

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 21, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 3

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

*Sanctity of Life Sunday*

## 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 - 2024**

Sunday, January 21 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, January 28 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, February 4 - Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, February 11 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, February 18 - Hours – Mary Beth

Epistle: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

## **33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8** **Venerable Maximus the Confessor**

**Saturday, January 20**

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

**Sunday, January 21**

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

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

**Baptism of William Jeffery Harrison**

**Godparents: William Paluch and Deborah Gynn**

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

**Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

## **34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1**

**Saturday, January 27**

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

**Sunday, January 28**

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

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

**Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc**

**Epistle: Colossians: 3:4-11**

**Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46**

**Panakhida for the repose of the soul of Samir Hakim  
as requested by the Frances Hakim and Family**

## **THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IN THE TEMPLE**

**Thursday, February 1**

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

## **BAPTISM SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Epistle: Romans 6:3-11**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once, for all, but the life that He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel: Matthew 28:16:20**

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

# **His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]**

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church  
in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark Sanctity of Life Sunday this year, there will be much discussion of the “right to life.” Of course, we Orthodox Christians believe that certain rights, the right to life among them, should be respected, enshrined in law, and protected by civil authority. But human life is something even more precious than a mere right: it is a divine gift.

“Lo, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward,” as the Psalmist says (Ps. 126:3). We are called to recognize every human life, from conception to natural death, as a gift of the Lord. This means protecting the unborn, but in a broader sense this means helping our broken society and broken world to view our fellow human beings not as mere mouths to feed or potential threats or problems to be solved or subjects to be controlled, but as blessings from above. The unborn are a blessing; children are a blessing; the elderly are a blessing; the difficult people in our lives are a blessing; even our enemies—perhaps especially our enemies—are a blessing.

Moreover, we speak of the sanctity of life for two reasons: because life comes from the Lord, and because it should be

offered back to the Lord through service to him and to others, resulting in sanctity. If we understand that we are merely servants, doing as we have been bidden (Lk. 17:10), and if we recognize that the greatest and holiest is the one who became a servant of all through his Incarnation, his ministry, and his Passion and Rising (Mt. 23:11), then we are in the best position of all to treat each human being as a blessing, not in an abstract sense, but in the sense of someone whom we are privileged to serve.

Living in this way, we also better understand our own life as a blessing, a blessing because it is an opportunity to attain holiness. If we truly live according to our belief in the profound sanctity of life, then we will naturally “commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God,” sending up thanksgiving and blessing his holy Name on account of the incalculably precious gift of human life and for every man who comes into the world (Jn. 1:9).

On this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we pray that all people of North America and throughout the world would come to recognize the good and perfect gift (Jam. 1:17) that is human life and learn to cherish that gift and render glory unto the Giver, the benevolent Creator of all things, one God in Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, unto the never-ending ages.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

## **BAPTISMAL CONGRATUALIONS**

Prayerful Congratulations to William Jeffery Harrison, and to his parents, Christina Paluch and David Harrison; Godparents William Paluch and Deborah Gynn. *Many Years!*

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Family Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church will be held following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, February 4, 2024.**

There will be a **covered dish dinner**. The main dish of chicken will be provided. Please sign the list on the coffee table in the hall what side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

The **Parish Council 2024** will be presented to His Eminence Archbishop Alexander for approval and then will be installed: President: Veronica Bilas; Vice President: Sandy Graham; Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray; Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley. Advisors: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas; Bud Graham; Jefferson Hodge; Nicholas Morelli.

All are encouraged to attend and participate in past-year assessment and next year's planning session for our parish. A special word to the 2023 Parish Council. We thank you for your willingness to serve this past year. *Many Years!*

## **DONATION ENVELOPES**

Everyone's donations for the support of Saint Elia Church is very important and greatly appreciated by all of our members. In the past we have ordered donation envelopes from the Church Budget Envelope Co. The Parish Council has decided not to order them this year. Donations can be made by Tithely, PayPal, Bill Pay or by mail. **Offering Envelopes that are packaged are available on the front pew. next page**

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP, January 14, 2024**

**Candles:** \$ 40.00

**Memorial Donation:** 10.00

**Sunday Offering:** \$1,535.00

**TOTAL:** \$1,585.00

**Tithely Donations:** \$ 822.08

**TOTAL OFFERINGS:** \$2,407.08

## **WISH LIST**

If you are able, please consider making special donations of the Parish needs of items listed on the:

### **WISH LIST**

Paper towels, Kleenex, Bathroom Tissues

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 CATECHUMEN**

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

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

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Katya Gresh Reimund