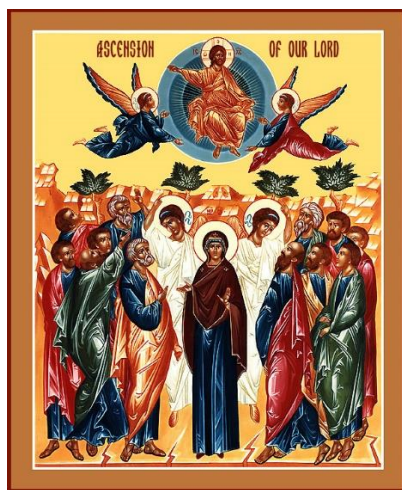


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 28, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 20  
Seventh Sunday of Pascha - Fathers  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council



## SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

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

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*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: 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 28 Hours:** Mary Beth Gray

**Epistle:** Subdeacon Aaron Gray

**Sunday, June 4** Bud Graham

**Sunday, June 11** Sandy Graham

**Sunday, June 18** Reader Michael Luc

**Sunday, June 25** Reader Nicholas Morelli

## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

**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**

**8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 7 – Holy Pentecost.. Feast of the Holy Trinity**

**Saturday, June 3**

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

**Sunday, June 4**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Bud Graham**

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

**Vespers and Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost**

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

**Epistle: Acts: 2:1-11 Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8-12**

***O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!***

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: Acts 20:1-18, 28-36

### Journeys in Greece

**20** After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece <sup>3</sup> and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. <sup>4</sup> And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. <sup>5</sup> These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. <sup>6</sup> But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

### Ministering at Troas

<sup>7</sup> Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where <sup>[a]</sup>they were gathered together. <sup>9</sup> And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” <sup>11</sup> Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. <sup>12</sup> And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

### From Troas to Miletus

<sup>13</sup> Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had <sup>[b]</sup>given orders, intending himself to go on foot. <sup>14</sup> And when he met us at

Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios. The following *day* we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next *day* we came to Miletus. <sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

### **The Ephesian Elders Exhorted**

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you....

. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church <sup>[g]</sup>of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking <sup>[h]</sup>perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup> “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> <sup>[i]</sup>Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” <sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> Then they all wept <sup>[j]</sup>freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

## Gospel: John 17:1-13

### Christ prays for Himself.

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He <sup>[a]</sup>should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together <sup>[b]</sup>with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

### Christ prays for His Apostles

6 “I have <sup>[c]</sup>manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, you gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep <sup>[d]</sup>through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them <sup>[e]</sup>in the world, I kept them in <sup>[f]</sup>Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is <sup>[g]</sup>lost except the son of <sup>[h]</sup>perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

# Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, “I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father but is only a created being. A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ’s Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who

bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers. With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius. He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the 13<sup>th</sup> Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated, and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).



# PARISH NEWS

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome (all the way from Vermont) Reader Nicholas and Martha Morelli and their children, Ophelia, Genevieve and Karis to our Parish. What a joy for us that you have made St. Elia your spiritual home.

## TEMPLE FEAST OF ST. ELIA THE PROPHET

The Feast Day of St. Elia is on July 20 and will be celebrated with a Vespereal 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 21, 2023

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 63.00</b>
<b>Wish List:</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Pascha:</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>875.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,078.00</b>

**Tithely Donations: \$ 318.88**

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,393.88**

## **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

**MEMORY ETERNAL** In blessed repose grant eternal  
rest, O Lord, to Thy handmaid, Presbyteria Zafera Bartz,  
and make her memory eternal.