

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 21, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 19

Sixth Sunday of Pascha

The Man Born Blind



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

[www.facebook.com/sainteliakron](https://www.facebook.com/sainteliakron)

*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*



ZOE HOUSE  
5454 State Road  
Parma, Ohio  
44134

Dear Parishioner of St. Elia Church.

We would like to thank you so very much for your generous donation of baby items for Zoe for Life.

Your donation has helped so many Moms in need keep their babies healthy and safe.

May God's blessings be with you.

With: Love in Christ,  
Zoe for Life

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

# 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: Anastasia Bohush,

V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Katherine Hodge

Treasurer: Mary Magensky

## **Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:**

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

## **Scheduled Readers - 2023**

**Sunday, May 14** Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas  
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

**Sunday, May 21** Sue Ellen Turscak

**Sunday, May 28** Hours: Mary Beth Gray  
Epistle: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5 – Blind Man  
Holy Equal to the Apostles Emperor Constantine  
and his mother Helen**

**Saturday, May 20**

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

**Sunday, May 21**

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

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak**

**Epistle: Acts: 16: 16-34 Gospel: John 9:1-38**

**Christos Voskrese! Kriste Aghsdga!**

**Al Masseh Qam! Hristos a Inviat! Hristos vaskrse!**

**Krishti U Ngjail! Christus ist auferstanden!**

**Cristo e' risorto! Krisztus feltamadt! Le Christ est  
ressucite! Christus resurrexit! Christ is Risen!**

## **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

**Wednesday, May 24**

**6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John  
Chrysostom**

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 6 – Holy Fathers  
of 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of Ascension**

**Saturday, May 27**

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

**Sunday, May 28**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Mary Beth Gray**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray**

**Epistle: Acts: 20:1-18, 28-36 Gospel: John 17:1-13**

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURAL READINGS

## Epistle- Acts 16:16-34

### Paul and Silas Imprisoned

<sup>16</sup> Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly <sup>[a]</sup>annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.

<sup>20</sup> And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; <sup>21</sup> and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." <sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

### The Philippian Jailer Saved

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loose. <sup>27</sup> And the

keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

<sup>31</sup> So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

## **Gospel – John 1:9-38**

### **A Man Born Blind Receives Sight**

<sup>9</sup> Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> I<sup>[a]</sup> must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. <sup>7</sup> And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was <sup>[b]</sup>blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?”

<sup>9</sup> Some said, “This is he.” Others *said*, <sup>[c]</sup>“He is like him.” He said, “I am *he*.”<sup>10</sup> Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”<sup>11</sup> He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to <sup>[d]</sup>the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”<sup>12</sup> Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

### **The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man**

<sup>13</sup> They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup> Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not <sup>[e]</sup>keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.<sup>17</sup> They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. <sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”<sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that He was Christ*, he would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?”

<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! <sup>31</sup> Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. <sup>32</sup> Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

<sup>34</sup> They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they <sup>[E]</sup>cast him out.

### **True Vision and True Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of <sup>[E]</sup>God?”

<sup>36</sup> He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

<sup>37</sup> And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.



# ***GOSPEL READING OF THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION - Luke 24:36-53***

## **Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

<sup>36</sup> Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” <sup>40</sup> When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” <sup>42</sup> So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> And He took *it* and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures <sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

## **The Ascension**

<sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

# Holy Equal to the Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena



## Feast Day, today, May 21

Constantine's parents were the Emperor Constantius Chlorus and his empress Helena. Chlorus had further children by another wife, but by Helena he had only one, Constantine.

Constantine fought two great battles when he came to the throne: one against Maxentius, a tyrant in Rome, and another against Licinius not far from Byzantium.

At the battle against Maxentius, Constantine was in great anxiety and uncertainty about his chances of success. A shining cross, surrounded by stars, appeared to him in the sky in full daylight. On the Cross were written the words: ***'In this sign conquer!'***

The wondering Emperor ordered that a great cross be put together, like the one that had appeared, and carried before the army. By the power of the Cross, he gained a glorious victory over enemies greatly superior in number. Maxentius drowned himself in the Tiber.

Immediately after this, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan, in 313, to put an end to the persecution of Christians. Conquering Byzantium, he built a beautiful capital city on the Bosphorus, which from that time was named Constantinople....

When there was discord in the Church about the troublesome heretic Arius, the Emperor summoned the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, in 325, where the heresy was condemned, and Orthodoxy confirmed.

St. Helena, the Emperor's devout mother, was very zealous for the Christian faith. She visited Jerusalem and found the Precious Cross of the Lord and built the Church of the Resurrection over Golgotha and many other churches in the Holy Land. The holy woman went to the Lord in 327, at the age of eight. The Emperor Constantine outlived his mother by ten years and entered into rest at the age of about sixty in 337, in the city of Nicomedia. His body was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople.

The Prologue from Ochrid  
by St. Nikolai Velimirovic

### **Troparion** (*Sts. Constantine and Helen*)

Your servant, Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man, beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens. Like Paul, not having received his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers set by Your hand over the royal city, he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

# PARISH NEWS

## SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Sunday, May 21, following the Divine Liturgy

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm

## TEMPLE FEAST OF ST. ELIA THE PROPHET

The Feast Day of St. Elia is on July 20 and will be celebrated with a Vespers Divine Liturgy on **Wednesday, July 19 at 6:00 pm**

Continuing our Feast Day celebration, we will welcome His Eminence, our Father, and Archbishop Alexander, on the following **Sunday, July 23**, to celebrate the Pontifical Divine Liturgy followed by a picnic style luncheon. **Please mark your calendars.**

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## OUR STEWARDHIP – May 14, 2023

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 43.00</b>
<b>Wish List:</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Wish list – Incense:</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>1,740.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,843.00</b>

**Tithely Donations: \$ 281.27**

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$2,124.27**

## WISH LIST

With the rising costs in almost everything, our Parish of St. Elia, along with everybody else, is also facing financial difficulties in the present and more in the future to meet the daily bills on time. Thank you to all who faithfully donate and are willing to help the Treasurer meet these responsibilities on our behalf. If you are able, please consider increasing your offerings by monetary donations and/or by special donations of the Parish needs of items listed on the WISH LIST:

Paper towels

Bathroom Tissues

Kleenex

Dishwasher Soap

Incense (\$20.00 for a half pound)

Censor Charcoal (\$30.00)

4-hour votive candles (\$36.50 a gross)

7 Day Votive Candles (\$52.00 for a case of 12)

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### Visit the St. Elia Shop

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.

**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  
Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober  
Pani Dolores Zuder  
Matushka Myra Kovalak  
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak  
Matushka Christine Zebren  
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan  
Subdeacon Martin Paluch  
Barbara Harp (sister of Veronica Bilas)  
Ted Theodore  
Sarah Costadinova  
Melissa Trace  
Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)  
Kalie Obeng Fiorg  
Louis Hakim