

WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 5, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 43

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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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 Niglio

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, November 5 - Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, November 12 - Hours – Mary Beth Gray

Epistle – Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Sunday, November 19 – Bud Graham

Sunday, November 26 – Sandy Graham

Sunday, December 3 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5

Martyr Galecteon and his wife, Epistemis

Saturday, November 4

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, November 5

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

and the other Bodiless Powers: GABRIEL,

RAPHAEL URIEL, SELAPHIEL, JEGUDIEL and

BARACHIEL

Tuesday, November 7

**6:00 pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy of Saint
John Chrysostom**

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

Venerable Nilus, the Faster, of Sinai

Saturday, November 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions Sunday,

November 12

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Martyrs Galaction and his wife, Epistemis, at Emesa

Commemorated on November 5

There was a rich and distinguished couple named Kletophon and Leukippe, who lived in the Syrian city of Emesa, and for a long time they were childless. They gave much gold to the pagan priests, but still they remained childless. The city of Emesa was governed by a Syrian named Secundus, put there by the Roman Caesars. He was a merciless and zealous persecutor of Christians, and to intimidate them he ordered that the instruments of torture be displayed on the streets. The slightest suspicion of belonging to “the sect of the Galilean” (as thus Christians were called by the pagans), was enough to get a man arrested and handed over for torture. Despite this, many Christians voluntarily surrendered themselves into the hands of the executioners, in their desire to suffer for Christ.

A certain old man by the name of Onuphrius concealed his monastic and priestly dignity beneath his beggar’s rags. He walked from house to house in Emesa, begging for alms. At the same time, whenever he saw the possibility of turning people away from the pagan error, he preached about Christ. Once, he came to the magnificent house of Leukippe. Accepting alms from her, he sensed that the woman was in sorrow, and he asked what the cause of this sadness was. She told the Elder about her familial misfortune. In consoling

her, Onuphrius began to tell her about the one true God, about His omnipotence and mercy, and how He always grants the prayer of those turning to Him with faith. Hope filled the soul of Leukippe. She believed and accepted Holy Baptism. Soon after this it was revealed to her in a dream that she would give birth to a son, who would be a true follower of Christ. At first, Leukippe concealed her delight from her husband, but after the infant was born, she revealed the secret to her husband and also persuaded him to be baptized. They named the baby Galaction and his parents raised him in the Christian Faith and provided him a fine education. He could make an illustrious career for himself, but Galaction sought rather an unsullied monastic life in solitude and prayer. When Galaction turned twenty-four, his father resolved to marry him off and they found him a bride, a beautiful and illustrious girl by the name of Episteme. The son did not oppose the will of his father, but by the will of God, the wedding was postponed for a time. Visiting his betrothed, Galaction gradually revealed his faith to her. Eventually, he converted her to Christ, and he secretly baptized her himself. Besides Episteme he baptized also one of her servants, Eutolmius. The newly illumined decided on the initiative of Galaction, to devote themselves to monastic life. Leaving the city, they hid themselves away on Mount Publion, where there were two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. The new monastics had to take with them all the necessities for physical toil, since the

inhabitants of both monasteries were both old and infirm. For several years the monastics struggled in work, fasting and prayer. Once, Episteme had a vision in her sleep: she and Galaction stood in a wondrous palace before a radiant King, and the King bestowed golden crowns on them. This was a prefiguring of their impending martyrdom.

The pagans became aware of the existence of the monasteries, and a military detachment was sent to apprehend their inhabitants. But the monks and the nuns succeeded in hiding themselves in the hills. Galaction, however, had no desire to flee and so he remained in his cell, reading Holy Scripture. When Episteme saw that the soldiers were leading Galaction away in chains, she began to implore the Abbess to permit her to go also, since she wanted to accept torture for Christ together with her fiancé and teacher. The Abbess tearfully blessed Episteme to do so. The saints endured terrible torments, while supplicating and glorifying Christ. Their hands and legs were cut off, their tongues were cut out, and then they were beheaded. Eutolmius, the former servant of Episteme, and who had become her brother in Christ and fellow ascetic in monastic struggles, secretly buried the bodies of the holy martyrs. He later wrote an account of their virtuous life and their glorious martyrdom, for his contemporaries and for posterity.

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers

Commemorated on November 8

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world but affirmed their proper veneration.

Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then “the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him” (Mt. 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

The six-winged **SERAPHIM** (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:2) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed **CHERUBIM** (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stands before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The **THRONES** (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obedience's. They also encourage them to be patient and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.

AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith

in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise the fallen. They never abandon us, and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others. Overall the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means “who is like unto God”), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, “Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!” Each person has a guardian angel (Matt 18:10), and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius, Dial. Ch. 10).

OCA Web Page

SISTERHOOD OF SAINT JULIANA

The monthly meeting of the Sisterhood will be held today, November 5, following the Divine Liturgy

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, November 7, following the Vespers
Divine Liturgy**

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, Tyler McKelvey.** **Just a reminder: nominations will not be taken at the General Parish Meeting on November 12.**

GENERAL PARISH MEETING

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

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

***“Let us come into His Presence with thanksgiving”
(Psalm 95:2a).***

A Service of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on the **Eve of Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 22, at 6:00 pm at St. Elia.** Let us plan now to come together in the joy of this holyday and offer our praise to God for all He has given us.

FOR THE ALASKAN DIOCESE - OCA

*“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart...
God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:6).*

During the month of November, we will make our charitable offerings for Saint Herman’s Seminary in Alaska and for the Alaskan Priests (annual salary \$7,800) serving the Parishes in the Diocese of Alaska.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

On **Wednesday, November 15**, forty days prior to the celebration of the Feast of Christmas, the Holy Orthodox Church begins the Christmas Fast.

This period of six weeks is often called *Advent* which means *The Coming* and refers to the Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Mystery of His Holy Nativity.

Advent is a period of fasting, prayer and Scripture reading, a time of silence, more faithful attendance to the sacred Services and participation in the Holy Mystery of Confession to enable us to capture more fully Christ’s abiding Presence among us.

“Redeeming from the hands of evil, O Lord, Who lovest mankind, Thou comest wrapped in swaddling bands. I venerate Thy divine condescension.”

A beautiful and meaningful **ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE**, in preparation for the Great Feast of the Nativity-in-the-Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, will be served on the first day of Advent, **Wednesday, November 15, at 6:00 pm.**

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord together with Feast of His Baptism in the Jordan are Feasts of Light celebrating the coming and manifestation of Christ the Light of the world. Nature itself helps us to experience these Feasts of Light. With the coming of winter, the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas itself the reverse begins to happen. Nature prepares for the Coming of Christ, the Light in the darkness and so do we during the Holy Season of Advent.

To help in our preparation, we will have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, will have six candles on it: one for each Sunday in Advent.

Beginning on Sunday, November 19, we will light the first candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers:

Prepare O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself O Ephrathah, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: For if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

MEMORY ETERNAL

In blessed repose, grant eternal rest, O Lord, to Your servant Gearld Gray, the father of Subdeacon Aaron, father-in-law of Katherine, and grandfather of Andrew and Mary Beth

OUR STEWARDSHIP, October 29, 2023

Candles:	\$ 43.00
Sunday Offering:	\$ 1,170.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1,213.00

Tithely Donations:	\$237.75
PayPal Donations:	25.00
TOTAL:	\$262.75

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 1,475.75

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 Alexander

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

Sarah Nigilo

Melissa Trace

Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)

Louis Hakim

Daniel Sugden

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Gregory Yova (Project Mexico)

