WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 25, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 33

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 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 25 -- Sandy Graham
Sunday, September 1 – Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 8 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, September 15 –Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, September 22 Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Sunday, September 29 –Mary Beth Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8
Return of the Relics of the Apostle Bartholomew
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

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER, BAPTIST JOHN
Wednesday. August 28 – 6:00 pm
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Thursday, August 29 – STRICT FAST DAY

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
CHURCH NEW YEAR
Saturday, August 31
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14
Sunday, September 1
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli
Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16 Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Panakhida for the repose of the souls of Fr. John Bohush and Olga Bilas as requested by the Bohush family.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's
field; *you are* God's building. **10** According to the grace
of God, which was given to me, as a wise master
builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds
on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on
it. **11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that
which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone
builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious
stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one's work will
become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it
will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each
one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work
which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a
reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer
loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through
fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God
and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? **17** If
anyone [a]defiles the temple of God, God will destroy
him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you
are.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Jesus Walks on the Sea

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

sent the multitudes away. **23** And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. **24** But the boat was now [b]in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, [c]"Be of good cheer! [d]It is I; do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. **30** But when he saw [e]that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" **32** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. **33** Then those who were in the boat [f]came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." **34** When they had crossed over, they came [g]to the land of Gennesaret.

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

Commemorated on August 29

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet,

whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in an unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, **a Feast Day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day** because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round on this day.

The Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, August 28, at 6:00 pm.

CHILDREN'S BOOK CASE

We wish to thank Ellen Rees for the new book case for our children's Library and its plentiful books and welcome her to our Parish Family.

A NEW DISH WASHER

Through the generosity of Mr. George Shiekh, the father of Natalie Shiekh Slife, Saint Elia Parish is the recipient of a new dish washer. We thank him for this donation and wish him **Many Years.**

IN APPRECIATION

Much thanks goes to Anastasia Bohush for her dedication in serving as Coordinator and teaching in our church School Program for the past two years. **Many Years!**

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School for 2024-2025 will begin on Sunday, October 13, with Popadia Donna as Coordinator.

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

On Sunday, **September 8**, we will receive Randy Warner, Amber Larabee, and the children Marceline and Bonnibel into the Catechumenate.

On Sunday, **September 15**, we will receive Daniel Williamson into the Catechumenate.

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.

Subdeacon Aaron Innocent was tonsured a Reader by Metropolitan Herman on October 8, 2006, and ordained a Subdeacon by Archbishop Alexander on December 11, 2022.
Let us remember Subdeacon Aaron as he prepares for his Diaconal ordination.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, August 18, 2024

Candles:	$ 92.00
Special Donation:	50.00
Sisterhood of St. Juliana:	500.00
Tray Offerings:	1,494.00
TOTAL:	$2,136.00
PayPal Donations:	$ 25.00
Tithely Donations:	404.74
TOTAL:	$429.74
TOTAL OFFERNGS	$2,565,74

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
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Halina Woroncow
Carl Nickoloff (Akron City Hospital)
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)

Love One Another

"I give you a <u>new</u> commandment," said Jesus, "love one another." …He showed the newness of His command and how far the love He enjoined surpassed the old conception of mutual love by going on immediately to add: ***"Love one another as I have loved you."*** To understand the full force of these words, we have to consider how Christ loved us. Then it will be easy to see what is new and different in the commandment we are now given.

Do you see what is new in Christ's love for us? The law commanded people to love their brothers and sisters as they love themselves, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us more than Himself. He who was one in nature with God the Father and His equal would not have descended to our lowly estate, nor endured in His flesh such a bitter death for us, nor submitted the blows given Him by His enemies, to the shame, the derision, and all the other sufferings that could not be enumerated. Nor being rich, would He have become poor, had He not loved us far more than Himself. It was indeed something new to go as far as that!

Christ commands us to love as He did, putting neither reputation, nor wealth, nor anything whatever before love of our brothers and sisters. If need be we must even be prepared to face death for our neighbor's salvation as did our Savior's blessed disciples and those who followed in their footsteps. To them the salvation of others mattered more than their own lives, and they were ready to do anything to save souls that were perishing,

The Savior urged us to practice this love that transcends the law as the foundation of true devotion to God. He knew that only in this way could we become pleasing in God's eyes, and that it was by seeking the beauty of the love implanted in us by Himself that we should attain to the highest blessings.

St. Cyril of Alexandria