WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 15, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 49

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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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 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 15 – Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, December 22 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday,December 29 - Sue EllenTurscak

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

ADVENT - THE NATIVITY FAST

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

CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

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

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Saturday, December 21
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, December 22
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25
Lighting of the Sixth Candle on the Advent Wreath

5:00 pm Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Monday, December 23 - 6:00 pm
Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

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Tuesday, December 24
5:00 pm Vigil of Christma - Compline and Matins
Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 25
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysosto
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

4 When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. **5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **7** in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **10** and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

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THE HIDDEN WAY -

"It is hard for me to imagine that God would reveal His Divine Presence to us in the self-emptying, humble way of the man from Nazareth. So much in me seeks influence, power, success, and popularity. But the way of Jesus is hiddenness, powerlessness, and littleness, It does not seem a very appealing way. Yet, when I enter into true deep communion with Jesus, I will find that it is the small way that leads to real peace and joy." **Henri Nouwen**

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master

. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the [a]maimed and the lame and the blind.'

22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

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Sisterhood of St.Juliana Meeting TODAY following the Divine Liturgy.

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 15, we will light the fifth 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 8 , 2024

Candles:	**$**	**41.00**
St. Herman's Seminary		**120.00**
Tray Offerings:		**190..00**
Christmas Flowers:		**90.00**
PayPal:		**37.83**
Tithely:		**495.75**
TOTAL:	**$**	**974.58**

FOR THE ALASKAN SEMINARY – OCA

"So let each one give as 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.

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.

WAITING IN SILENCE

Rejoice, O Isaiah! "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel," which is translated "God with us." (Luke 1:23; Isaiah 7:14)

With these words, the Old Testament Prophet's prophecy embodies the longings, the hopes and desires of God's people as they prepared to receive the One Who comes to grant them new life.

The JOY we experience on the Feast of Christ's Nativity depends on how well we have prepared ourselves to receive Him. We spend a great deal of time getting ready for Christmas. Countless hours can be devoted to shopping, decorating and menu planning. Important as these matters are to us, our ***spiritual preparation is critical*** if we are to catch the true Christmas spirit.

Let the longing and the silence of this season of Advent transmute into a proper preparation in prayer and fasting for welcoming the world's Greatest Love God walks into our soul with silent steps. God comes to us more than we go to Him. Never will His Coming be what we expect, and yet never will it disappoint. The more we respond to His gentle pressure, the greater will be our freedom.

REMEMBERING THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

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

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Matushka Myra Kovalak
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
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
Joey Gresh