

WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 10, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 10

Sunday of Meatfare

Sunday of the Last Judgment

THE VOICE



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*



Icon of the Seven Sorrows of the Theotokos

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

1. The Prophecy of Simeon

“Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul”

(Luke 2:35a)

2. The Flight into Egypt

3. The Loss of Jesus for three days in the Temple

4. Jesus Carrying His Cross

5. The Crucifixion of Jesus

6. The Taking down of Jesus from the Cross

7. Jesus being Laid in the Tomb

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2024 Parish Council

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

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, March 10 - Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas

Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

Sunday, March 17 - Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, March 24 - Daneil Slife

Sunday, March 31 - Bud Graham

Sunday, April 7 - Sandy Graham

Sunday, April 14 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

LENTEN TRIODION

3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday

**SUNDAY OF MEATFARE. SUNDAY OF THE
LAST JUDGMENT – Tone 7**

Saturday, March 9

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 10

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-42

This week we begin to fast from meat.

**It is permitted to eat cheese, eggs and milk on every
day this week including Wednesday and Friday**

4th Pre-Lenten Sunday

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE – Tone 8

**THE EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**

Saturday, March 16

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 17

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

**5:00 pm VESPERS AND MUTUAL FORGIVENESS
SERVICE. Great Lent begins – Strict Fast**

GREAT LENT

*The Lenten Spring has come! The light of repentance! Let us
cleanse ourselves from evil, crying to the Giver of Light:
Glory to Thee, O Lover of Mankind!*

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Monday, March 18 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete - *1st Section*

Tuesday, March 19 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete - *2nd Section*

Wednesday, March 20 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete- *3rd Section*

Thursday, March 21 – 6:00 pm

Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete- *4th Section*

Friday, March 22 – 6:00 pm

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Blessing of Boiled Wheat in
Commemoration of the Greatmartyr Theodore

SECOND WEEK OF GREAT LENT

**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – TONE 1
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY. FOREFEAST OF
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

Saturday, March 23

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 24

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Daniel Slife

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Daniel Slife

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 Gospel: John 1:43-51

**5:00 pm SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY AND
ANNUNCIATION VESPERS at Annunciation Greek
Orthodox Church**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. ⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a ^(a)stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble
Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the ^(a)seal of my apostleship in the Lord

. Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Judgment of the Nations

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd

divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.

⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

Commemorated on March 10



Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, “Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God’s mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), ***sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation.*** When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison, have a heart of compassion and a willing ear to listen to others. If we did such things for the least of Christ’s brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fast prepares us gradually for the strict fast of Great Lent.

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

Great Lent begins this year on Monday, March 18, 2024

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**, celebrating the “*Triumph of Orthodoxy*” over Iconoclasm and the restoration of the veneration of Icons. On the **Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 24, the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos**, the Akron Orthodox Churches this year will gather to celebrate **Vespers at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church at 5:00 pm.**

A **Sunday of Orthodoxy Program Booklet** is being prepared and your donations will support the work of the Orthodox Clergy Association, Christian Orthodox Council of Akron, and Orthodox Christian Women. Please give your donations to **Mary Marcin by Friday, March 15:**
Benefactor \$100; Supporter \$50; Patron \$25; Sponsor \$10.

The **Combined Lenten Vespers** will be served each Sunday during Great Lent at **5:00 pm:**

March 24 – Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

March 31 – Presentation of our Lord Orthodox Church

April 7 - St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

April 14 - St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church

April 21 - **Holy Unction** at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church at **5:00 pm.**

Prepare for Pascha by Praying the Psalms!



The Goal

This year, we will continue our annual tradition, since 2008, at St. Elia of praying the Psalms together as a parish community during Lent. It's an opportunity for us to draw nearer to Christ and one another during the fast, as we journey toward Holy Pascha.

How It Works

The Orthodox Church has traditionally divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections. In our St. Elia prayer group, we will all pray a new section each day throughout the 40 days of Lent, beginning on March 18, so that we will pray through the entire book of Psalms twice during the course of the fast.

Added Bonus

As we all join together in praying the Psalms, we can use this opportunity to pray for one another, for our

parish, and for any special intentions that any of us may have by sharing prayer requests with one another via email. Additionally, you will receive Lenten reflections throughout the fast via email with quotes from the saints and other edifying material.

What You Need

To participate, all you need is a Bible and a little bit of time to set aside each day.

How Do I Join

You can join by going to <http://saintelia.com/news/lenten-prayer-group/> and filling in the online form. Shortly before Great Lent begins, you will receive an email with a schedule of which Psalms to pray each day and the names of everyone else who is participating in the prayer group, so that we can remember one another in our daily prayers.

One Last Thing

May the Lord bless us as we pray the Psalms together, and may He draw us nearer to Himself and to one another during this Lent. Have a blessed 40 days!

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God!

For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful!

Psalms 147:1

St. Elia Prayer Group

A ministry of St. Elia Orthodox Church

Prayer Group Moderator: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

**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 Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Subdeacon David Trace
Louis Hakim
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Mary Elizabeth Marcin
Carl Nickoloff

**SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING TODAY,
MARCH 10, FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kate and Jefferson Hodge on the birth of their new son, **Elias Ivan**, and new brother to August Hodge. Many Years!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm

OUR STEWARDSHIP, March 3, 2024

Candles:	\$55.00
Special Offering:	10.00
Tray Offering:	685.00
TOTAL:	\$755.00
Tithely Donations:	\$213.33
PayPal Donation:	26.25
TOTAL:	\$239.58
<u>TOTAL OFFERINGS:</u>	<u>\$994.58</u>

WISH LIST

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

**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)
Day Votive Candles (\$52.00 for a case of 12)**