WEEKLY BULLETIN

September15, 2024 Vol. 41, No. 36
12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross

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
Staff: Natalie Slife, Martha Morelli. Subdeacon David Trace

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, 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.

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3
AFTERFEAST AND SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS.

Saturday, September 14 – STRICT FAST DAY

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, September 15

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: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

"You endured death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
You rose from the dead on the third day,
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God and enlightening the world.
Glory to You!"

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4
Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy

Saturday, September 21

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, September 22

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

16 Knowing that a man is not [a]justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! **18** For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. **19** For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

34 When He had called the people to *Himself,* with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **35** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

9 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God [a]present with power.

Troparion ***(Feast of the Cross)***
O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross,
preserve Thy habitation!

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Commemorated on September 14

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulcher be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulcher of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige

Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: ***"By this you shall conquer."***

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the

temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowd to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was

consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church; she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen-year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khozróēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his

successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: “The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

Before Thy Cross, O Master, we bow down in worship and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

By the Providence of God, our Parish Family of St. Elia has been entrusted with those who have been sent to us to love them and nourish them in the faith.

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

On Sunday, **September 8**, we received Randy Warner and his daughter Marceline into the Catechumenate.

We prayerfully congratulate them in their reception into the Catechumenate as they prepare to be received into the Church.

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Twenty-five classes are planned for our Church School Program for 2024-2025, beginning on Sunday, October 13 and ending on St. Thomas Sunday, April 27, with Popadia Donna as Coordinator.

Our children will be separated into three groups: Mrs. Natalie Slife – Preschool; Mrs. Martha Morelli – School Age; Subdeacon David Trace – High School

On Sunday, October 13, our children and our Church School Staff will begin the year with a Prayer and Blessing for the Opening of Church School.

A meeting of the CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF will be held on Sunday, September 22, in the Office.

DEACONATE ORDINATION

The Deaconate Ordination of Subdeacon Aaron Gray will take place at the Annual Conference of the Bulgarian Diocese of Toledo that will be held on the weekend of October 4 - 6, 2024, here at Saint Elia.

Subdeacon Aaron Innocent Gray was received into the Holy Orthodox Church and Chrismated here at Saint Elia om **November 10, 2002**.

On **Sunday, October 6**, **2024**, the Feast of Saint Innocent, 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.

The Archbishop laying his hand on the Subdeacon's head prays:

The grace divine, which always heals that which is infirm, and supplies that which is lacking, ordains the most pious Subdeacon to be a Deacon: Therefore, let us pray for him that the grace of the All-holy Spirit may come upon him.

DEACONATE ORDINATION CELEBRATION

Meal reservations deadline is Sunday, Sept. 22nd. Our parish 'techy' has made your reservation(s) and payment process as simple as possible. You can do it all online by clicking the **orange attached links below**. The weekend schedule:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5-
5:00 PM: VESPERS
6:00 PM CASUAL SOCIAL EVENING with great food, beer, soft drinks, and our very own parish Jazz Band! The price is **$12.00 per adult**, and children under the age of 12 are free**. Click here to register online** prepaid reservations only. Social event menu: Roast Pork Tenderloin, Baked Beans in bacon and brown sugar, German potato salad, Latke (fried potato pancakes prepared in several traditional European cuisines, including Polish and Hungarian) served with sour cream/applesauce, Dessert, Bread, Beer, and soft drinks.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
9:00 AM: GREETING OF ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER, FOLLOWED BY THE PONTIFICAL DIVINE LITURGY WITH ORDINATION OF OUR SUBDEACON AARON INNOCENT GRAY TO THE DIACONATE,
Banquet immediately follows. The price is **$17.00 per adult**. Children under age 12 are free**. Click here to register online** prepaid reservations only. Banquet menu: Boneless Breast of Chicken Piccata (Chicken breast sauteed and topped with a savory sauce of white wine, fresh lemon, and capers)/ Rice Pilaf, Key Largo Vegetable, Dessert (Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting), Coffee/Tea, and Soft Drinks.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OCW)

ANNUAL WELCOME and FELLOWSHIP TEA

Sunday, October 13, 2024 – 2 pm
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA: An Orthodox Christian Perspective

Presented by Protodeacon James Gresh of Saint Elia Orthodox Church

Fr. Deacon James will discuss his experience with mission work in China

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OUR STEWARDSHIP, September 8, 2024

Candles:	**$ 8.00**
Air Conditioner Donation:	**500.00**
Tray Offerings:	**380.00**
TOTAL:	**$888.00**
Tithely Donations:	**203.43**
TOTAL OFFERNGS	**$1,091.43**

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 (St. Edward's in Fairlawn)
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)

YOU ARE INVITED TO

A SONG OF VICTORY

A CONCERT PROUDLY PRESENTED BY A PANORTHODOX CHOIR OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND AREA

Please join us for a one-hour choral concert that will benefit Saint Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral, which was recently damaged by fire. The concert is open to the public, & free will donations will go directly toward the Restoration Fund.

The event will be held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, located at 6822 Broadview Road in Parma, Ohio, on September 15th, at 3 PM.

Light refreshments will follow, & CDs with 15 tracks of familiar Orthodox hymns will be available ($20 each). Also included on each CD is a special Interview with Father Ján Čižmár, Cathedral Dean. Professional recording time was donated by Spider Studios.

"The soul is healed by being with children."

Fyodor Dostoevsky