WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 17, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 45
20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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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 Rev. Deacon Aaron Gray

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, Eve Tavenier, Reader Nicholas Morelli. Frances Hakim, 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, November 17 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, November 24 –Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, December 1 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, December 8 - Marybeth Gray
Sunday, December 15 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, December 22 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES.

ADVENT - THE NATIVITY FAST

"The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled"

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4

Saturday, November 16

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14

Sunday, November 17

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Lighting of the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

Panakhida for the repose of the souls of Donald and Elaine Pedder as requested by the DiPuccio Family

THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Wednesday. November 20

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5

Saturday, November 23

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25

Sunday, November 24

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: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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: Luke 12:16-21

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a
certain rich man yielded plentifully. **17** And he thought within
himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store
my crops?' **18** So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my
barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and
my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many
goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be
merry." ' **20** But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul
will be required of you; then whose will those things be which
you have provided?'

21 "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich
toward God."

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord together with Feast of His Baptism in the Jordan are Feasts of Light celebrating the coming and manifestation of Christ the Light of the world. Nature itself helps us to experience these Feasts of Light.

With the coming of winter, the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas itself the reverse begins to happen. Nature prepares for the Coming of Christ, the Light in the darkness and so do we during the Holy Season of Advent.

The prophet Isaiah calls out in our darkness, ***"Come…walk in the light of the Lord"*** (Isaiah 2:5). That's not a streetlamp. That's a person: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, and our pathfinder

To help in our preparation, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, will have six candles on it: one for each Sunday in Advent. After the homily, the children will come up to light the candles on the wreath each Sunday.
Beginning today, Sunday, November 17, we will light the first candle on the wreath.

Think about the holiday demands that stress you most. Picture them as flashing lights. Try to close your eyes to them by imagining instead the first candle lit on the Advent Wreath, a reminder of Christ, the Light shining in darkness.

Our St. Elia Church School
Program

INVITES

everyone to join us this

Sunday, November 17th, following Divine Liturgy, in the hall for First Sunday of Advent *"Make It and Take It"* votive candle decorating.

Anyone wanting to express your creative side can join us at the craft table. You will receive a glass votive, and a variety of crafty decorations items will be available.

Let's all share in the journey of Advent by taking home your little votive to remind you that Christ is the light in every darkness that shines from the manger on the Feast of the Holy Nativity!

GOD'S PLAN

November 20

Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The blessed and ever-Virgin Mary Spring from the royal stock and family of David. Her father's name was Joachim and her mother's name was Anna. Their lives were plain and righteous before the Lord and irreproachable and pious before men.

Being childless, they were spurned by the Jewish people who consider it a curse from God and their gifts were rejected by the priest in the Temple. They continually offered prayers that God would bless them with a child.

An angel appeared on Joachim and then to Anna telling them that their prayers have been heard. When Anna heard she would conceive a child she said*:*

"As the Lord my God lives, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God and it shall minister unto Him all the days of its life."

When all hope was gone, Joachim and Anna gave birth to the pure Virgin, and, in piety, they promised to offer her to God. Today they fulfill their promise, giving their child as a sacrifice in the house of God.

Troparion of the Forefeast: ***Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow; today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord, the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.***

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

November 21

Seven days within the time of Advent, on November 21st, the Feast of Mary's Entrance into the Temple as a child is celebrated. This Feast is filled with important spiritual significance for we, the believers.

The texts of the Services tell how Mary was brought by her parents as a small child to the Temple in order to be raised there, consecrated to the service of the Lord, until the time of her betrothal in marriage.

According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community, which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to prepare herself to become the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine Child Who was to be born of her.

The main theme of Mary's Entrance into the Temple is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the LIVING TEMPLE OF GOD, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament that "THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IS WITH MAN."

THE VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, November 20 at 6:00 pm.

MADE TO CONTAIN GOD

The most wonderful thing about man is that he was created to contain God. This is the miracle of miracles! Each one was made to be a temple of God, a golden chalice, a tabernacle of God's Presence. The infinitely great God Who revealed Himself in Jesus as the great God of love waits to take up residence in us. He stands at the door of our soul and knocks until we hear His voice and His knock to open and let Him come in and sup with us in the heavenly banquet. He will not rest until He has invaded our heart and made it His throne. If we allow Him in, He will change our lives into the beautiful life of Jesus. As St. Paul expresses it: ***"I live, yet not I, but Christ live in me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

"From the moment the Virgin Mary entered the "holy of holies," life itself became the Temple. And when we celebrate The Entrance into the Temple, we celebrate man's divine meaning and the brightness of his divine calling. These cannot be washed away or uprooted from human memory"

The Virgin Mary, Fr. Alexander Schmemann

Kontakion of the Feast

The most pure Temple of our Holy Savior, and the most precious and Bridal Chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of the glory of God, openly appears today in the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the Most Holy Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: This is the heavenly Tabernacle.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING TODAY

The General Parish Meeting for the election of the members of the 2025 Parish Council will be held TODAY, Sunday**, November 17, 2025** following the Divine Liturgy.

The Nominating Committee: Subdeacon Terence Bilas, Jefferson Hodge and Mary Marcin will present the Nominees.
The following members of our Parish Family have been nominated for election: Deacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas, Bud Graham, Sandy Graham, Jefferson Hodge, Anthony Dodovich, Daniel Slife, Daniel Ralich.

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Church School Classes are held on Sunday morning following the Divine Liturg**y.**
Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Slife, Mrs. Eve Tavenier;
School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli, Mrs. Frances Hakim
High School: Subdeacon David Trace
Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude

OUR CATECHUMENS

Let us pray for our Catechumens who have been entrusted to our Parish Family:
Daniel Williamson, Randy Warner and his daughter Marceline, as they prepare to be received into the Church.

FOR THE ALASKAN SEMINARY – OCA

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart.. God loves a cheerful giver." (2Cor 9:6)

During the month of November – **November 1- December 1**- we will make our charitable offerings in support of the Seminarians and Catechists at St. Herman's Seminary Kodiak, Alaska.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

From November 15 to January 6, our parish charitable group, the Workers of St. Elizabeth, the New Martyr, will be collecting **socks, gloves, scarfs, caps and warm clothing for the Peter Maurin Center**. The Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families by offering meals, warm clothing and other necessities, and friendship. **Please place your donated items in the bin located near the Parish Family Christmas.**

OUR STEWARDSHIP, November 10, 2024

Candles:	**$ 57.00**
Diocesan Conference:	**91.76**
Tray Offerings:	**$1,040.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,088.76**
Tithely Donations:	**440.19**
TOTAL OFFERNGS	**$1,528.95**

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 -

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Alexander
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Matushka Valeria Zahersky
Pani Dolores Zuder
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Brian Gable (Protodeacon James' nephew)
Hilda Ralich (Dan Ralich's mother)