WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 21, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 28
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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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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

Sunday, July 21 - Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, July 28 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, August 4 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, August 11 - Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, August 18 Subdeacon Aaron Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 3
Prophet Ezekiel
Saturday, July 20
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, July 21
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: Romans 6:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 4
Holy Apostles of the Seventy and Deacons: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas
Saturday, July 27
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, July 28
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: Romans 10:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Following the Divine Liturgy will be the
BLESSING OF CARS. MOTORCYCLES, BYCYCLES *OR* ANYTHING ON WHEELS
and a
PAISH PICNIC at Columbia Woods Park
4060 Columbia Woods Drive
Please sign up: Drinks and side dishes are needed, plus please list how many will be coming.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

18 And having been set free from sin, you became
slaves of righteousness. **19** I speak in
human *terms* because of the weakness of your
flesh. For just as you presented your
members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of
lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now
present your
members *as* slaves *of* righteousness [a]for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free
regarding righteousness. **21** What fruits did you
have then in the things of which you are now
ashamed? For the end of those
things *is* death. **22** But now having been set free
from sin, and having become slaves of God, you
have your fruit [b]to holiness, and the end,
everlasting life. **23** For the wages of sin *is* death,
but the [c]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum,
a centurion came to Him, pleading with

Him, **6** saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. **9** For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one,* ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

10 When Jesus heard *it,* He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! **11** And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **12** But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **13** Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Prophet Ezekiel

Commemorated on July 21

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and amid the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a

human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth.

During this vision the holy prophet fell upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to

which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine, the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry. Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry.

Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him and is included in the Old Testament.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, July 14, 2024

Candles:	**$ 74.00**
Bookstore::	**30.00**
OCMC Coin Box:	**71.00**
Tray Offerings:	**1,744.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,919.00**
Tithely Donations:	**670.57**
TOTAL OFFERNGS	**$2,589.57**

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NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 28

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF VEHICLES

O Master, Lord our God, hearken to our prayer which we now address unto Thee, and bless these vehicles with Thy holy right hand. Sne down upon them Thy Guardian Angel, that all who desire to journey in them may be preserved safely and shielded from every evil end. And as the Ethiopian man riding in the chariot and reading of the holy prophecy, was granted faith and grace through Thine Apostle, so now do Thou manifest the path of salvation to thy servants who shall travel by these vehicles, that with Thy helping grace they may be clothed upon with good works, and after the completion of this life, may be vouchsafed everlasting joy in Thy heavenly Kingdom. For Thine is the might, and the kingdom, and the power and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

PARISH PICNIC at Columbia Woods Park
4060 Columbia Woods Drive
Please sign up: <u>Drinks and side dishes are needed,</u> plus salad or dessert. We also need hot dog buns, hamburger buns and bags of ice. Please list how many will be coming.

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)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)
Gregory Sugden
David Elioff