

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 19, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 45

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

## THE VOICE



## 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 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 19 – Bud Graham

Sunday, November 26 – Sandy Graham

Sunday, December 3 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, December 10 – Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, December 17 – Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, December 24 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

# SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

## THE NATIVITY FAST

*“The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled.”*

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

**Prophet Obadiah. Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea**

**Saturday, November 18**

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

**Sunday, November 19**

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

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

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

**Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22    Gospel: Luke 12:16-21**

### **THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

**Monday, November 20**

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

### **THANKSGIVING EVE**

**Wednesday, November 22**

**6:00 pm Service (Molieben) of Thanksgiving**

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

**Venerable Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis**

**Saturday, November 25**

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

**Sunday, November 26**

**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: Ephesians 4:1-6    Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

# 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. After the homily, the children will come up to light the candles on the wreath each Sunday.

**Beginning today, 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.*

# GOD'S PLAN

November 20

## *Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*

The blessed and ever-Virgin Mary spring from the royal stock and family of David. Her father's name was Joachim and her mother's name was Anna. Their lives were plain and righteous before the Lord and irreproachable and pious before men.

Being childless, they were spurned by the Jewish people who consider it a curse from God and their gifts were rejected by the priest in the Temple. They continually offered prayers that God would bless them with a child.

An angel appeared to Joachim and then to Anna telling them that their prayers have been heard. When Anna heard she would conceive a child she said:

*“As the Lord my God lives, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God and it shall minister unto Him all the days of its life.”*

When all hope was gone, Joachim and Anna gave birth to the pure Virgin, and, in piety, they promised to offer her to God. Today they fulfill their promise, giving their child as a sacrifice in the house of God.

### **Troparion of the Forefeast**

*Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow; today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord, the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.*

# FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

November 21

Seven days within the time of Advent, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of Mary's Entrance into the Temple as a child is celebrated. This Feast is filled with import spiritual significance for us, the believers.

The texts of the Services tell how Mary was brought by her parents as a small child to the Temple to be raised there, consecrated to the service of the Lord, until the time of her betrothal in marriage.

According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community, which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to prepare herself to become the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine Child Who was to be born of her.

The main theme of Mary's Entrance into the Temple is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the **LIVING TEMPLE OF GOD**, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament that "THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IS WITH MAN."

*"Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"*

**THE VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated on Monday evening, November 20 at 6:00 pm.**



# ORTHODOX THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

NOVEMBER 22, 2023  
6:00 PM

Saint Elia Orthodox Church  
64 West Wilbeth Road  
Akron, Ohio 44301

Join us for a *moleben* as we thank  
God for the many blessings in life!



***“Let us come into His Presence with thanksgiving.”***  
**Let us plan now to come together in the joy of this  
holiday and offer our praise to God for all He has  
given us and continues to give us.**

## **THANKSGIVING DAY 1983**

Father Alexander Schmemmann celebrated his last Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 1983. At the end of the Liturgy, he called upon all of us to give thanks to God:

“Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank you, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which is offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and for giving us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank you, O Lord, for having united us to one another, in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank you, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, and temptations and for having restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.


Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship.

Thank you, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.


Thank you, O Lord for our families, husbands, wives and, especially, children, who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name, in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank you, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are you, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles. Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.”







**St. Elia Parish**  
**TURKEY**  
**BOWL**  
**FOR ALL AGES**




**FRIDAY, NOV. 24<sup>TH</sup> 3PM-?**



**NORTON CHARGER BOWLING LANES**  
**1213 NORTON AVE.**  
**NORTON, OH 44203**



**ADULT: \$4.00/ YOUTH / SENIOR \$2.00 PER GAME**  
**SHOE RENTAL: ADULT \$4.00/ YOUTH/SENIORS \$2.00**  
**RSVP: SIGNUP SHEET IN HALL FOR RESERVATIONS**



**Please see the signup sheet in the hall and  
sign in if you are planning to join us for the  
“Turkey Bowl”!**

# PARACLESIS: ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

The Advent Paraclesis, a beautiful and meaningful Service of Prayer in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, will be celebrated next week on **Wednesday evening, November 29, at 6:00 pm.**

## PARISH COUNCIL 2024

At the General Parish Meeting held on Sunday, November 12, 2023, following the Divine Liturgy, the 2024 Parish Council Members were elected:  
President: Veronica Bilas; V.President: Sandy Graham; Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray; Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley; Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge, Nicholas Morelli. Upon approval of Archbishop Alexander, the 2024 Parish Council will be installed at the Annual Parish Meeting in January.

## 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 continue to 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.

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP, November 12, 2023**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 61.00</b>
<b>Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$651.00</b>
<b>Tithely Donations:</b>	<b>\$539.25</b>
<b>PayPal Donations:</b>	<b>34.68</b>
	<b>\$573.93</b>
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS:</b>	<b>\$1,244.93</b>

**St. Herman Seminary: \$186.00**

### **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 (\$35.50)
- 4-hour votive candles (\$38.50 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 Huntyan

Subdeacon Martin Paluch

Sarah Nigilo

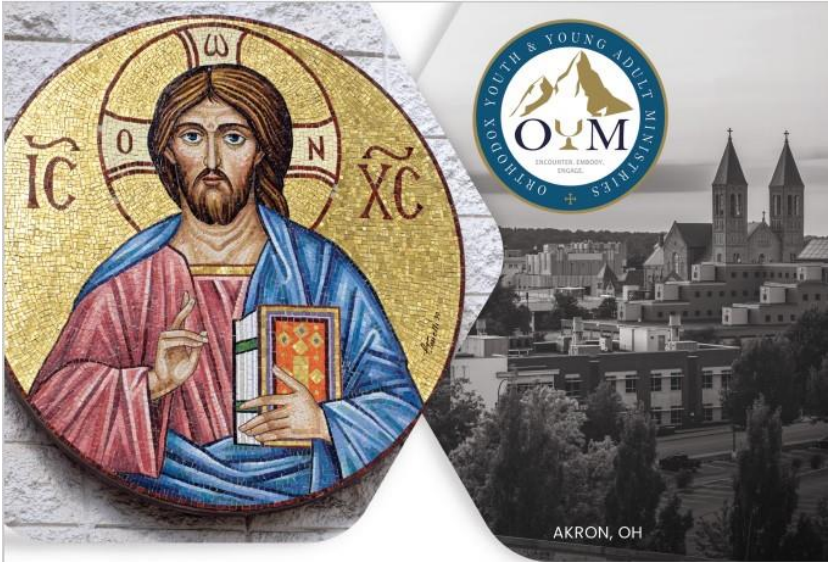
Melissa Trace

Louis Hakim

Daniel Sugden

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Gregory Yova (Project Mexico)



# 3ETREAT

A Pan-Orthodox Retreat **ENCOUNTER. EMBODY. ENGAGE.**

## JOIN US FOR OUR AKRON, OH 3ETREAT!

Join us for a Pan-Orthodox retreat and learn what it means to come home to the self, come home to the household of God and be ambassadors of Christ's love in the world.



### LOCATION

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
755 S. Cleveland Ave.  
Mogadore, OH 44260



### DATES

Dec. 9, 2023



### WHO'S INVITED

Adults: Parents, youth workers,  
clergy, young adults  
Youth: Grades 6-12

REGISTRATION CLOSING DEC. 4. REGISTER TODAY!

TO REGISTER VISIT [WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.THEOYM.ORG/EVENTS) OR SCAN HERE



**The Retreat will include a Youth Track –  
Grades 6-12 and an Adult Track.  
Registration deadline: December 5.  
Please pick up a packet of information in the  
Church Vestibule.**