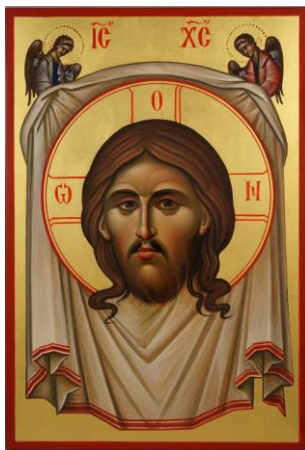


WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

March 5, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 8

Sunday of Orthodoxy



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 Archbishop 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,
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, 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

Sunday, April 2 Sue Ellen Turscak

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

Panakhida for the repose of the soul of Reader

William Paluch (1 year) as requested by the family

5:00 pm SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS

at Saint Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church

Wednesday, March 8 (40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste)

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 10

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Covered Dish

THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 6

Saint Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 12

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us^e would they be made

perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run² with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe?

You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

Commemorated on [March 5](#)



The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Troparion - Sunday of Othodoxy

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."

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

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 Today, 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.**

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

Friday, March 24 – 6:30 pm Annunciation Church

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

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.

PARISH COUNCILMEETING

Tuesday, March 7 – 7pm

**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 26, 2023

Candles: \$ 91.00

Improvement Fund: 40.00

Special Donation: 100.00

Sunday Offering: \$ 555.00

TOTAL: \$ 786.00

PayPal: \$ 40.00

Tithely Offerings: \$ 315.24

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,141.24



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, Presbytera 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



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

40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

Commemorated on March 9

In the year 313 Saint Constantine the Great issued an edict granting Christians religious freedom, and officially recognizing Christianity as equal with paganism under the law. But his co-ruler Licinius was a pagan, and he decided to stamp out Christianity in his part of the Empire. As Licinius prepared his army to fight Constantine, he decided to remove Christians from his army, fearing mutiny.

One of the military commanders of that time in the Armenian city of Sebaste was Agricola, a zealous champion of idolatry. Under his command was a company of forty Cappadocians, brave soldiers who had distinguished themselves in many battles. When these Christian soldiers refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, Agricola locked them up in prison. The soldiers occupied themselves with prayer and psalmody, and during the night they heard a voice saying, "Persevere until the end, then you shall be saved."

On the following morning, the soldiers were again taken to Agricola. This time the pagan tried flattery. He began to praise their valor, their youth and strength, and once more he urged them to renounce

Christ and thereby win themselves the respect and favor of their emperor.

Seven days later, the renowned judge Licius arrived at Sebaste and put the soldiers on trial. The saints steadfastly answered, "Take not only our military insignia, but also our lives, since nothing is more precious to us than Christ God." Licius then ordered his servants to stone the holy martyrs. But the stones missed the saints and returned to strike those who had thrown them. One stone thrown by Licius hit Agricola in the face, smashing his teeth. The torturers realized that the saints were guarded by some invisible power. In prison, the soldiers spent the night in prayer and again they heard the voice of the Lord comforting them: "He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live (John 11:25). Be brave and fear not, for you shall obtain imperishable crowns."

On the following day the judge repeated the interrogation in front of the torturer, but the soldiers remained unyielding.

It was winter, and there was a severe frost. They lined up the holy soldiers, threw them into a lake near the city, and set a guard to prevent them from coming out of the water. In order to break the will of the martyrs, a warm bath-house was set up on the shore. During the first hour of the night, when the

cold had become unbearable, one of the soldiers made a dash for the bath-house, but no sooner had he stepped over the threshold, then he fell down dead.

During the third hour of the night, the Lord sent consolation to the martyrs. Suddenly there was light, the ice melted away, and the water in the lake became warm. All the guards were asleep, except for Aglaius, who was keeping watch. Looking at the lake he saw that a radiant crown had appeared over the head of each martyr. Aglaius counted thirty-nine crowns and realized that the soldier who fled had lost his crown. Aggias then woke up the other guards, took off his uniform and said to them, "I too am a Christian," and he joined the martyrs. Standing in the water he prayed, "Lord God, I believe in You, in Whom these soldiers believe. Add me to their number and make me worthy to suffer with Your servants." Then a fortieth crown appeared over his head. In the morning, the torturers saw with surprise that the martyrs were still alive, and their guard Aggias was glorifying Christ together with them. They led the soldiers out of the water and broke their legs. During this horrible execution the mother of the youngest of the soldiers, Meliton, pleaded with her son to persevere until death. They put the bodies of the martyrs on a cart and committed them to fire. Young Meliton was still breathing, and they left him on the ground. His

mother then picked up her son, and on her own shoulders she carried him behind the cart. When Meliton drew his last breath, his mother put him on the cart with the bodies of his fellow sufferers. The bodies of the saints were tossed in the fire, and their charred bones were thrown into the water, so that Christians would not gather them up.

Three days later the martyrs appeared in a dream to Saint Peter, Bishop of Sebaste, and commanded him to bury their remains. The bishop together with several clergy gathered up the relics of the glorious martyrs by night and buried them with honor.

There is a pious custom of baking “skylarks” (pastries shaped like skylarks) on this day, because people believed that birds sing at this time to announce the arrival of spring. Forty “skylarks” are prepared in honor of the Forty Martyrs.

The names of the forty martyrs are: Cyrion (or Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Eunocius (Or Eunicus), Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euty chius, John, Xanthius, Helianus, Sisinius, Aggias, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecdicius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontuis, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, Aglaius, and Meliton.