WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 18, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 32
EIGTHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

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 Coordinator:
Popadia Donna Freude

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:
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 18 - Bud Graham
Sunday, August 25 -- Sandy Graham
Sunday, September 1 – Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 8 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, September 15 –Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7
Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Repose of Saint John, Abbot of Rila Monastery. Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria

Saturday, August 17

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18

Sunday, August 18

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18 Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Friday, August 23
Leavetaking of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8
Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew from Anastasiopolis to Lipari. Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy, Bishop Crete

Saturday, August 24

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, August 25

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

10 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be
unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all
passed through the sea, **2** all were baptized into Moses
in the cloud and in the sea, **3** all ate the same spiritual
food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they
drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and
that Rock was Christ. **5** But with most of them God
was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in
the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent
that we should not lust after evil things as they also
lusted. **7** And do not become idolaters as *were* some of
them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and
drink, and rose up to play." **8** Nor let us commit sexual
immorality, as some of them did, and in one day
twenty-three thousand fell; **9** nor let us [a]tempt Christ,
as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by
serpents; **10** nor complain, as some of them also
complained, and were destroyed by the
destroyer. **11** Now [b]all these things happened to them
as examples, and they were written for
our [c]admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages
have come.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

14 And when Jesus went out, He saw a great multitude;
and He was moved with compassion for them and
healed their sick. 15 When it was evening, His disciples
came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the
hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that
they may go into the villages and buy themselves
food.”

16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go
away. You give them something to eat.”

17 And they said to Him, “We have here only five
loaves and two fish.”

18 He said, “Bring them here to Me.” 19 Then He
commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.
And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and
looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave
the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the
multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they
took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that
remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five
thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Sea

22 Immediately Jesus [a]made His disciples get into the
boat and go before Him to the other side, while He
sent the multitudes away.

THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF THE GOD

A Thought from +Father Alexander Schmemann

This great Feast of the Church, the Dormition of the Mother of God, and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God.

Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

Repose of Venerable John, Abbot of Rila, Bulgaria

August 18

Saint John of Rila, the great spiritual ascetic of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and Heavenly Protector of the Bulgarian nation, was born in the year 876 in the village of Skrino in the Sredets district [now Sofia].

After he had been orphaned, the boy became a cowherd to avoid people. Once the rich man beat him for losing a cow with its calf. The boy cried long and he prayed, that God would help him. When he found the cow with the calf, the water at that time flowed high and strong in the River Struma. The young cowherd prayed, he placed his own tattered shirt on the water, made the Sign of the Cross over it, took up the calf in his arms and went with it, as though on dry land, to the other bank of the river where the cow was.

The rich man, hidden in the forest, was frightened upon seeing this miracle. He rewarded the youth generously, then sent him away from his home. Having given away his things, the boy left his village. Where and when the saint took monastic tonsure is unknown.

At the very beginning he lived an ascetical life on top of a high and barren hill, eating only wild plants. His cell was made from brushwood. After a short time, robbers fell upon him by night, beat him, and drove him away. Later, he found a deep cave and settled in it.

Saint John spent twelve years in the desolate cave, and then he went into the Rila wilderness and settled in the hollow of a tree. He fasted and prayed a great deal, wept incessantly, and ate only grass. Seeing such endurance, God caused beans to grow, which he ate for a long time. The beans and his exploits made him known to people.

Once a flock of frightened sheep ran along the hilly steep paths and did not stop until the place where the monk lived. The shepherds, following the flock, with astonishment saw the hermit, who amicably greeted them: “You arrive here hungry. Pick some of my beans and eat.” All ate and were satisfied. One gathered many beans in the reserve. Along the way home he offered them to his comrades, but there were no beans in the pilfered pots. The shepherds turned back penitent, and the Elder stood there, saying with a smile: “See, children, these fruits are appointed by God for subsistence in the wilderness.”

From that time, they began to bring to the monk the sick and those troubled by unclean spirits, which he healed by prayer. Fleeing celebrity, the monk went

from his beloved tree-hollow and settled on a high and rocky crag difficult of access, where he dwelt for seven years under the open sky. Reports about the great ascetic reached even the Bulgarian king Peter (927-969), who wanted to meet him. Saint John wrote a letter, refusing such a meeting out of humility.

Later, Saint John accepted under him the guidance of monks, who built a monastery with a church in the cave where Saint John formerly lived. He wisely tended his flock and died on August 18, 946 at 70 years of age.

Five years before his end he wrote in his own hand "A Testament to Disciples," one of the finest creations of Old Bulgarian literature. The holy life of the ascetic and the remarkable mercies of God through his prayers were a fine preaching of the Christian Faith in the newly baptized Bulgarian land. In the uneasy time of struggle of Bulgaria with Byzantium, under the west Bulgarian king Samuel (976-1014), Saint John appeared to his disciples, commanding them to transfer his relics to Sredets (Sofia), where the Bulgarian Patriarch Damian (927-972) was hiding. It is presumed that the transfer of relics took place in the year 980.

Somewhat later, the right hand of Saint John of Rila was transferred to Russia (presumably to the city of Rila, where a church was constructed in the name of Saint John of Rila, with a chapel dedicated to the

martyrs Florus and Laurus, on the day of their commemoration (August 18) on which he died).

The name of Saint John was known and loved by the Russian people from antiquity. Data about the death of the saint is preserved, especially in Russian sources (the *Menaion* for August in the twelfth century, in the Mazurinsk Chronicle).

In the year 1183, the Hungarian king Bela II (1174-1196), during a campaign against the Greeks, seized the chest with the relics of Saint John, together with other booty, and took it to the city of Esztergom.

In the year 1187, after he embellished the reliquary, he sent back the holy relics with great honor. On October 19, 1238, the relics of Saint John were solemnly transferred to the new capital, Trnovo, and put in a church dedicated to the saint. On July 1, 1469, the holy relics of Saint John of Rila were returned to the Rila monastery, where they rest to the present day, granting grace-filled help to all the believers.

Troparion ***(St.John of Rila)***

Your life was a foundation of repentance
And a model of compunction,
An image of consolation and spiritual perfection,
Equal to the angels, O venerable John.
Intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 (Akron City Hospital)
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Bud and Sandy Graham are celebrating their 58th Wedding Anniversary. Our Parish Family extends to them our prayerful congratulations and may God grant them **MANY YEARS.**

DEACONATE ORDINATION

The Annual Conference of the Bulgarian Diocese of Toledo will be held on the weekend of October 4 to 6, here at Saint Elia.

On **Sunday, October 6**, at the Pontifical Divine Liturgy **Subdeacon Aaron Innocent Gray**, of our Parish Family, will be ordained a Deacon of the Orthodox Church in America by His Eminence our Father and Archbishop Alexander. Let us remember Subdeacon Aaron as he prepares for his Diaconal ordination.

ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE, CLEVELAND

Volunteers are needed to serve noon lunch at St. Herman's House in Cleveland on Saturday, August 24. Arrival time: 11-11:30 am. See Jefferson Hodge

OUR STEWARDSHIP, August 11, 2024

Candles:	**$ 71.00**
Bookstore:	**15.00**
Tray Offerings:	**1,181.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,267.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$ 456.23**
TOTAL OFFERNGS	**$1,723.23**