

WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 23, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 28
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



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 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 23 – Bud Graham

Sunday, July 30 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, August 6 – Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, August 13 Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, August 20 – Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, August 27 – Sue Ellen Turscak

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

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

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7

**Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy, and
those with them**

Saturday, July 29

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, July 30

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Beginning of the Dormition Fast

**PROCESSION OF THE HONORABLE WOOD
OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF THE LORD**

Monday, July 31

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Bearing Others' Burdens

15 We then who are strong ought to bear with the ¹infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to ³edification. ³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glorify God Together

⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received ⁸us, to the glory of God.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Two Blind Men Healed

²⁷ When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See *that* no one knows *it*." 31 But when they had departed, they ^{la}spread the news about Him in all that ^{lb}country.

A Mute Man Speaks

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon possessed. 33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

The Compassion of Jesus

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease ^{la}among the people.

"The truly blessed are not the ones who can work miracles or see angels. The truly blessed are the ones who can see their own sins."

St. Anthony the Great

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elia

Commemorated on July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: ***“When Elia (Elijah) was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angel of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.”*** The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth, he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god

Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before

King Ahab and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell to the ground, crying out: ***“Truly, the Lord is God!”*** Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the

heavens opened, and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in *“a gentle breeze”* (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah’s mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

OUR STEWADSHIP, July 16, 2023

Candles:	\$ 39.00
Memorial Donations:	510.00
Sunday Offering:	1,424.38
TOTAL:	\$ 1,973.38

Tithely Donations: \$ 420.22

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 2,393.60

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 OUR CATECHUMENS

Daniel Slife; Kristopher Barnhart

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

Mitered Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra 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)

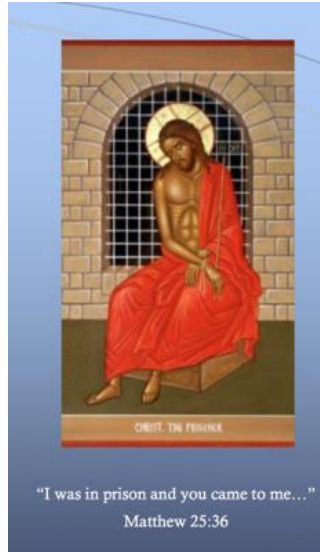
Kalie Obeng Fiorg

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.