WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 8, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 448

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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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Office: 330-724-7009

www.saintelia.com

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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, 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

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

REPOSE OF ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF ALL AMERICA

Thursday, December 12

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Saturday, December 14

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Matins Gospel: Matthew 16:9-20

Sunday, December 15

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Greah

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Greah

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Lighting of the Fifth Candle on the Advent Wreath

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**Epistle:**

Ephesians 2:14:22

For He is Himself our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances.so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.Through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you who are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself boeing the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord..

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Claiming True Peace

Keep your eyes on the Prince of peace, the One Who doesn't cling to divine power; the One Who touches the lame, the crippled, and the blind, the One Who speaks words of forgiveness and encouragement…Keep your eyes on Him Who becomes poor with the poor. He is the source of all peace. **Henri J.M.Nouwen**

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar of. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master,have mercy on us.
So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.
So Jesus answered and said, "Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"
"Were not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"
And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made yout well."

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ADVENT THANKFULNESS

With profound thanksgiving and devotion, we, the Church, claims the Virgin Mary as our spiritual Mother. We belong to her household. We are members of her family. We share her spirit of faith, tenderness and loving obedience. Fr. Basil Ross Aiden

Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by Saint Anna

Commemorated on December 9

The Gospels and other books of the New Testament do not mention anything about Saint Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. According to Tradition, the priest Matthan (Matthew 1:15), a resident of Bethlehem, had three daughters: 1. Mary, Sobe (Sobḗ), and Anna. Mary was married in Bethlehem, where she gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist.

The Holy Righteous Anna was the youngest daughter of the priest Matthan, who was from the tribe of Levi, of the family of Aaron. Her husband, the Holy Righteous Joachim was from the tribe of Judah, from the house and family of King David. According to the ancient promise, the Messiah was to come from the lineage of King David (Luke 2:4).

The couple lived in Nazareth of Galilee. Every year, they gave two-thirds of their income to the Temple in Jerusalem, and to the poor. By God's Providence, the holy couple had no children until their old age. They were greatly saddened by this, since the Jews considered childlessness a great misfortune and a punishment from God. They prayed fervently for the Lord to give them children.

On a certain feast, when the Israelites were bringing gifts to God in the Temple at Jerusalem, the High Priest, believing that the childless Joachim did not have God's blessing, refused to accept gifts from him. Saint Joachim was grief stricken. He consulted the genealogy of the twelve tribes of Israel and ascertained that all righteous men had offspring, including Abraham, when he was a hundred years old. Without returning home, Saint Joachim went into the wilderness and spent forty days there in strict fasting and prayer, entreating God's mercy for himself, and washing away his disgrace with bitter tears.

Saint Anna thought that she was to blame for their sorrow. One day saw a nest with barely fledged chicks in the branches of a laurel tree, she wept and prayed for the gift of a child, promising to bring the infant to God as an offering. As soon as Saint Anna spoke these words, an Angel of the Lord told her that her prayer had been answered, and revealed that she would have a daughter named Mary, through whom all the peoples of the world would be blessed. Rejoicing, Saint Anna hastened to the Temple in Jerusalem, in order to give thanks to God. She repeated her vow to dedicate the child to Him. An Angel came to Saint Joachim in the wilderness with the same news and commanded him to go to Jerusalem. There, the Righteous Anna conceived and gave birth to the Most Holy Theotokos.
The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted

from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

1.This Mary is the mother of Saint Anna, and the grandmother of the Theotokos. She is commemorated on the Sunday of the Forefathers.

Virgin Martyr Lucy of Syracuse

Commemorated on December 13

Saint Lucy was born in Syracuse, Sicily during the reign of Diocletian. She distributed her wealth to the poor, and made a vow of virginity. Since she refused to marry him, a rejected suitor denounced her to the prefect Paschasius as a Christian, and she was arrested. She was sentenced to be defiled in a brothel, but with God's help she preserved her purity.

Then the pagans attempted to burn her alive, but she was not harmed by the fire. Finally, she was killed by a sword thrust to the throat.

The name Lucy (Lucia) is derived for the Latin word for light (lux), and so she is often invoked for afflictions of the eyes. There is a tradition that she was blinded by her torturers, and the church of San Giovanni Maggiore in Naples even claims to possess her eyes

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 8, we will light the fourth candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers.

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, December 1 , 2024

Candles:	**$ 36.00**
St. Herman's Seminary	**20.00**
Tray Offerings:	**1,275..00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Christmas Flowers:	**10.00**
Tithely:	**475.75**
TOTAL:	**$1,821.75**

FOR THE ALASKAN SEMINARY – OCA

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

As you are able, please make your 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

PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

The Parish Family Christmas Tree has been set up in the hall and is waiting for your Family Ornament.
You are invited to bring an ornament from your family and hang it on the Parish Family Christmas Tree in eh hall.
Please identify your ornament by placing your name and this year's date (2024) on the ornament.

2025 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2025 Church Calendars, courtesy of Anthony Funeral Home, are available in the front

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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Planning ahead…CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

The Feast of theNativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is preceded by a Holy Week: the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.

Thursday, December 19 - 6:00 pm
Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Friday, December 20 - 6:00 pm
Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Saturday, December 21 - 5:00 pm
Great Vespers and Forefeast
Sunday, December 22
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
5:00 pm Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Monday, December 23 - 5:00 pm
Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