

WEEKLY BULLETIN

June 18, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 23
Second Sunday After Pentecost
ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA



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

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*

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, June 18 Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, June 25 Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, July 2 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, July 9 - Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle – Subdeacon Aaron Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1 ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA - *Father's Day*

Saturday, June 17

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

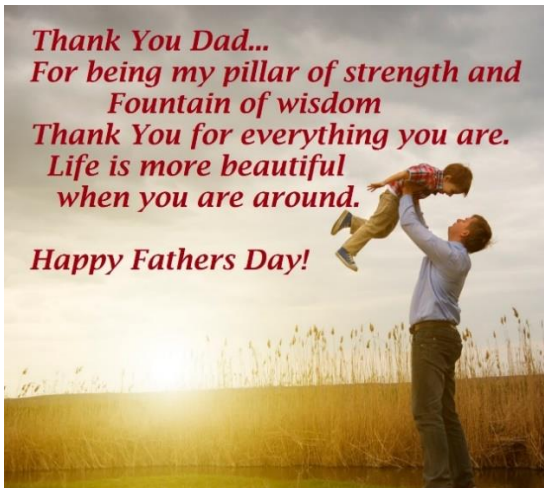
Sunday, June 18

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23



*Thank You Dad...
For being my pillar of strength and
Fountain of wisdom
Thank You for everything you are.
Life is more beautiful
when you are around.
Happy Fathers Day!*

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2 Afterfeast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist Saturday, June 24

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, June 25

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

¹⁰ (B)ut glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law ¹³ (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. ²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases among the people.

Synaxis of the Saints of North America

Commemorated on June 18

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians.

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in

Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was ending, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907 and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907, at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917, in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

Matushka Olga



The Life of Matushka Olga

Matushka Olga, a Native Alaskan of Yup'ik origin, was born on February 3, 1916, and reposed on November 8, 1979. Her given name in Yup'ik is Arrsamquq. Olga is her baptismal name and Matushka is the Russian title for the wife of a priest, literally meaning “mother”. She lived a life of subsistence in the village of Kwethluk, Alaska, on the Kuskokwin River. Her husband, Nikolai Michael, was the village postmaster and general store manager before being ordained.

Although her family was poor, she gave generously to those who were poorer. Matushka Olga constantly prepared warm clothes and boots for others. Parishes hundreds of miles away received unsolicited gifts from her, and all the clergy of the deanery wore gloves or socks that Matushka Olga had made for them.

Matushka Olga served her community not only as a priest's wife, but also as a midwife. She herself bore thirteen children, although only eight survived childhood. She was blessed with the gift of knowing if a woman was pregnant even before the woman herself knew it. God also enabled her to know to send

some women into a town with a hospital to give birth, because they were to have medical complications.

About her glorification:

Although Matushka Olga Michael is not at present officially recognized to be a saint, nevertheless, there are very many people around the world who regard her as being holy. They invoke her prayers on their behalf, and they receive Grace from God for their healing, their repentance, their consolation, their strengthening to persevere. Matushka Olga Michael is widely accepted to be a holy person within the territory of her own diocese.

The process of glorifying saints in the Orthodox Church is not defined strictly. While the glorification of a saint may be initiated because of miracles, it is not an absolute necessity for canonization. What is required is a virtuous life of obvious holiness. Long before an official inquiry into a person's life is made by the bishops of the Church, that person is venerated by the people where he or she lived and died. Perhaps Matushka Olga will one day join the list of glorified Saints of North America. For now, she is clearly making her mark on the lives of many individuals.

“If you wish to help someone, give secretly and avoid arrogance.”
St. Ephrem the Syrian

APOSTLE’S FAST (Saints Peter and Paul Fast)

The Apostle’s Fast began on Monday, June 12 and continues through the Eve of the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, June 28.

PARISH COUNCIL

St. Elia Parish Council Meeting for the month of June will be held on Tuesday evening, June 27, at 7:00 pm

PARISH NEWS

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

Mavis Sugden graduated with an associate degree from Stark State College and now has accepted a position working at Kent State University. Great accomplishment Mavis! **Many Years!**

PRAYERFUL NAMING

Nora Elizabeth Keathley, was born on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2023, with her naming taking place on the eighth day, June 11. **Many Years!**

Prayer for Naming

O Lord our God, we pray Thee and beseech Thee, that the light of Thy countenance may be shown upon Thy handmaid, ***Nora Elizabeth***, that the Cross of Thine Only begotten Son may be graven in her heart and in her thoughts; that she may flee from the vanity of the world and from every evil snare of the enemy and may follow Thy commandments. And grant, O Lord, that Thy holy Name may remain unrejected by her; and that she may be united, in due time, to Thy holy Church; and that the dread Mysteries of Thy Christ may be administered unto her: that having lived according to Thy commandments, and preserved the Seal unbroken, she may receive the bliss of the elect in Thy Kingdom; through the grace and love toward mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, with Thine all-holy, and good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

The Catechumenate consists of a time for spiritual, liturgical and instructional formation in the faith. A catechumen is a **student of the Way of Christ** who is preparing for entrance into the Church. Becoming a catechumen means that you believe in Jesus Christ and commit yourself completely to being an Orthodox Christian and to living His Way. After this formational period, a catechumen is then received into the Church – either through Baptism or Chrismation – and the is admitted to Holy Communion.

It is with great joy and a true blessing to our Parish to receive **Daniel Slife** and **Kristopher Barnhart** into the Catechumenate last Sunday, June 11, and we will continue to pray for them anticipating their reception into the Church **Many Years!**

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. Please sign the list in the hall for the picnic food you will be bringing.**

OUR STEWARDHIP – June 11, 2023

Candles: \$27.00

Wish List 70.00

Sunday Offering: 701.00

TOTAL: \$798.00

Tithely Donations: \$379.63

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,177.63

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)

**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE
ARMED FORCES**

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and
Popadia Donna Freude
Egor Cravenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Cravenco

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