WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 22, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 50
SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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, December 22 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, December 29 - Sue EllenTurscak

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas - Compline and Matins
Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY - SYNAXIS OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

Thursday, December 26

8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord

Saturday, December 28

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35

Sunday, December 29

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: SueellenTurscak
Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

By faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

The Faith of the Patriarchs

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son,* 18 [c]of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

The Faith of Moses

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful. 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, [h]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Genealogy of Christ

The book of the genealogy [l]of Jesus Christ, [b]the Son of David, [c]the Son of Abraham:

2 [d]Abraham begot Isaac, [e]Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot [f]Judah and his brothers. 3 [g]Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, [h]Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot [i]Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and [j]Jesse begot David the king.

[k]David the king begot Solomon by her [2]*who had been the wife* of Uriah. 7 [l]Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot [m]Abijah, and Abijah begot [3]Asa. 8 Asa begot [n]Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot [o]Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot [p]Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 [q]Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot [4]Amon, and Amon begot [r]Josiah. 11 [s]Josiah begot [5]Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, [u]Jeconiah begot
Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot [v]Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot
Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot
Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot
Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And
Jacob begot Joseph the husband of [w]Mary, of whom was born Jesus
who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen
generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen
generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are*
fourteen generations.

Birth of Christ

18 Now the [x]birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother
Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was
found with child [y]of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband,
being [6]a just *man,* and not wanting [z]to make her a public example,
was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about
these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you
Mary your wife, [a]for that which is concieved in her is of the Holy
Spirit. 21 [b]And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name
[8]Jesus, [c]for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken
by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 [d]*"Behold, [9]the virgin shall
be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name
Immanuel,"* which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the
Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and [1]did not know
her till she had brought forth [e]her [2]firstborn Son. And he called His
name 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 22, we will light the sixth candle on the wreath along with our Advent Prayers**. **On Christmas we light the Christ Candle.**

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 the hall.
Please identify your ornament by placing your name and this year's date (2024) on the ornament.

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. .

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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP, December 15 , 2024

Candles:	**$ 44.00**
St. Herman's Seminary	**190.00**
Tray Offerings:	**2,203,00**
PayPal:	**34.80**
Tithely:	**578.75**
TOTAL:	**$3,050.55**

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.

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