

WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 17, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 36
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross



Martyrs Sophia and daughters Faith, Hope, Love

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, September 17 - Bud Graham

Sunday, September 24 – Sandy Graham

Sunday, October 1 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, October 8 - Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, October 15 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, October 22 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6

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 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

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

PRAYER and BLESSING FOR SCHOOL YEAR

The Cross is exalted.

The demons are driven away.

The thief opens the gates of Paradise.

Death is slain and openly despised, as

Christ is magnified.

*Therefore, rejoice, all those born on
earth, for the curse has been lifted!*

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7

Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla

**Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly
and Peter the Aleut**

Saturday, September 23

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, September 24

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

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:11-10 Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

¹⁶ Knowing that a man is not ^[a]justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. ¹⁷ “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

9 And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God ^[a]present with power.”

Martyr Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

Commemorated on September 17

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them. The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith. They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword. In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Parish Meeting will be held **TODAY**, Sunday, **September 17**, to elect a Nominating Committee who will prepare the slate of officers for the 2024 Parish Council Members that will be presented and voted on at the General Parish Meeting on November 12, 2023.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

The Annual Diocesan Conference of the Bulgarian Diocese of Toledo, Orthodox Church in America will be held at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Fort Wayne Indiana on Saturday, October 7th and Sunday, October 8th. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, will be giving the keynote address on Saturday, October 7th, following Luncheon.

The Conference Business Session will commence at 2:00 pm. St. Elia's Delegates are Fr. Don and Veronica Bilas. Vespers will be served at 5:00 pm and the Banquet at 7:00 pm. On Sunday morning the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 am by His Beatitude Tikhon, Archbishop Alexander and Diocesan Clergy.

Protodeacon James Gresh will be serving the Typica Service at St. Elia at the normal time of 9:30 am on Sunday, October 8th.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING

A General Parish Meeting will be held on **November 12, 2023**, following the Divine Liturgy, to elect the 2024 Parish Council Members as presented by the Nominating Committee.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, September 10, 2023

Candles:	\$ 64.00
Bookstore:	20.00
Special Donation:	10.00
Sunday Offering:	<u>1,166.03</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 1,260.00

Tithley Donations:	\$428.58
PayPal Donations:	<u>58.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$486.58

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,746.58

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 Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Cravcenco

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 8th**. 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 10th 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



**FALL FAMILY FUNFEST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by
LUNCHEON
and
OUR ANNUAL TRUNK-A-TREAT
FOR ALL AGES!

EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING
A TREAT TO SHARE WITH ALL THE
KIDS - young and older

NON-SCARY COSTUMES ARE
WELCOME