

WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 1, 2023, • Vol. 40, No. 38
Seventeenth 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 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

17th 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 3rd and 6th 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

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH and 8th

60th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE
SAINT NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL, FORT WAYNE,
INDIANA,

DIVINE SERVICES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST. ELIA
BY PROTODEACON JAMES GRESH

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh
Ecumenical Council
Saturday, October 7

5:00 pm Vespers – Protodeacon James Gresh

Sunday, October 8

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli

9:30 am Typika Service – Protodeacon James Gresh

Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-17:1

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?
For you^[a] are the temple of the living God. As God has
said: "I will dwell in them
And walk among *them*.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people."

Therefore "Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you."
"I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty."

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse
ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to
them likewise.

³² "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that
to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And
if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit
is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you
lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what

credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, ^[a]hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Gospel: Luke 10: 38 -42; 11:27-28

Mary and Martha Worship and Serve

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at ^[a]Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And ^[a]Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her

Keeping the Word

²⁷ And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!" ²⁸ But He said, "More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on [October 1](#)



This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints.

Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer, she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision, and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe. "The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. If the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also

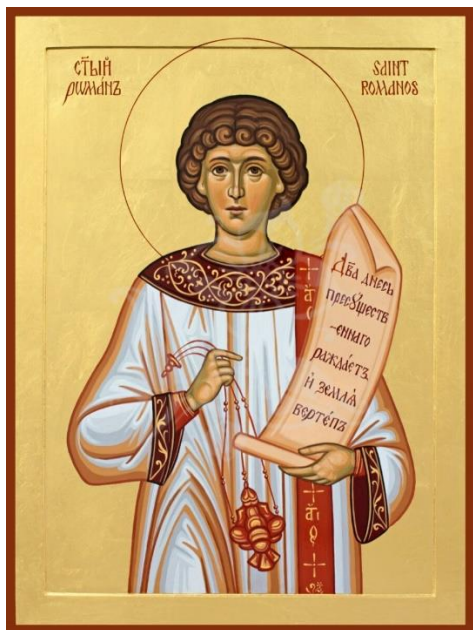
visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her. The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs then by the Greeks.

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.”

Venerable Romanus the Melodist, “Sweet-Singer”

Commemorated on [October 1](#)



Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read

the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus he was given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: "Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One..." All the hymns of Saint Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin's scroll. Saint Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, "oikos").

For his zealous service Saint Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survived.

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 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 24, 2023

Candles: \$ 39.00

Bookstore: 20.00

Sunday Offering: 585.54

TOTAL: \$644.54

Tithley Donations: \$410.39

PayPal Donations: 65.00

TOTAL: \$475.39

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,119.93

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 need 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 to 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 is 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**