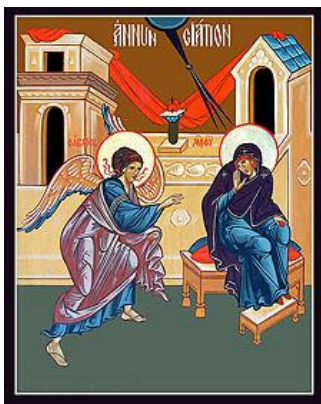


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## The Voice

March 26, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 11

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent-St. John Climacus  
Leavetaking of the Annunciation



## 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 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 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

## **FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

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

**5:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS**

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**Wednesday, March 29**

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

**Friday, March 31**

**6:00 pm Akathist to the Most-holy Theotokos**

## **SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 1**

**Saint Mary of Egypt**

**Saturday, April 1**

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

**Sunday, April 2**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak**

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

**Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak**

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

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, <sup>[b]</sup>confirmed *it* by an oath, that by two <sup>[c]</sup>immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we <sup>[d]</sup>might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek

## Gospel :Mark 9:17-31

---

Then <sup>e</sup>one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him

down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

He answered him and

said, “O <sup>a</sup>faithless <sup>2</sup>generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I <sup>3</sup>bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him.

And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father “How long has this been happening to him? And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “<sup>4</sup>If <sup>5</sup>you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

So He said to them,  
“This kind can come out by nothing but <sup>υ</sup>prayer <sup>ς</sup>a  
nd fasting.”

### ***Jesus Foretells His Death***

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will <sup>ς</sup>kill Him. And after He is killed, He will <sup>υ</sup>rise the third day.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel**

Commemorated on March 26



The Archangel Gabriel was chosen by the Lord to announce to the Virgin Mary about the Incarnation

of the Son of God from Her, to the great rejoicing of all mankind. Therefore, on the day after the Feast of the Annunciation, the day on which the All-Pure Virgin is glorified, we give thanks to the Lord and we venerate His messenger Gabriel, who contributed to the mystery of our salvation.

Gabriel, the holy Archistrategos (Leader of the Heavenly Hosts), is a faithful servant of the Almighty God. He announced the future Incarnation of the Son of God to those of the Old Testament; he inspired the Prophet Moses to write the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament), he announced the coming tribulations of the Chosen People to the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21-24); he appeared to Saint Anna (July 25) with the news that she would give birth to the Virgin Mary.

The holy Archangel Gabriel remained with the Holy Virgin Mary when She was a child in the Temple of Jerusalem and watched over Her throughout Her earthly life. He appeared to the Priest Zachariah, foretelling the birth of the Forerunner of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist.

The Lord sent him to Saint Joseph the Betrothed in a dream, to reveal to him the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God from the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and warned him of the wicked

intentions of Herod, ordering him to flee into Egypt with the divine Infant and His Mother.



## **Confession**

Confession is a sacred rite that Orthodox Christians are encouraged to participate in as often as they are called upon to do so. It is a time in which we confess our sins to God and seek his forgiveness for our shortcomings. The Orthodox Church practices confession in accordance with the biblical teachings. It teaches that only God can forgive us our sins through Jesus Christ, and



only if we change our ways and truly repent. Confession is an open admission of sin before God, in the presence of our spiritual father.

Before going to confession, you should first prepare yourself by reviewing your life to make sure that you are ready. It is important that you remember all your sins that you have committed since your last confession. It is also important to remember any sins that you have been neglectful of and may have forgotten about. Once you are ready to confess, the priest will offer advice and help you to make the right decision. The priest will remind you that the confession is not a punishment but a spiritual exercise to help you grow in the Lord.

On the counter in the Church vestibule is a booklet that includes an examination of conscience aid and prayers before and after Confession. Please take a copy. Father Don hears confessions after Saturday Vespers, or at times by request.

## **LENTEN SERVICES OF AKRON**

The **COMBINED LENTEN VESPERS** will be this Sunday:

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

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

**GREAT LENT**  
**A LENTEN THOUGHT**  
**FROM ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

“The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry.

The garment you do not need hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked.

The shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot.

The you could spare is the money of the poor.

The acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices you commit.”

“Do not limit the benefits of fasting merely to abstinence from food, for a true fast means refraining from evil.

Loose every unjust bond, put away every resentment against your neighbor, forgive him his offenses.

Do not let your fasting lead only to wrangling and strife. You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother and sister; you abstain from wine etc., but not from insults.

So all the labor of your fast is useless.”



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  
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 19, 2023**

**Candles:                   \$   80.00**

**Sunday Offering:       1,270.00**

**TOTAL:                   \$ 1,350.00**

**Tithely Offerings:   \$   208.35**

**PayPal Offerings:       25.00**

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,583.35**

**PARISH SPRING CLEANING**

**SATURDAY APRIL 1: 9 am to 1 pm**

**inside and outside**

**If you can - We need your help**

