WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 25, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 8
37th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

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

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 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

BEGINNING OF THE LENEN TRIODION

1st Pre-Lenten Sunday

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

2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday

39th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, March 3

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

MEMORIAL SATURDAY – SATURDAY OF MEATFARE

Friday, March 8

6:00 pm Vespers of Memorial Saturday
Universal Panakhida for all the Faithful Departed

(If you have not already done so, please give Father Don all the Names of the Departed you wish to be remembered)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

The Man of God and the Word of God

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love,
perseverance, **11** persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' **13** And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' **14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [a]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

Commemorated on February 25

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the *Triodion* (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. **One** was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The **second man** was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to

us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

Publican and Pharisee Vesper Verses

The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart.
The Publican bowed himself in repentance.
They both stood before You, O Master:
the one, through boasting, lost his reward,
but the other, with tears and sighs, won Your blessing:
Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Your presence,
since You are the Lover of man.

The weight of my transgressions burdens mine eyes:
I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven O Lord.
Accept me in repentance, as You accepted the Publican; have mercy on me, O Savior!

The Prayer of the Publican -
God be merciful to me, sinner!

PRAYER ROPE FOR THE

THE JESUS PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

United to Jesus through Holy Baptism, we are called and given the grace to know Jesus in a personal way. Jesus is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing and comforting power of the Name of Jesus, the Jesus prayer is a simple prayer around this "Name that is above all other names…the Name by which we are saved" [Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11]

The Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name of Jesus itself.

This simple prayer, prayed with faith and with perseverance, calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us.

Jesus calls us to make our home in Him as He will make His home in us*:*

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. *[John 15:4-5]*

Abiding in Christ is living out our union with Him in faith, baptism, love, and obedience. The figure of the vine and the branches shows our union with Christ as intimate and real. We are a new people with Christ.

This simplest of prayers, prayed from time to time throughout the day will gradually lead us into the Presence of Jesus in our thoughts.

Focused wholly on Jesus, in time, this prayer will begin to strike roots in our heart, where its continued practice will ever deepen the reality of Jesus living in us – to heal us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us in our faith.

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

Great Lent begins this year on Monday, March 11, 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.**

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
Louis Hakim
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Mary Elizabeth Marcin

"God can create great beauty out of much desolation." Saint Matushka Olga

DONATION ENVELOPES

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP, February 18, 2024

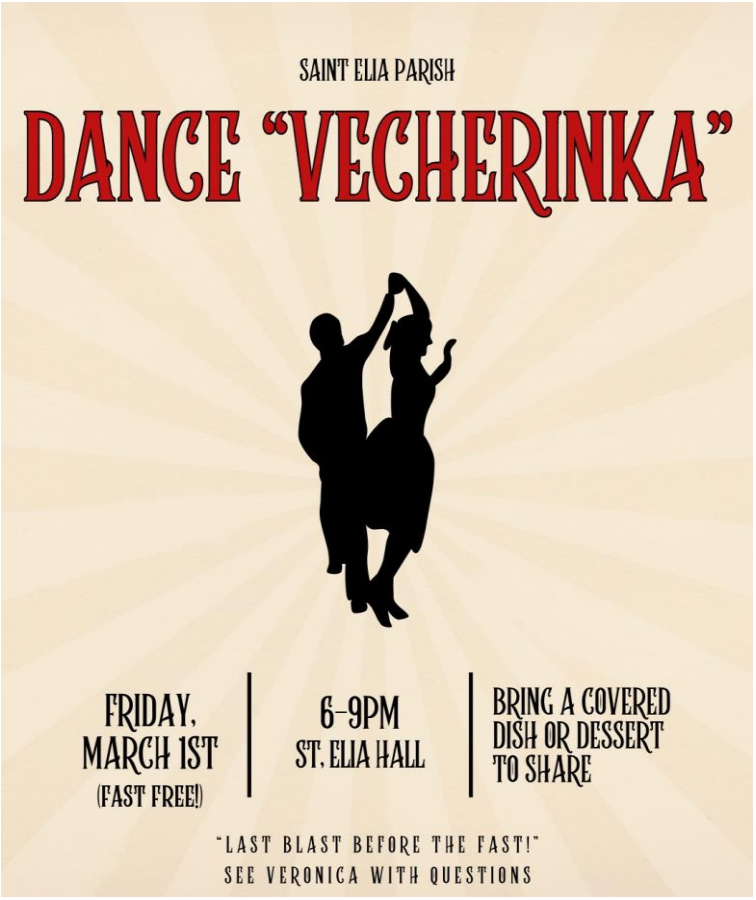
Candles:	**$ 58.00**
Special Offerings:	**60.00**
Tray Offering:	**1,171.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,289.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$ 609.66**
PayPal Donation:	**26.25**
TOTAL:	**$ 635.91**
TOTAL OFFERINGS:	**$1,924.91**

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)

"One person can make a difference and every person should try" John F. Kennedy



"Vecherinka" - Evening Party-Dance

<u>Please sign the list in the Hall for what covered dish or dessert you will be bringing</u>