WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 4, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 30
SIXTH 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, August 4 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, August 11 - Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, August 18 - Bud Graham
Sunday, August 25 -- Sandy Graham
Sunday, September 1 – Reader Nicholas Morelli

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

THE DORMITION FAST

August 1-14

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 5
Holy Seven Youths (Seven Sleepers) of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Constantine and Antonius

Saturday, August 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 4

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Monday, August 5

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Blessing of grapes, other fruits and herbs

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Tone 7 – Afterfeast of the Transfiguration

Saturday, August 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 11

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7 Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7** or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Behave Like a Christian

9 *Let* love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. **10** *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, patient[a] in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; **13** distributing to the needs of the saints, given[b] to hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

9 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. **2** [b]Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. [c]When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." **3** And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" **4** But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? **5** For which is easier, to say, '*Your* sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? **6** But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house. **7** And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw *it,* they marveled [1]and glorified God, who had given such power to men

August 6th

FEAST OF THE HOLY TRANFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the Gospels. When our Lord was recognized by His apostles as the Christ, the Messiah – the Son of the Living God, He told them that…***He must go up to Jerusalem… and suffer many things…and be killed … and on the third day be raised from the dead.*** *(Matthew 16)*

The announcement of Christ's approaching passion and death upset the disciples. And then, after correcting them, the Lord took Peter, James and John up to the high mountain, by tradition, Mt. Tabor, and was ***"transfigured before them and His Face shown like the sun and His garments became white as snow and behold there appeared to them Moses and Elia talking with Him."***

The event of the Transfiguration teaches us that God fulfills His promise to man. But the fulfillment is greater than any man could possibly realize. The Savior was sent not just a messenger but the Son of God in human flesh. The mystery of the Transfiguration teaches us that the fulness of the Godhead is found in Jesus and that the ***dwelling place of God is with man.***

In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of God present in majesty and in the person of Jesus the Christ.

Continued on next page

They see this before the Crucifixion so that in the Resurrection they might know Who He is Who suffered for them, and what it is that this Jesus – Who is both God and Man – has prepared for those who love Him and His Heavenly Father.

The glory of God has appeared in Jesus!

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord,
the mountain became as heaven,
and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out,
when You were transfigured, and the Father bore witness to You. Peter was present with James and John, since they were to be with You at the time of Your betrayal, that, having seen Your wondrous works, they might not be afraid of Your sufferings.
Grant us to venerate Your sufferings in peace,
through Your mercy!

The Feast of the Transfiguration will be celebrated at St. Elia with the Great Vespers on Monday, August 5, at 6:00 pm followed by the Blessing of Grapes, other fruits and herbs.

Please bring your basket and bowls and place them for blessing on the table by the Icon of St. Herman.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Elwood City, Pa. on Tuesday, August 6, at 9:30 am in the outside chapel.

Holy Transfiguration Monastery
Elwood City, Pa.

PATRONAL FEAST

Annual Pilgrimage

Presiding Hierarch
His Grace the **Right Reverend Irinej**
Bishop of Washington-New York
and Eastern America
The Serbian Orthodox Church

Monday, August 5—Eve of Transfiguration

6:00 Festal Vigil Service

Tuesday, August 6—Feast of Transfiguration

9:00 Greeting, Procession, and Vesting of Hierarch in Outdoor Church

9:30 Hierarchical Liturgy

12:00 Catered Luncheon

2:30 Holy Unction with singing of Paraklesis Hymn

A Blessed Dormition Fast

The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary will be celebrated on **Thursday, August 15**, and is preceded by a two week fast from August 1 through August 14.

This Feast which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fulness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, since she bore the same mortal body that every person has who comes into the world, and that having truly died, she was raised by her Son as the Mother of Life.

When the Translation of your immaculate body was being prepared, the Apostles surrounded your deathbed and looked on you with trembling. They gazed at your body and were seized with awe, while Peter cried out to you with tears: "O Virgin, I see you, who are the life of all, lying here outstretched, and I am struck with wonder. for the Delight of the life to come made His dwelling in you. But fervently implore your Son and God, O immaculate Lady, that your people may be kept safe from harm!"

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
Kristopher Barnhart: son of Diego and Chanelle - Naval Station Great Lakes in Chicago

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Alexander
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
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
Carl Nickoloff
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)

THE JESUS PRAYER

United to Jesus Christ through Holy Baptism, we are called and give the grace to know Jesus in a personal way. Jesus is more than a doctrine. He is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing, comforting power of the Name of Jesus, early Christians built 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 earliest Chistian Prayer is called the Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name itself:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me a sinner!

This simple prayer prayed with faith and perseverance calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us: ***Make your home in Me, as I make Mine in you***. *[Cf. John 15:4]*

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 12 at 6:30 pm

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE
The Annual Conference of the Bulgarian Diocese of Toledo will be held October 4 to 6 at our Parish of Saint Elia.

The 21st All-American Council

The Orthodox Church in America is one year away from convening the **21st All-American Council,** set to take place from **July 14-18, 2025**, in Phoenix, AZ. The theme of the 21st AAC is "Gathered Together By Christ."

The visit of the Pre-Conciliar Commission to the location in March 2023 confirmed its suitability for the work of the AAC, the exhibition hall, presentations, youth program, and the social life of the delegates which comes along with gathering in Council.

As defined in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, "the All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. The Council brings together the various elements of the Church to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission."

OUR STEWARDSHIP, July 28, 2024

Candles:	**$ 91.00**
Tray Offerings:	**319.00**
TOTAL:	**$410.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$355.74**
TOTAL OFFERNGS	**$765.74**