

WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 26, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 46

24th 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

www.facebook.com/sainteliakron

*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese,
OVery Rev. Mitred Archpriest 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 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

Sunday, December 31 – Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

THE NATIVITY FAST

“The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled.”

25th 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 3rd and 6th 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

**ADVENT SERVICE – Afterfeast of the Entrance
of the Theotokos into the Temple**

Wednesday, November 29

6:00 pm Advent Paraklesis

**Service of Prayer in Preparation for the
Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and
Savior Jesus Christ**

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1

Prophet Zephaniah

Saturday, December 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 3

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: Ephesians 5:9-19 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

**Panakhida for the repose of the soul of +Gerald Gray
as requested by Subdeacon Aaron Gray and**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Walk in Unity

⁴ I, therefore, the prisoner ^[a]of the Lord, ^[b]beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in ^[c]you all.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

A Spirit of Infirmary

¹⁰ Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way ^[a]raise *herself* up. ¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." ¹³ And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore, come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵ The Lord then answered him and said, ¹⁶ "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it?" ¹⁷ So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" ¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

THE ADVENT WREATH

To help in our preparation for the Feast of Christmas, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, has 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.

Today, Sunday, November 26, we will light the second candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers.

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 this week on **Wednesday evening, November 29, at 6:00 pm. Plan to attend!**

MADE TO CONTAIN GOD

The most wonderful thing about man is that he was created to contain God. This is the miracle of miracles! Each one was made to be a temple of God, a golden chalice, a tabernacle of God's Presence. The infinitely great God Who revealed Himself in Jesus as the great God of love waits to take up residence in us. He stands at the door of our soul and knocks until we hear His voice and His knock to open and let Him come in and sup with us in the heavenly banquet. He will not rest until He has invaded our heart and made it His throne. If we allow Him in, He will change our lives into the beautiful life of Jesus. As St. Paul expresses it: ***"I live, yet not I, but Christ live in me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

"From the moment the Virgin Mary entered the "holy of holies," life itself became the Temple. And when we celebrate The Entrance into the Temple, we celebrate man's divine meaning and the brightness of his divine calling. These cannot be washed away or uprooted from human memory"

The Virgin Mary, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Mary's Entrance into the Temple is celebrated until Nov. 25.

Kontakion of the Feast

The most pure Temple of our Holy Savior, and the most precious and Bridal Chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of the glory of God, openly appears today in the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the Most Holy Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: This is the heavenly Tabernacle.

AWAKE YOU SLEEPERS

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11)

Our Advent disposition is one of attentiveness. The quote from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans has a sense of urgency in that we are called to be watchful, to stay awake, to be on guard. Jesus is constantly breaking into our lives ***through the Sacraments and Scripture***, through our encounter with others and in the inner movements of our hearts. By responding in obedience to the Lord’s advances of grace, we deepen our relationship and our friendship with our Lord. And it is by living Gospel values that we come to know the Lord Jesus, not abstractly but with a knowledge that is experiential and enduring. Our call is to be God-like, putting on the mind and heart of Jesus. We are to put into action the Christian values of love, forgiveness and compassion.

Advent is about friendship; it’s all about how God is in His love for us in Jesus. Advent is a ***time to wake out of sleep*** and respond to God’s initiative and by so doing come to know that peace and joy that are beyond all understanding.

Prayer: O Lord, continue to gift us with watchful hearts so that as You come into our daily lives by Your grace and friendship, we might be open to Your love and come to witness to that love in our concern for others. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Next Sunday, **December 3**, St. Elia's Sisterhood of St. Juliana will meet following the Divine Liturgy.

2024 CHURCH CALENDARS

Through the kindness and generosity of Anthony Funeral Home, our Parish Family has been provided with 2024 Church Calendars. They are available on the front pew to be picked up.

ST. ELIA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

A Christmas Ornament, designed by Subdeacon Aaron Gray, as a fundraiser for St. Elia Church, is available for purchase in our bookstore for \$10.00. ***Spread the word!***

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

With the celebration of Christmas just weeks away, please consider making a donation for poinsettias and decorations. Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes are available on the candle desk. Thank you for your generosity. The envelope has a space, if you wish, to make your offering "in memory."

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 are making 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.

THE FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS

***OUR ANNUAL PARISH FAMILY
SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATION***

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

**6:00 PM VESPERAL DIVINE
LITURGY for the Feast**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

**Followed by a Lenten Luncheon
Main Entree will be provided.
Please bring a meatless covered dish**

AND

A VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS

O who loves Nicholas the saintly,

O who serves Nicholas the saintly,

Him will Nicholas receive

and give help in time of need.

Holy Father Nicholas

OUR STEWARDSHIP, November 19, 2023

Candles: \$ 108.00

Sunday Offering: 1,462.00

TOTAL: \$1,570.00

Tithely Donations: \$367.97

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,937.97

St. Herman Seminary: \$45.00

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

Mavis 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 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.**