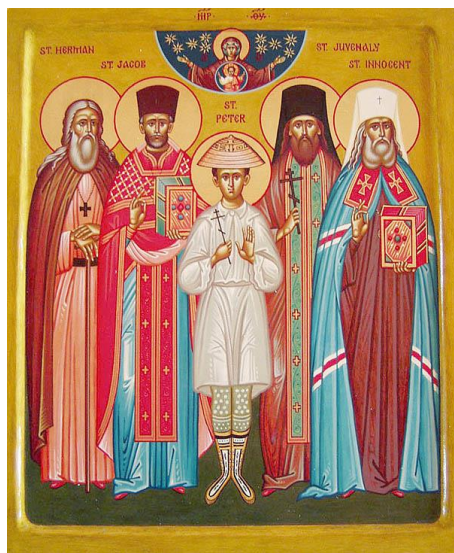


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 24, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 37  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



*Synaxis of all the Saints of Alaska*

## 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*



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**  
**FEAST OF SAINT ROMANOS**  
**THE MELODIST**

# **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 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Sunday, October 22 - Reader Joshua Wherley

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

**16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7**

**Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla**

**Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly.**

**and Peter the Aleut.      Synaxis of All Saints of Alaska.**

**Saturday, September 23**

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

**Sunday, September 24**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sandy Graham**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham**

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

***(Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut)***

*Come all Orthodox believers of America,*

*let us celebrate this feast of faith!*

*In their devotion to Christ, the Holy Martyrs suffered willingly, recalling the Lord's promise that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who suffer for Him. Having fought the good fight and received their crowns, they stand before the Lord and intercede for our souls.*

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

**THE PROTECTION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY**

**THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.**

**Saint Romanos the Melodist – *Church Musician Sunday***

**Saturday, September 30**

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

**Sunday, October 1**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Reader Michael Luc**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc**

**Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1**

**Gospel: Luke 6:31-36**

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1- 10

<sup>1</sup>

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

<sup>4</sup> But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; <sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, <sup>7</sup> by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, <sup>8</sup> by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

## Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

### Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

**5** So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of

Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets. <sup>3</sup> Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

<sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup> So when they had brought their boats to land, they <sup>[a]</sup>forsook all and followed Him.

# Martyr Peter the Aleut



Saint Peter the Aleut is mentioned in the Life of Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13). Simeon Yanovsky (who ended his life as the schemamonk Sergius in the Saint Tikhon of Kaluga Monastery), has left the following account:

“On another occasion I was relating to him how the Spanish in California had imprisoned fourteen Aleuts, and how the Jesuits (actually Franciscans) were forcing all of them to accept the Catholic Faith. But the Aleuts would not agree under any circumstances, saying, ‘We are Christians.’

The Jesuits argued, 'That's not true, you are heretics and schismatics. If you do not agree to accept our faith then we will torture all of you to death.'

Then the Aleuts were placed in prisons two to a cell. That evening, the Jesuits came to the prison with lanterns and lighted candles. Again they tried to persuade two Aleuts in the cell to accept the Catholic Faith. 'We are Christians,' the Aleuts replied, 'and we will not change our Faith.'

Then the Jesuits began to torture them, at first the one while his companion was a witness. They cut off one of the joints of his feet, and then the other joint. Then they cut the first joint on the fingers of his hands, and then the other joint. Then they cut off his feet, and his hands. The blood flowed, but the martyr endured all and firmly repeated one thing: 'I am a Christian.' He died in such suffering, due to a loss of blood.

The Jesuit also promised to torture his comrade to death the next day.

"But that night an order was received from Monterey stating that the imprisoned Aleuts were to be released immediately and sent there under escort. Therefore, in the morning all were sent to Monterey with the exception of the dead Aleut. This was related to me by a witness, the same Aleut who had



escaped torture, and who was the friend of the martyred Aleut. I reported this incident to the authorities in Saint Petersburg. When I finished my story, Father Herman asked, 'What was the name of the martyred Aleut?' I answered, 'Peter. I do not remember his family name.' The Elder stood reverently before an icon, made the Sign of the Cross and said, 'Holy New Martyr Peter, pray to God for us!'"

We know very little about Saint Peter, except that he was from Kodiak, and was arrested and put to death by the Spaniards in California because he refused to convert to Catholicism. The circumstances of his martyrdom recall the torture of Saint James the Persian (November 27).

Both in his sufferings and in his steadfast confession of the Faith, Saint Peter is the equal of the martyrs of old, and also of the New Martyrs who have shone forth in more recent times. Now he rejoices with them in the heavenly Kingdom, glorifying God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, throughout all ages.

