

WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 9, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 26
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

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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, July 9 - Hours – Mary Beth Gray
Epistle – Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Sunday, July 16 - Hours – Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle – Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, July 23 - Bud Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4 Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

Saturday, July 8

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, July 9

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5 Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Saturday, July 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, July 16

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIA – TEMPLE FEAST OF SAINT ELIA PARISH

Wednesday, July 19

**6:00 pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they are being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (That is, to bring Christ down from above)

or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes in righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Demons are Cast into Swine

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed *men*, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

Commemorated on July 9

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth. The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

OUR STEWARDHIP – July 2, 2023

Candles:	\$ 59.00
Computer Donations:	5.00
Wish List (7 day votives)	104.00
Improvement Fund:	25.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>597.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$790.00

Tithely Donations: \$309.38

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,099.38

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)
- Flowers for the outside of the Church

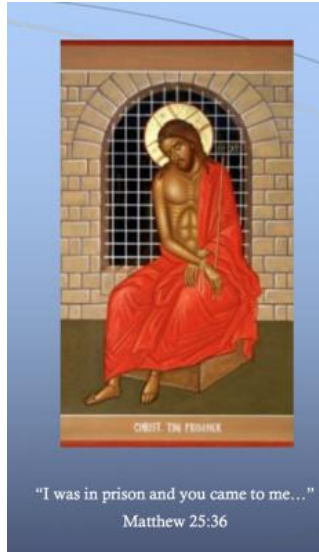
**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE
ARMED FORCES**

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
Daniel Sugden
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Assembly of Bishops Blesses July 30th as “Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday



The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has blessed **July 30, 2023** to be “Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday,” the day for Orthodox parishes across the United States to learn more about the work of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Bishops.

For two decades, OCPM has served thousands of Orthodox and non-Orthodox prisoners across the United States through its longstanding correspondence ministry, catechetical program, and coaching Orthodox clergy and laity how to best visit and serve prisoners near them.

Today, the ministry continues to expand, assigning relationship managers to Orthodox men and women in prison to minister and assure each soul in prison has the opportunity to access clergy, the sacraments, and have a deep relationship with the Church, even after release.

Through all its ministry programs, OCPM ultimately aims to fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison (Matthew 25:36). As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. Our mission is to serve those who are incarcerated and their families, and provide resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed, and God is glorified. For Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, OCPM helps them return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. For both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, OCPM provides spiritual care, enabling prisoners to find hope and purpose in their lives.

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has designated Sunday, July 30th, as OCPM Sunday. Please make your donations during the month of July for this Prison Ministry. Questions: see Joshua Wherley.