

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

March 19, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 10

Third Sunday of Great Lent
Veneration of the Holy Cross



Saint Elia Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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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,
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 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

Sunday, April 16 Sandy Graham

Sunday, April 23 Reader Michael Luc

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 3rd and 6th 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

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**

Saturday, March 25

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 8

**St. John Climacus Leavetaking of the Annunciation of the
Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary Synaxis of the Archangel
Gabriel**

Saturday, March 25

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 26

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Innocent Gray

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 Luke 1:24-38

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Our Compassionate High Priest

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Qualifications for High Priesthood

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him:

^f“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”

As He also says in another place:

“You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek”;

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God ^[a]present with power.”

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

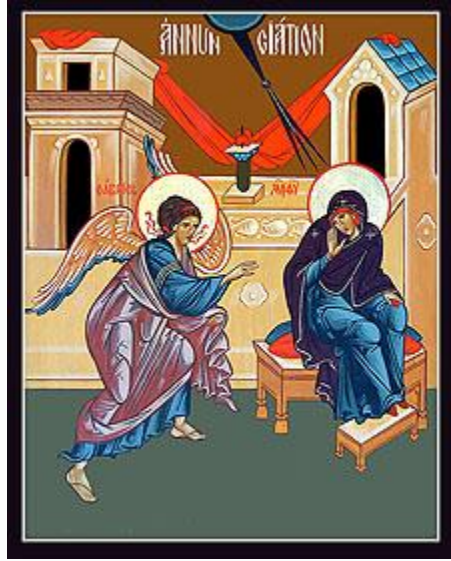
Commemorated on March 19



The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

**BEFORE THY CROSS. O MASTER,
WE BOW DOWN IN WORSHIP,
AND THY HOLY RESURRECTION WE GLORIFY**

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady,
the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Commemorated on March 25**



Luke 1:24–38

Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.”

Gabriel Announces Christ’s Birth

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!”

But ⁶when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and ⁱthe Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary Miraculously Conceives

Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.*”

Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Divine Liturgy celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation will be at 9:00 am on Saturday morning, March 25



“Tell Them About Confession”

A traveler recently returned from a trip around the world and related how he saw in Japan a man stagger through a railway station with a huge carton on his back. On the carton were the words, “**The Universe.**” How graphically this describes what has happened to an individual bent under the weight of the universe! Through books, newspapers, cell phones, radio and television, the “universe” and its troubles are daily laid on the backs of staggering individuals – individuals who are already loaded with excess baggage of their own.

We cannot solve all of the world’s problems, but rather we need to concern ourselves with our own problems. For many of us are staggering under the weight of the

excess baggage of our hatreds and jealousies, of our fears and worries. Of our failures and secret sins. How can a man carry all this baggage on his shoulders, day after day, month after month, year after year, without breaking under this burden?

God has provided way for man to rid himself of this excess baggage of sin and guilt. The way is through repentance and confession. The noted Christian psychiatrist, Dr. Paul Tournier, writes: "I have been at times accused of over-emphasizing the importance of confession, as if the whole cure of our souls were contained in it. I speak of my own experience as a doctor...nothing can be compared in importance with confession.

St. Leo writes: *"The action of grace – as in the Sacrament of Confession – never leads anyone to despair, but grants the gift of tenderness, joy, long-suffering and spiritual peace."*

LENTEN SERVICES OF AKRON

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

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



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 12, 2023

Candles:	\$ 44.00
Bookstore:	5.00
Improvement Fund:	5.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>\$ 512.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 566.00

Tithely Offerings: \$ 593.73

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,159.73

PARISH SPRING CLEANING

SAVE THE DATE –

Saturday, April 1: 9 am to 1 pm
inside and outside