

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 10, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 35  
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
*Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross*



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

[www.facebook.com/sainteliakron](https://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, September 10 – Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle – Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Sunday, September 17 - Bud Graham

Sunday, September 24 – Sandy Graham

Sunday, October 1 - Reader Michael Luc

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5 -**

**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**

**Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**

**Saturday, September 9**

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

**Sunday, September 10**

**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: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17**

**Tuesday, September 12**

**Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

## **THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-CREATING CROSS**

**Wednesday, September 13**

**Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

**Bringing forth of the Holy Cross for Veneration**

**Thursday, September 14 – STRICT FAST DAY**

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8**

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**

**Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**

**Martyrs Sophia and her daughters: Faith, Hope and Love**

**Saturday, September 16**

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

**Sunday, September 17**

**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: Galatians 2:16-20 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

**PRAYER and BLESSING FOR SCHOOL YEAR**

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18**

## **Glory Only in the Cross**

<sup>11</sup> See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! <sup>12</sup> As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. <sup>14</sup> But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

## **Blessing and a Plea**

<sup>16</sup> And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup> From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. <sup>18</sup> Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

## Gospel: John 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



*As rain raises the seed, so the Church  
Service strengthens the soul in virtue.*  
St. Ephraim the Syrian

## ***The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross Commemorated on September 14***

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulcher  
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of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half

of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: ***"By this you shall conquer."***

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude

who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowd to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was



given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered

a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church; she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen-year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khosrôes II attacked Constantinople, defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who

defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

*Before Thy Cross, O Master, we bow down in worship and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.*

In celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY will be celebrated on WEDNESDAY evening, September 13, at 6:00 pm. Thursday, September 14, is a day of STRICT FASTING.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 12 at 7:00 pm**

**OUR STEWARDSHIP, September 3, 2023**

**Candles: \$ 80.00**

**Improvement Fund: 25.00**

**Sunday Offering: 975.00**

**TOTAL: \$ 1,080.00**

**Diocesan Matching Funds:**

**Orthodox Prison Ministry;**

**Food Cards, Bus Passes: \$ 768.50**

**Tithely Donations: \$ 415.04**

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 2,263.44**

**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. If you are able, please consider making 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 Cravcenko, son of Serghei and Ludmila  
Cravcenko

### **REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

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 Kostadinova

Melissa Trace

Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)

Louis Hakim

Daniel Sugden

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Gregory Yova (Project Mexico)

**Sisterhood of St. Juliana News**  
**QUARTER AUCTION – OCTOBER 14**

We are in need of BASKETS for our Quarter Auction. The more baskets we have, the greater our profit could potentially be.

Donations can be valued at any amount. Baskets and Gift Card donations should be turned in by **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to donate towards a Basket, but do not want to shop, please see Ana Bohush (Venmo or Cash).

Basket ideas include:

Wine Lovers

Spa Day

Night Out

Cookbook Basket

Coffee Lovers

Book-a-Holic

Holiday Theme

Guardians/Browns

Motivation

Wellness

Sweets Basket

Candles\

Lottery Tree (scratch offs)

Beer Basket

Children's Basket etc.

Please see Sarah or Anna with questions!

**Save the Date:** Keep Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> booked on your calendar. We are reviving our Salad Bingo Supper. More information coming.

# **QUARTER AUCTION**

## **SATURDAY, OCT. 14, 2023**

***DOORS OPEN: 12:00 PM***

***1ST AUCTION: 1:00 AM***

***\$10 Entry & First Paddle***

***Extra Paddles - \$5***

***50/50 Raffle***

***Food & Drinks For Sale***

***Door Prize Raffles***

***Vendor Shopping***

**Fundraiser For:**

Saint Elia Orthodox Church  
64 W. Wilbeth Road, Akron,  
Ohio 44301

For more information:  
saintelia.qa@gmail.com

*Orthodox Christian Women (OCW)*

**Annual Welcome and  
Fellowship Tea**

**Sunday, October 8 - 2 pm**

*Celebrating 50 years in Akron's  
Orthodox Community*

**Presentation of Our Lord  
Orthodox Church  
3365 Ridgewood Rd., Fairlawn**

*Women in Orthodoxy*  
**Presented by Rev. Fr. James  
Waltenberger**

For more information call:  
Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or  
Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638 or  
Sandy Graham 330-988-8107