WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 1, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 47

23rd 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 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 Nichjolas Morell, 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, December 1 - Reader Joshua Werley
Sunday, December 8 – Mary Beth 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

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6

Saturday, November 30

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, December 1

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshy=ua Wherley

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Lighting of the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

Thursday, December 5

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, December 8

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader:Mary Beth Gray

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Lighting of the Fourth Candle on the Advent Wreath

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

As much as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.
For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.
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But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.
And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

The Rich Young Man

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.
You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and mother.'"
And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God."
And those who heard it said,"Who then can be saved?

But He said, "The things that are impossible with men are possible with God."

COME LORD JESUS

Come Lord Jesus! On Christmas Day, we celebrate the coming of the Son of God in flesh at His Birth in Bethlehem.

Come Lord Jesus! As Christians we are always standing in the Hope of His awesome and second glorious coming when He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords over His own creation.

Come Lord Jesus! In this Holy Season of Advent - a time of prayer, fasting, reflection and silence - we prepare for His coming to us in grace.

What does this mean? Advent is about deepening our relationship with God in ***"the grace of our lord Jesus Christ"*** (cf. Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:14). That relationship is one of friendship and intimacy. We are invited to intimate, mutual, loving fellowship with our Lord.

Every day we grow in Christ OR we weaken our relationship with Him because of our lack of purpose and commitment. This Advent season before Christmas is given to us by the Church as an opportunity once again to renew ourselves in Christ, to restore His Life in us, to prepare the good soil of our hearts to receive the seed of His Word for His Kingdom to come in us.

Our prayer during Advent can be summed up in the last words and prayer found in the book of Revelation:
Come Lord Jesus!

THE ADVENT WREATH

To help us in our preparation for the Feast of Christmas, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. After the homily, the children will come up to light the candles on the wreath each Sunday.

Today, Sunday, December 1, we will light the third candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers.

2025 CHURCH CALENDARS

2025 Church Calendars are available on the front pew.

ST. ELIA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

A St. Elia Christmas Ornament, designed our Deacon Aaron Gray, is available in our bookstore for $10.00.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

With the celebration of Christmas just weeks away, please consider making a donation for poinsettias and decorations. Christmas Flower Offerings Envelopes are available in the vestibule and on the Candle desk. .

OUR STEWARDSHIP, November 24, 2024

Candles:	**$ 33.00**
St. Herman's Seminary	**20.00**
Tray Offerings:	**600.00**
PayPal:	**44.80**
Tithely:	**924.14**
TOTAL:	**$1,621.94**

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 **for the Peter Maurin Center. Here is an updated list of needs:**

- **Hand warmers (many needed)**
- **Socks, large athletic type (many needed)**
- **Gloves and Hats**
- **Underwear, men and women, all sizes**
- **Hygiene items, either full or travel size, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap shampoo, deodorant, lotion, razors, feminine products, hand sanitizer, hygiene wipes (very much needed)**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Backpacks - news gent;y used**
- **Flashlights, including bateries**

Please place your donated items in the bin located in the Church Vestibule.

THE FEAST DAY OF SAINT NICHOLAS

OUR ANNUAL PARISH FAMILY SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

6:00 PM VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by a Lenten Luncheon
Please bring a meatless covered dish and/or dessert

AND

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

O who loves Nicholas the saintly,
O who serves Nicholas the saintly
Him will Nicholas receive
and give help in time of need.
Holy Father Nicholas

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Church School classes are held on Sunday mornings following the Divine Liturgy.
Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Slife, Mrs. Eve. Tavenier
School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli, Mrs. Fanes Hakim
High School: Subdeacon David Trace
Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude

OUR CATECHUMENS

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

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr. Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravecenco, son of Sergehi and Ludmila
Kristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

Khristopher Barnhart's new address:
440 Roberts Avenue
Pmb #1593
Pensacola, Florida
32511

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
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 Niglio
Melissa Trace
Louis Hakim
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Hilda Ralich

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…and when their children were murdered - the Jewish Palestinian, Armenian, Syrian, Ukrainian mothers screamed the same screams, cried the same tears…