

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 28, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 4
34th 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,
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 28 - Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, February 4 - Reader Nicholas Morelli

Sunday, February 11 - Reader Joshua Wherley

Sunday, February 18 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

Sunday, February 25 - Mary Beth Gray

Sunday, March 3 - Subdeacon Aaron Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1

Saturday, January 27

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, January 28

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: 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 Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom**

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

Saturday, February 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, February 4

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli

Epistle: Colossians: 3:12-16

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in

⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off

the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "*The Son of David.*" ⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying:

⁴⁴ 'The LORD said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?

⁴⁵ If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" ⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on [February 2](#)

The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law.

Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms,¹ and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers:

“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel”

(Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: ***“Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”*** (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (February 3), “who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.” She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: ***“This Child has established Heaven and earth.”***

Before Christ was born, the righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous persons of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet Him in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the VI century.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the VII century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the VIII century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the IX century.

Today we also commemorate the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as “the Softening of Evil Hearts” or “Simeon’s Prophecy.” The Mother of God is depicted without her Child, and seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below. A similar Icon, “Of the Seven Swords” (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The “Softening of Evil Hearts” Is also commemorated on August 13.

The Icon “Simeon’s Prophecy” symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder

Simeon: “a sword shall pierce through your own soul” (Luke 2:35).

The Vespertine Divine Liturgy will be celebrated for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple on Thursday evening, February 1 at 6:00 pm.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Family Meeting of St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church will be held following the Divine Liturgy **NEXT 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** has been presented to His Eminence Archbishop Alexander for approval and 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 21, 2024

Candles:	\$ 98.00
<u>Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>\$815.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$913.00

Tithely Donations:	\$351.62
<u>PayPAL Donations:</u>	<u>70.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$421.62

TOTAL OFFERINGS: **\$1,334.62**

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