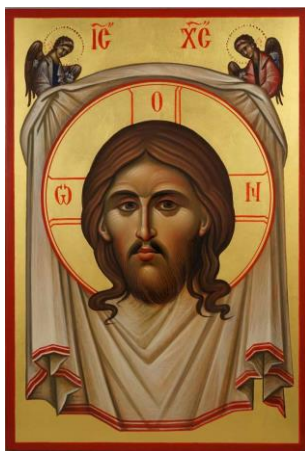


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## The Voice

March 12, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 9  
Second Sunday of Great Lent



# 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](http://www.saintlia.com)

[www.facebook.com/sainteliaakronaint](https://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 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**

**Sunday, April 9 Bud Graham**

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**6:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS**

**at St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

**Friday, March 17 (Repose of St. Nikolai of Zica-Ochrid)**

**6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

*Lenten Covered Dish*

## **FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 7**

**Veneration of the Holy Cross**

**Saturday, March 18**

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

**Sunday, March 19**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas**

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

**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bilas**

**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6    Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

**5:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS**

**ST. ELIA CHURCH - Homilist: Fr. Nicholas Manuel**

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

And:

“You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You remain;

And they will all grow old like a garment;

Like a cloak You will fold them up,

And they will be changed.

But You are the same,

And Your years will not fail.”

But to which of the angels has He ever said:

“Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

### **Do Not Neglect Salvation**

Therefore, we must give more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

## Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

### Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

And again, He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘*Your* sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw *anything* like this!”

# 2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas

Commemorated on [March 12](#)

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory's father became a prominent dignitary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work.

But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nikódēmos of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

In Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood, Saint Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both

tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city's educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica, the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm.

About the year 1330 the learned monk Barlaam had arrived in Constantinople from Calabria, in Italy. He was the author of treatises on logic and astronomy, a skilled and sharp-witted orator, and he received a university chair in the capital city and began to expound on the works of Saint Dionysius the Areopagit.

Soon Barlaam journeyed to Mt. Athos, where he became acquainted with the spiritual life of the hesychasts. He declared mental prayer a heretical error. He ridiculed the teachings of the monks about the methods of prayer and about the uncreated light seen by the hesychasts.

Saint Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied with verbal admonitions at first. But seeing the futility of such efforts, he put his theological arguments in writing. Thus appeared the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" (1338)

In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of Saint Gregory’s teachings.

Saint Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness.

On the eve of his repose, Saint John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words “To the heights! To the heights!” Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the Saint.

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## **AKRON LENTEN SERVICES**

The **COMBINED LENTEN VESPERS** will be served each Sunday:

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

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

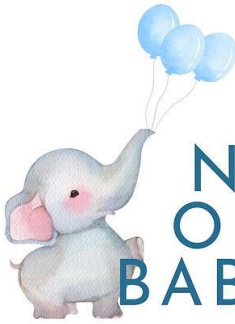
March 26 – 5:00 pm St. George Antiochian Church

Friday, March 24 – 6:30 pm Annunciation Church

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

**PARISH SPRING CLEANING**  
**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, April 1**  
**inside and outside**





2nd annual

# NATIONAL ORTHODOX BABY SHOWER

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE

## 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. Join us in collecting the listed items below to benefit *Zoe For Life* during the Sundays in March.

Bring your items to church on any Sunday in March and place them in the Pack and Play located in the Church Hall.

Diapers sizes Newborn to 6

Pullups (any size)

Baby Wipes

Baby Clothes (new up to 2T)

Blankets

Toys (new)

Cribs (new)

Pacifiers (new)

Baby Socks

Bottles (new)

Diaper Bags

Car Seats (new)

Target/Walmart Gift Cards

**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



### **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, March 5, 2023**

**Candles: \$ 92.00**

**Bookstore: 10.00**

**Memorial Donation: 100.00**

**Sunday Offering: \$ 865.00**

**TOTAL: \$ 1,067.00**

**PayPal: \$ 20.00**

**Tithely Offerings: \$ 365.34**

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,452.34**



***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



## Who is St. Ephraim the Syrian?

St. Ephraim was born about 306 in Mesopotamia. Baptized between the age of 18 and 28, Ephraim studied and taught in his native town of Nisibis. Due to a Persian invasion, he emigrated in 363 to the town of Edessa in modern day Turkey where he continued his writing and teaching career. He was ordained to the diaconate about 335, but it still remains undetermined as to whether or not he was ordained to the priesthood. He died in Edessa in the year 373. We celebrate his feast on January 28.

Living during the years of the earliest Trinitarian and Christological heresies, St. Ephraim became one of the defenders of the faith. He attacked the Arians, Gnostics and Emperor Julian the Apostate by upholding the true teachings on the Trinity and the Incarnation. His moving hymns, dynamic homilies, and other commentaries and treatises have earned him the titles of “Lyre of the Holy Spirit,” “Prophet of the Syrians,” the “Syriac Chrysostom,” the “Eloquent Mouth,” and the “Column of the Church.”

It is noteworthy that Ephraim had a great devotion to the Mother of God. There have come down to us twenty homilies and twelve prayers to the Theotokos. St. Ephraim is probably best known by one of his penitential prayers recited during the Great Fast. A very terse yet moving prayer, it eloquently sums up the Lenten theme of growing closer to God. This prayer is a three-fold petition to grow out of the ways of evil, to grow in the life of Christ, and to increase our self awareness rather than our self-righteousness.

***O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.***

***But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.***

***Yea, O Lord, and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, not ages of ages.***