WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 21, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 16
Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
Saint Mary of Egypt

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, 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

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

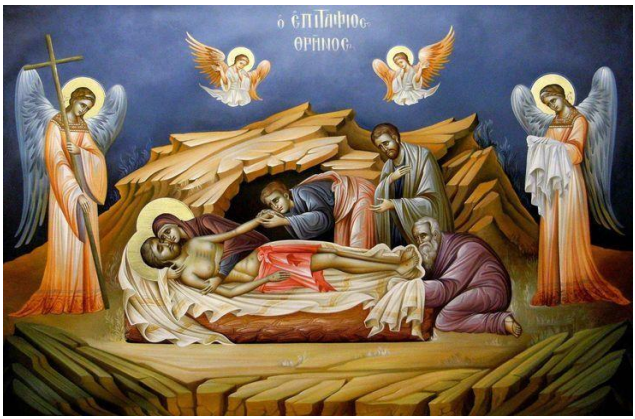
GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM TUESDAY
Tuesday, April 30
6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

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 – *Mother's Day*
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 and brother of August
Godparents: Subdeacon Aaron and Catherine Gray
As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 2
Myrrh-bearing Women
Saturday, May 18
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, May 19
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours:Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrew Gray was inducted into the National Honor Society. God bless you Andy. You make all happy for you and proud of you. ***Many Years!***

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11–14

The Heavenly Sanctuary

11 But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good
things [3]to come, with the greater and more perfect
tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this
creation. **12** Not with the blood of goats and calves,
but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy
Place once for all, having obtained eternal
redemption. **13** For if the blood of bulls and goats
and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean,
sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **14** how much
more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal
Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse
your conscience from dead works to serve the living
God?

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection

32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and
Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And
as they followed, they were afraid. Then He took the
twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that
would happen to Him: **33** "Behold, we are going up to

Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; **34** and they will mock Him, and [a]scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

Greatness Is Serving

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

39 They said to Him, "We are able."

So, Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; **40** but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared."

41 And when the ten heard *it,* they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. **42** But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that

those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one's exercise authority over them. [43] Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. [44] And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

[45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

PARISH LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK

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

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

PARISH SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, April 27 – We need your help for our clean-up inside and outside the church from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt

The primary source of information on Saint Mary of Egypt is the *Vita* written of her by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem (634–638). Most of the information is taken from this source.

Saint Mary, also known as Maria Aegyptiaca, was born somewhere in the Province of Egypt, and at the age of twelve she ran away from her parents to the city of Alexandria. Here she lived an extremely dissolute life. In her *Vita* it states that she often refused the money offered for her sexual favors, as she was driven "by an insatiable and an irrepressible passion", and that she mainly lived by begging, supplemented by spinning flax.

After seventeen years of this lifestyle, she traveled to Jerusalem for the Great Feasts of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. She undertook the journey as a sort of "anti-pilgrimage", stating that she hoped to find in the pilgrim crowds at Jerusalem even more partners in her lust. She paid for her passage by offering sexual favors to other pilgrims, and she continued her habitual lifestyle for a short time in Jerusalem.

Her *Vita* relates that when she tried to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the celebration, she was barred from doing so by an unseen force.

Realizing that this was because of her impurity, she was struck with remorse, and upon seeing an icon of the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary) outside the church, she prayed for forgiveness and promised to give up the world (i.e., become an ascetic).

Then she attempted again to enter the church, and this time was permitted in. After venerating the relic of the true cross, she returned to the icon to give thanks, and heard a voice telling her, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest."

She immediately went to the monastery of Saint John the Baptist on the bank of the River Jordan, where she received absolution and afterwards Holy Communion.

The next morning, she crossed the Jordan and retired to the desert to live the rest of her life as a hermit in penitence. She took with her only three loaves of bread, and once they were gone, lived only on what she could find in the wilderness.

Approximately one year before her death, she recounted her life to Saint Zosimas of Palestine, who encountered her in the desert.

When he unexpectedly met her in the desert, she was completely naked and almost unrecognizable as human. She asked Zosimas to toss her his mantle to cover herself with, and then she narrated her life's story to him.

She asked him to meet her at the banks of the Jordan, on Holy Thursday of the following year, and bring her Holy Communion. When he fulfilled her wish, she crossed the river to get to him by walking on the surface of the water, and received Holy Communion, telling him to meet her again in the desert the following Lent.

The next year, Zosimas travelled to the same spot where he first met her, some twenty days' journey from his monastery, and found her lying there dead. According to an inscription written in the sand next to her head, she had died on the very night he had given her Communion and had been somehow miraculously transported to the place he found her, and her body was preserved incorrupt.

He buried her body with the assistance of a passing lion. On returning to the monastery he related her life story to the brethren, and it was preserved among them as oral tradition until it was written down by St. Sophronius. The date of her repose is observed on April 1.

