

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 10, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 48

27<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,  
Very 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, 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

Sunday, January 7 - Sue Ellen Turscak

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

## **THE NATIVITY FAST**

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

### **27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2**

**Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugegraphus of Alexandria**

**Saturday, December 9**

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

**Sunday, December 10**

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

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

**Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli**

**Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19**

*Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Candle On the Advent Wreath*

**Wednesday, December 13**

**Repose of the Venerable and God-bearing Father**

**Herman of Alaska and Equal to the Apostles**

**Virgin-Martyr Lucia of Syracuse**

### **28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3**

**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. Holy Prophet Daniel  
and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael**

**Saturday, December 16**

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

**Sunday, December 17**

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

**9:30 am *Profession of Faith and Holy Chrismation of***

*Daniel Joseph Slife and Otto George Slife*

**Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley**

**Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24**

*Lighting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Candle on the Advent Wreath*



## ***CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK***

*The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is preceded by a Holy Week: the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.*

**Tuesday, December 19 – 6:00 pm**

**Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**

**Wednesday, December 20 – 6:00 pm**

**Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**

**Thursday, December 21 – 6:00 pm**

**Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**

**Friday, December 22 – 6:00 pm**

**Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ**

**29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4**  
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS. Sunday Before the**  
**Nativity of Christ. CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Saturday, December 23**

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

**Sunday, December 24**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh**

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

**Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh**

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**

**Gospel: Luke 14:16-24**

***Lighting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Candle on the Advent Wreath***

**5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas – Compline and Matins**

**Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**



*Feast of CHRISTMAS*  
*The Nativity According to the*  
*Flesh of our Lord God*  
*and Savior, Jesus Christ.*  
*Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

**Monday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great**

**Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

**COME, LORD,  
GIVE US YOUR PEACE,  
THAT WITH HEARTS PERFECTED  
WE MAY JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE**

**SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE  
NATIVITY. Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos**

**Tuesday, December 26**

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

**THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY**

**Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen**

**Wednesday, December 27**

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

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 5**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST.**

**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David  
the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord**

**Saturday, December 30**

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

**Sunday, December 31**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas**

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

**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**

**Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers**

***Prayers for the New Year 2024***

**JANUARY 2024**

**THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND  
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Saint Basil the Great,  
Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

**Monday, January 1, 2023**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great**

# GOD'S BLESSED ASSURANCE

***“My love shall never leave you, nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you.” (Isaiah 54:10b)***

We need blessed assurance, an anchor that provides stability in a turbulent and changing world. Isaiah the prophet provides an answer: God's love will never leave us nor can the great covenant of peace be shaken. This blessed assurance of love and peace flows out of God's immense mercy.

Jesus is the fulfillment of what Isaiah the prophet was talking about. Jesus is our peace; Jesus is the manifestation of God's love and mercy.

Our Advent task is to open our minds and hearts to Christ coming into our lives today. Once we have said yes to the divine invitation, then we are challenged to transmit the divine love, mercy, and peace to others. It's all about building the kingdom.

Isaiah speaks of God's love as enduring. God's endurance and fidelity is infinite. This should give us consolation as we struggle to avoid sin and live a life of grace.

***“From my youth many passions have fought against me, but do Thou help me, O my Savior...Every soul is enlivened by the Holy Spirit and is exalted in purity, illumined by the Holy Trinity in a sacred mystery.”***

# 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 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.

**Today, Sunday, December 10, we will light the fourth 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.*



## **2024 CHURCH CALENDARS**

Available on the front pew of the Church.

### **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.”

### **HELPING THOSE IN NEED**

During the month of December our parish charitable group, the ***Workers of St. Elizabeth***, will be collecting **SOCKS and GLOVES** for the **Peter Maurin Center**. Located just 5 minutes north of St. Elia at 1096 Old South Main St., the Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families in the greater Akron area by offering meals, warm clothing and other necessities, and friendship.

**Look for the bin located near the Parish Family Christmas Tree in the Hall and drop off your items as you come in each week.**

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

**TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

**Followed by a Lenten Luncheon**

**Main Entree will be provided.**

**Please bring a meatless covered dish**

**WE WELCOME A SPECIAL GUEST**

**A VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS**

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**PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Parish Family Christmas Tree has been set up in the hall and is waiting for **your Family Ornament.**

Starting a new tradition this year at St. Elia, you are invited to bring an ornament from your family and hang it on the Parish Family Christmas Tree in the Hall.

**Please write your family name and this year's date (2023) on the ornament.**

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP, December 3, 2023**

<b>Candles:</b>	<b>\$ 61.00</b>
<b>Christmas Flowers:</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering:</b>	<b>765.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$891.00</b>

<b>Tithely Donations:</b>	<b>\$489.79</b>
<b>PayPal Donations:</b>	<b>26.25</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$516.04</b>

**TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$1,407.04**

### **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; Otto 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)