

WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 16, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 27
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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*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*

TEMPLE FEAST OF ST. ELIA

Welcoming
His Eminence Archbishop Alexander

SATURDAY, July 22
GREAT VESPERS AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 23
PONTIFICAL DIVINE LITURGY
followed by
BLESSING OF CARS
or anything on wheels



and a
PICNIC LUNCHEON

Everyone is asked to bring a 'Picnic'
Covered Dish. Please sign the list in the
hall indicating what you will be bringing.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

Epistles: Romans 12:6-14 Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospels: Matthew 9:1-8 John 17:1-13

HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIA – TEMPLE FEAST OF SAINT ELIA PARISH

Wednesday, July 19

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

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6 Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, 13 others in Lycia

Saturday, July 22

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, July 23

9:00 am Greeting of our Archbishop Alexander

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham

9:30 am Pontifical Divine Liturgy of Saint John

Chrysostom – Archbishop Alexander

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Cross Procession and Blessing of Vehicles

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching, He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 (Sunday of the Fathers)

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not benefited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose

blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

So, He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ²Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts. For which is easier, to say, ‘*Your* sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” And he arose and departed to his house,

Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled^l and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Gospel: John 1:1-13 (Sunday of the Fathers)

Jesus Prays for Himself

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

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

“I have 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. Now they have known 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.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You.

Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is ^[g]lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Prayer before Gospel

“Illumine our heart, O Master who loves mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings... that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, thinking and doing such things that are pleasing to You” (Priest’s prayer)

The Divine Liturgy from the opening through the sermon is called **“Liturgy of the Word.”** We mean by Word the living Word who is the Son of God having come into the world as Jesus Christ to save sinners, the first among them being me. The readings of epistle and gospel are about the Word of God explained for us, a lesson for our instruction; but we might ask:

A. Why does the instruction happen here when we

assemble for the Holy Eucharist;

B. Why is it important to listen to the readings – more than significant – mandatory, so that the Church will never allow the Holy Sacrifice to be offered unless the readings from the Bible precede the Communion?

Readings from Holy Scripture are read in nearly all of the sacred services both liturgical and private. A vital connection bonds Christ as Word with Christ as Living Sacrifice.

“Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.” (John 15:2)

I hope to receive Holy Communion, but my Lord is telling me that I am already in communion with Him. ***“Every branch that bears fruit He prunes,”*** so the afflictions that upset me are for my welfare. I came hoping for relief, to somehow leave Church having shed the pain and anguish that I brought with me for the Lord to remove. He is telling me that I’m being pruned. The dead leaves I’ve been clinging onto must be clipped off. The rotted fruit that gives me only heartburn must be eliminated from my memory if my soul is to be sweet and I am to be pure again to ***“taste and see how good the Lord is.”*** He is telling me: ***“You are already clean.”*** Am I really, or is the pollution from my past clogging up the arteries from my mind to

my heart? Proleptic phrases are saying that Christ's point of view is different, since He doesn't look at me the way I see myself, at this moment in fleeting time when my failings possess me. How can I possibly see what He sees in me, unless I accept the forgiveness that only He can bestow, and then get on beyond this wallowing in my inadequacies and take a seat at His mystical table?

“Because of the Word which I have spoken to you.”

Yes, Lord Jesus, I have heard Your word spoken through Your holy lips two millennia ago, heard and written down by Your chosen apostles to enter my heart by the voice of the deacon, to resonate in my feeble mind and ring a silent sound that stimulated me to take it to heart. That is what You must have meant as remembered and recorded by Your divine apostle John. You entered my ear to my mind and descended into my heart. Your Word rests there – more than a spoken word, You abide there for my comfort and peace. Your Father in You, You in me and I in You; and wonder of wonders, the heavenly Father, Creator of heaven, earth and of me also in me: All through the power and gift of the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Holy Trinity. Aware of all that, I feel now I am ready to receive You from the sacred chalice.

Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky

OUR STEWARDHIP – July 9, 2023

Candles:	\$ 54.20
Computer Donations:	200.00
Orthodox Prison Ministry	113.50
Sunday Offering:	1,016.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1,383.70

Tithely Donations:	\$ 207.43
PayPal:	25.00
TOTAL:	\$ 232.43

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,616.13

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 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)

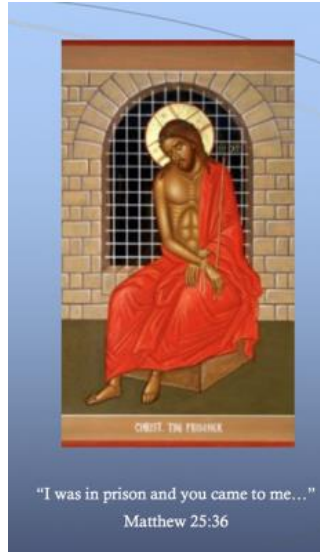
Kalie Obeng Fiorg

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 can 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.