# Martyr Juvenal of Alaska



Saint Juvenal, the Protomartyr of America, was born in 1761 in Nerchinsk, Siberia. His secular name was John Feodorovich Hovorukhin, and he was trained as a mining engineer. In a letter to Abbot Nazarius of Valaam (December 13, 1819), Saint Herman says that Saint Juvenal “had been an assistant at our monastery and was a former officer.”

After his wife died in 1791, John entered a monastery at Saint Petersburg (Saint Herman’s Letter of December 13, 1819) and was tonsured with the name Juvenal. Three years later, he went to Alaska as a missionary. During 1794, the hieromonks

Juvenal and Macarius spent two months in the area around Kodiak teaching the inhabitants about Christ and baptizing them. They traveled in small boats of hide in all sorts of weather, dividing up the territory among themselves.

Saint Herman tells of a conversation he heard one day as he walked with the hieromonks to a small hill on the south side of the harbor. They sat down facing the sea and spoke of various things. Soon they began to discuss where each of them should go to preach. Aflame with zeal and eager to set out on their journey, a friendly argument ensued between Father Macarius and Father Juvenal.

Father Macarius said he intended to go north to the Aleutian Islands, and then make his way to the Alaskan mainland, where the inhabitants had invited him to visit.

The monks had a map of Captain Cook's which indicated that some Russians were living near a certain river in that particular area, and Father Macarius hoped to find them. Father Juvenal interrupted, saying that he believed that the Alaskan mainland was his territory. "I beg you to yield to me and not offend me in this," he told Father Macarius, "Since the ship is leaving for Yakutan. I shall begin preaching in the south, proceeding north along the

ocean, cross the Kenai peninsula, then from the port there I shall cross to Alaska

.”Father Macarius became sorrowful and said, “No, Father. Do not restrict me in this way. You know the Aleutian chain of islands is joined to Alaska, therefore it belongs to me, and also the whole northern shore. As for you, the southern part of America is sufficient for your whole lifetime, if you please.”As he listened to their apostolic fervor, Saint Herman says he “went from joy to rapture” (Letter to Abbot Nazarius, May 19, 1795).In 1795, Father Juvenal baptized over 700 Chugatchi at Nushek, then he crossed Kenai Bay and baptized the local people there.

In 1796, according to native oral tradition, Saint Juvenal came to the mouth of the Kuskokwim near the present village of Quinahgak, where he was killed by a hunting party. (There is a forged diary attributed to Ivan Petroff which gives a slanderous version of Father Juvenal’s death and alleges that he was martyred at Lake Iliamna.)

The precise reason for Saint Juvenal’s murder by the natives is not known. However, they later told Saint Innocent something about his death. They said that Saint Juvenal did not try to defend himself when attacked, nor did he make any attempt to escape. After being struck from behind, he turned to face

his attackers and begged them to spare the natives he had baptized. The natives told Saint Innocent that after they had killed Saint Juvenal, he got up and followed them, urging them to repent. They fell upon him again and gave him a savage beating. Once more, he got to his feet and called them to repentance. This happened several times, then finally the natives hacked him to pieces. Thus, the zealous Hieromonk Juvenal became the first Orthodox Christian in America to receive the crown of martyrdom. His unnamed guide, possibly a Tanaina Indian convert, was also martyred at the same time.

It is said that a local shaman removed Saint Juvenal's brass pectoral cross from his body and attempted to cast a spell. Unexpectedly, the shaman was lifted up off the ground. He made three more tries with the same result, then concluded that there was a greater power than his own at work here. Years later, a man showed up at the Nushagak Trading Post wearing a brass pectoral cross exactly like the one worn by Saint Juvenal. A column of light arose from his holy relics and reached up to Heaven. It is not known how long this phenomenon continued. Saint Juvenal, in his tireless evangelization of the native peoples of Alaska, served the Church more all the other missionaries combined.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A Nominating Committee was elected at the Parish Meeting on Sunday, September 17, to prepare the slate of officers for the 2024 Parish Council. Please present your Nominees to the **Nominating Committee:**  
**Tony Dodovich. Mary Marcin, Tylert McKelvey..**

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, will be giving the keynote address on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 17, 2023**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Bookstore:</b>	<b>5.00</b>
<b>Quarter Auction:</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>1,490.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 1,560.00</b>

<b>Tithley Donations:</b>	<b>\$569.83</b>
<b>PayPal Donations:</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$599.83</b>

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 2,159.83**

### **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)

Cleaning Supplies

## **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 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](mailto: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**