WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 14, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 15

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Saint John Climacus

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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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, April 14 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, April 21 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, April 28 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, May 5 - Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Sunday, May 12 - Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, May 19 - Hours – Subdeacon Terence Bilas
Epistle -Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 4

Saint John Climacus

Saturday, April 13

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 14

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Prayers after giving birth for Katherine Hodge

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31
5:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church

Wednesday, April 17

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 19

6:00 pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 5

Saint Mary Egypt

Saturday, April 20

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 21

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Wednesday, April 24

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 26

6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday
Beginning of Great and Holy Week

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Saturday, April 27

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

5:00 pm Vigil of Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palms and Willows

PALM AND FLOWERY SUNDAY

The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

***Sunday,* April 28**

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Philippians 4:$-9 Gospel: John 12::1-18

5:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

Sad Sunday

CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM MONDAY
Monday, April 29

6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM TUESDAY
Tuesday, April 30

6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, May 1

6:00 pm Mystery of Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, May 2

8:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great
6:00 pm Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the Twelve Passion Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
Friday, May 3

9:00 am Royal Hours – *Christ Hangs on the Cross*
6:00 pm Great Vespers and Lamentations
Christ dies on the Cross, is taken down from the Cross, is buried and descends into hell.

GRAVE WATCH

On Good Friday evening, following the Services, a **Vigil** will be kept at the tomb of our Lord, remembering His sufferings and death for our salvation.

A Holy Vigil at the Tomb of Christ is also referred to as Grave Watch. After our Lord died the Cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the Body of Jesus down from the Cross, bound it in linen cloths with spices and buried it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other women sat opposite the tomb watching where the Lord was buried.

A Holy Vigil at Christ's tomb is our opportunity to spend time in spiritual reading, meditation and prayer while one or more people read the Psalms and the Gospel before the Tomb in the Church. The Vigil is kept after the services on Friday night until services on Holy Saturday.

A Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule of the Church at the Candle Desk. Please sign up for your hour of watch. For more information, please contact Mary Marcin @330-730-0963

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY
Saturday, May 4

9:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

11:30 pm Nocturnes
Removal of the Shroud from the Grave

THE HOLY PASCHA

Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, May 5

12:00 Midnight

Resurrection Matins
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

11:00 am

Agape Vespers of Holy Pascha
Gospel: John 20:19-25

BRIGHT WEEK

BRIGHT MONDAY

Monday, May 6
9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 1
SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY

Saturday, May 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, May 12

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray
9:30 am Baptismal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Baptism of Elias Ivan Hodge, son of Jefferson and Katherine, brother of August
Godparents: Subdeacon Aaron and Catherine Gray

Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epistles: Acts 5:12-20 Romans 6:3-11
Gospels: John 20:19-31 Matthew 28:16-20

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13–20

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13 For when God made a promise to Abraham,
because He could swear by no one greater, [q]He swore
by Himself, **14** saying, [r]*"Surely blessing I will bless
you, and multiplying I will multiply you."* **15** And so,
after he had patiently endured, he obtained
the [s]promise. **16** For men indeed swear by the greater,
and [t]an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all
dispute. **17** Thus God, determining to show more
abundantly to [u]the heirs of promise [v]the [6]immutability
of His counsel, [7]confirmed *it* by an oath, **18** that by
two [8]immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for
God to [w]lie, we [9]might have strong consolation, who
have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set
before *us*.

19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both
sure and steadfast, and which enters
the *Presence* behind the veil, **20** where the forerunner
has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High
Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

17 Then one of the crowds answered and said,
"Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute
spirit. **18** And wherever it seizes him, it throws him
down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and
becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they
should cast it out, but they could not."

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless[a] generation,
how long shall I be with you? How long shall I [b]bear
with you? Bring him to Me.” **20** Then they brought him
to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit
convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and
wallowed, foaming at the mouth. **21** So He asked his
father, “How long has this been happening to him?”
And he said, “From childhood. **22** And often he has
thrown him both into the fire and into the water to
destroy him. But if You can do anything, have
compassion on us and help us.”**23** Jesus said to
him, “If[c] you can believe, all things *are* possible to
him who believes.” **24** Immediately the father of the
child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I
believe; help my unbelief!” **25** When Jesus saw that the
people came running together, He rebuked the unclean
spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command
you, come out of him and enter him no
more!” **26** Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him
greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one
dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” **27** But Jesus took
him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28** And
when He had come into the house, His disciples asked
Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” **29** So
He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing
but prayer [d]and fasting.” **30** Then they departed from
there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want
anyone to know *it.* **31** For He taught His disciples and
said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into
the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He
is killed, He will rise the third day.”

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Commemorated on April 14

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age,[1] his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skḗtē and Tabénnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience. Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.After writing The Ladder at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

(from the Lenten Triodion)

O holy Father, hearing the Lord's voice in the Gospel, you spurned the riches and glory of the world. You cry out to all: "Love God and find eternal grace! Set nothing higher than His love; thus, you will find rest with all the saints, when He comes in glory!" Through his prayers guard and save our souls, O Christ.

CONFESSION

Confession is a sacred rite that Orthodox Christians are encouraged to participate in as often as they are called upon to do. It is a time in which we confess our sins to God and seek His forgiveness. The Orthodox Church practices confession in accordance with the biblical teachings. It teaches that only God can forgive us our sins through Jesus Christ, and only if we are truly repentant. Confession is an open admission of sin before God, in the presence of our Spiritual Father.

Before going to confession, you should first prepare yourself by reviewing your life by an examination of conscience. Confession is not a punishment but a spiritual exercise to help you grow in the Lord.

On the counter in the Church vestibule is a booklet that includes an examination of conscience aid and prayers before and after confession. Please take a copy.

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

The **Combined Akron Lenten Services** are served each Sunday evening during Great Lent at **5:00 pm**.
April 14 - Vespers: St. Thomas Church
April 21 - Holy Unction: St. Nicholas Church

PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING
Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm

OUR STEWARDSHIP, April 7, 2024

Candles:	**$ 135.00**
Improvement Fund::	**5.00**
Sunday Offerings:	**1,255.00**
TOTAL	**$1,395.00**
Tithely Donations:	**425.90**
PayPal	**31.40**
TOTAL	**$457.30**
TOTAL OFFERINGS:	**$1,852.30**

WISH LIST

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

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
Sacramental Wine ($48.00 for a case of 12)

Please make your donations for the FLOWERS that will that will adorn the GRAVE on Good Friday and the CHURCH on Holy Pascha

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
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Florence Lambo
Martin Vronick
Pani Dolores Zuder
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Halina Woroncow
Louis Hakim
Mary Elizabeth Marcin
Carl Nickoloff
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)

PANAKHIDA (1 year) for the repose of the soul of +Rose Marie Vronick after 5 pm Vespers, April 13, at St. Nicholas Church.

4th annual

NATIONAL ORTHODOX BABY SHOWER

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE

Our community outreach group, ***The Workers of Saint Elizabeth***, is joining with Orthodox parishes across the country to hold a "baby shower" to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children. Join us in collecting the listed items below to benefit ***Zoe for Life*** located in Cleveland.

Items can be brought to church **until April 28th** and place them in the Pack and Play located in the Church Hall.

Questions? Please contact Veronica Bilas or Subdeacon Aarron Gray

Diapers sizes Newborn to 6
Pullups (any size)
Baby Wipes
Baby Clothes (new up to 2T)
Blankets
Toys (new)
Cribs (new)
Target/Walmart gift cards
Pacifiers (new)
Baby Socks
Bottles (new)
Diaper Bags
Car Seats (new)