Beginning of HOLY WEEK
Lazarus Saturday
April 27

On the Saturday before Holy Week, the "Orthodox Church commemorates major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days.

Here, at the end of Great Lent and the forty days of fasting and penitence, the Church combines this celebration with that of Palm Sunday. In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious feast of Pascha.

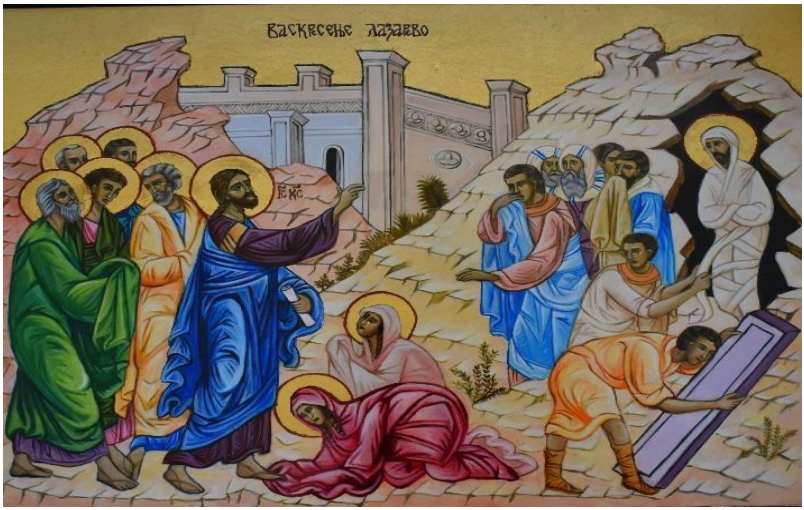
This miracle is performed by Christ as a reassurance to His disciples before the coming Passion: they are to understand that, though He suffers and dies, yet He is Lord and Victor over death.

The resurrection of Lazarus is a prophecy in the form of action. It foreshadows Christs own Resurrection eight days later, and at the same time it anticipates the resurrection of all the righteous on the last day: Lazarus is ***"the saving first-fruits of the regeneration of the world."***

As the liturgical texts emphasize, the miracle at

Bethany reveals the two natures of Christ the God-man. Christ asks where Lazarus is laid and weeps for him, and so He shows the fulness of His manhood, involving as it does genuine grief for a beloved friend. Then disclosing the fulness of His divine power, Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, even though his corpse has already begun to decompose and stink.

This double view of the Lord's divinity and His humanity is to be kept in view throughout Holy Week, and above all on Good Friday. On the Cross we see a genuine human agony, both physical and mental, but we see more than this: we see not only suffering man but suffering God.



Lazarus Saturday Services
Friday, April 26, 6:00 pm – Vigil
Saturday, April 27, 9 am – Divine Liturgy

Holy Week - Palm Sunday
April 28

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha, and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year – Palm Sunday, commemorating the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem.

The Biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:1-18). Five days before Passover. Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Hm a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city. People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teachings and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting***, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"*** On this day we worship Christ in the same manner as King and Lord.

Palm Sunday Services
Saturday, April 27, 5:00 pm - Vigil and Blessing of Palms and Willows
Sunday, April 28, 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom and Procession

RED EGGS

Please bring a half-dozen of Red Eggs to the midnight Service of Pascha. Bring them to the Church Office and Father Don will bless them and distribute them to everyone in church at the end of the Liturgy.

RED EGGS symbolize the New Life in the Risen Christ granted to us through His Precious Blood shed on the Cross. As Father presents each one of us with a red egg, he will greet us with ***"Christ is Risen"*** and we respond ***"Indeed, He is Risen."***

BLESSING OF THE ARTOS

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the **ARTOS** will be blessed. Artos is a Paschal Bread and bears on it the Icon of the Resurrection. In the Old Covenant the Jews commemorated the Passover from bondage in Egypt by sacrificing a Passover Lamb.

Christ is our Passover Who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death. The Artos is offered and blessed on Holy Pascha and symbolizes the Angelic Bread, the Bread of Eternal Life – our Lord Jesus Christ. We will break the Bread and partake of it on the eighth day of Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday

PASCHAL BASKET BLESSING

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the Paschal Baskets will be blessed in the Church Hall. Children are encouraged to bring their baskets.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, April 14, 2024	
Candles:	**$103.00**
Flower Fund:	**75.00**
Bookstore:	**30.00**
Insurance Award:	**126.00**
Sunday Offerings:	**245.00**
TOTAL	**$579.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$637.56**
PayPal	**150.65**
TOTAL	**$788.21**
TOTAL OFFERINGS:	**$1,367.21**

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)

PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

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

ENVELOPES labeled "Fower Fund" are available on the counter in the Vestibule and on the Candle Desk in the Church.

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)
Archie Alexander

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 placed 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