Maurin Center. the gloves and socks and hand warmers...And all the provisions you supplied, make a huge difference in these folks’ lives, especially during the winter time. Thank you for blessing our vulnerable brothers and sisters with your unconditional kindness and love. May God smile upon you and your loved one all days.

David Churbock, Director

National Orthodox Baby Shower

Our community outreach group, The Workers of Saint Elizabeth, is joining with Orthodox parishes across the country to hold a “baby shower” to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children. Please pick up a flyer and join us in collecting the listed items to benefit *Zoe For Life* during the Sundays in March.

**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE
ARMED FORCES**

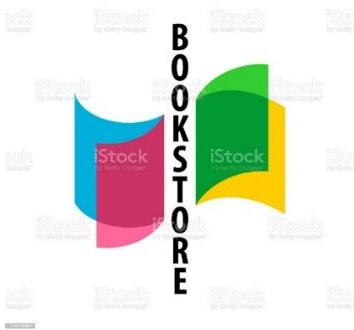
Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and
Popadia Donna Freude
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Cravcenco

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



Visit the St. Elia Bookstore etc.

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying several new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts and baseball caps. If you are interested in a piece of St. Elia "spirit wear" in a certain size or style that's not currently available, please see Aaron Gray about a special order. All proceeds go toward the life and ministry of our parish. Thank you for your support.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Candles: \$ 61.00

Sunday Offering: \$1,160.00

TOTAL: \$1,221.00

PayPal: \$ 50.00

Tithely Offerings: \$ 414.33

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,685.33



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

