WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 18, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 7
37th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
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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

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, February 18 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, February 25 - Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, March 3 - Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Sunday, March 10 - Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, March 17 - Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, March 24 - Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

37th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS. St. Leo the Great
Saturday, February 17
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession
Reception into the Church and Chrismation of Christopher Barnhart
Sunday, February 18
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

AKATHIST- TIKHVIN MOTHER OF GOD ICON
Thursday, February 22 – 6:30 pm
At St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore, Ohio

BEGINNING OF THE LENEN TRIODION

38th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE
Saturday, February 24
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession
Sunday, February 25
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sunday of Zacchaeus

Epistle: I Timothy 4:9-15

9 This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all
acceptance. **10** For to this *end* [a]we both labor and
suffer reproach, because we trust in the living
God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of
those who believe. **11** These things command and
teach.

Take Heed to Your Ministry

12 Let no one [b]despise your youth, but be
an example to the believers in word, in conduct,
in love, [c]in spirit, in faith, in purity. **13** Till I come,
give attention to reading, to exhortation,
to [d]doctrine. **14** Do not neglect the gift that is in
you, which was given to you by prophecy with the
laying on of the hands of the
eldership. **15** Meditate on these things; give
yourself entirely to them, that your progress may
be evident to all.

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus' House

19 Then *Jesus* entered and passed
through Jericho. **2** Now behold, *there was* a man
named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector,
and he was rich. **3** And he sought to see who Jesus
was, but could not because of the crowd, for he
was of short stature. **4** So he ran ahead and
climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for
He was going to pass that *way*. **5** And when Jesus
came to the place, He looked up [a]and saw him,
and said to him, "Zacchaeus, [b]make haste and
come down, for today I must stay at your
house." **6** So he [c]made haste and came down, and
received Him joyfully. **7** But when they saw *it,* they
all [d]complained, saying, "He has gone to be a
guest with a man who is a sinner."

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,
"Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor;
and if I have taken anything from anyone by false
accusation, I restore fourfold."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has
come to this house, because he also is a son of
Abraham; **10** for the Son of Man has come to seek
and to save that which was lost."

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Commemorated on February 18

Announcement of the coming of Great of Lent

The paschal season of the Church is proceeded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he ***"sought to see who Jesus was"*** (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when

we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, ***"Today salvation is come to this house"*** (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology and Trisagion at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is in Tone 1, 3, 5, or 7) we sing the Troparion of the Resurrection: ***"Today salvation is come to the world, let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy."***

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature; therefore, we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS

On this Sunday of Zacchaeus,we welcome Christopher Barnhart to the Holy Orthodox Church and the newest member of our Parish Family of Saint Elia. Christopher will be Chrismated before Vespers on Saturday, February 17 with William DiPuccio as his Sponsor**.** ***Prayerful Congratulations! Many Years!***

Saint Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

Commemorated on February 18

Saint Leo I the Great, Pope of Rome (440-461), received a fine and diverse education, which opened for him the possibility of an excellent worldly career. He yearned for the spiritual life, however, and so he chose the path of becoming an archdeacon under holy Pope Sixtus III (432-440), after whose death Saint Leo was chosen as Bishop of Rome in September 440.

These were difficult times for the Church, when heretics assaulted Orthodoxy with their false teachings. Saint Leo combined pastoral solicitude and goodness with an unshakable firmness in the confession of the Faith. He was in particular one of the basic defenders of Orthodoxy against the heresies of Eutyches and Dioscorus, who taught that there was only one nature in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also a defender against the heresy of Nestorius.

He exerted all his influence to put an end to the unrest by the heretics in the Church, and by his letters to the holy emperors Theodosius II (408-450) and Marcian (450-457), he actively promoted the convening of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, at Chalcedon in 451, to condemn the heresy of the Monophysites.

At the Council at Chalcedon, at which 630 bishops were present, a letter of Saint Leo to the deceased Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople (447-449) was read. Saint Flavian had suffered for Orthodoxy under the “Robber Council” of Ephesus in the year 449. In the letter of Saint Leo, the Orthodox teaching about the two natures [the divine and the human] in the Lord Jesus Christ was set forth. All the bishops present at the Council were in agreement with this teaching, and so the heretics Eutyches and Dioscorus were excommunicated from the Church.

Saint Leo was also a defender of his country against the incursions of barbarians. In 452, by the persuasive power of his words, he stopped Attila the Hun from pillaging Italy. Again, in the year 455, when the leader of the Vandals [a Germanic tribe], Henzerich, turned towards Rome, he persuaded him not to pillage the city, burn buildings, nor to spill blood.

He knew the time of his death beforehand, and he prepared himself, with forty days of fasting and prayer, to pass from this world into eternity. He died in the year 461 and was buried at Rome. His literary and theological legacy is comprised of 96 sermons and 143 letters, of which the best known is his Epistle to Saint Flavian.

THE THEOTOKOS ICON OF TIKHVIN

The **Theotokos of Tikhvin** is one of the most celebrated Orthodox Christian icons. It is said to be one of the icons written by Saint Luke.

According to tradition, in the 5th century, the icon was transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople, where a church was built specially for it. A further tradition has it that the icon miraculously appeared, hovering over a lake, in Russia, near Tikhvin in 1383. Since the 14th century, the icon was held in Tikhvin, where eventually Tikhvin Assumption Monastery was founded to host the icon. In 1941, during World War II, for a month Tikhvin was occupied by German troops, who looted the monastery and, in particular, took the icon to Pskov, and in 1944 transferred it to Riga.

The icon eventually was taken to the United States for safety by the former Bishop of Riga – Bishop John (Garklāvs). Between 1949 and 2004, the icon remained at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois. It was returned to Tikhvin, Russia, in 2004 by his adopted son, Fr. Sergei Garklavs of Chicago. A reproduction of the Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon was brought from Russia by His Grace, Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin and enshrined in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago

VISIT OF THE TIKHVIN MOTHER OF GOD ICON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - 6:30 PM
AKATHIST
SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, MOGADORE, OHIO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – 9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY AND MOLIEBEN
ST. THEODOSIUS CATHEDRAL
CLEVELAND, OHI

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
Subdeacon David Trace
Melissa Trace
Louis Hakim
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Katya Gresh Reimund
Mary Elizabeth Marcin

O Gracious and Merciful God, our beginning and our end, You live within us and our world. As we approach the season of Great Lent and Holy Pascha, grant us the grace to let go those things that separate us from You and each other, so that as Your people we may manifest Your secret, loving presence in our world. Amen.

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DONATION ENVELOPES

Donations can be made by Tithely. PayPal, Bill Pay or by mail. Offering Envelopes that are packaged are available on the front pew.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, February 11, 2024

Candles:	**$ 77.00**
Tray Offering:	**1,600.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,677.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$ 419.25**
TOTAL OFFERINGS:	**$2,096.25**

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

SAINT ELIA PARISH

DANCE "VECHERINKA"

FRIDAY,
MARCH 1ST
(FAST FREE!)

6-9PM
ST. ELIA HALL

BRING A COVERED
DISH OR DESSERT
TO SHARE

"LAST BLAST BEFORE THE FAST!"
SEE VERONICA WITH QUESTIONS