WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

January 12, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 2

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.saintlia.com

www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron

His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA

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, Reader 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:
Vice President, Sandy Graham, Secretary: Katherine Hodge, Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:
Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2025

Sunday, January 12 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, January 19 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, January 26 - Bud Graham
Sunday, February 2 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, February 9 – Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Christ is Baptized in the Jordan!
Glorify Him!

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4
Afterfeast and Sunday After the Theophany
Saturday, January 11
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, January 12
9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Michae Luc
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tuesday, January 14 – ***Leavetaking of Theophany***
Thursday, January 16 – ***Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter***
Friday, January 17 – ***Feast of Saint Anthony the Great***

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 5
Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt
Saturday, January 18
5:00 pm ***Profession of Faith and Holy Chrismation of Daniel Williamson***
Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, January 19
9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Panakhida (3 year) for the repose of the soul of +Larissa Freude as requested by her family
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: ***"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."*** (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying***:***

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."***

The Great Sanctification of Water

The Great Blessing of Water is prescribed in the Church on the Feast of Theophany. It begins with the chanting and censing of the water placed in the center of the church building, surrounded by candles and flowers as the sign of the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification through Christ and the Holy Spirit in the Kingdom of God.

The recreation and sanctification of all things is manifested in the service of the Great Blessing of Water.

The season of Christmas is a feast of light and joy, since we celebrate the coming of ***"the Light which gives light to every man coming into the world"*** (John 1:9)

The celebration of light continues with the great Feast of Theophany – the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan – known also as the Feast of Lights, when we sing: ***"Let Thine everlasting light upon us sinners."*** (Kontakion of Theophany)

THE BLESSING OF HOMES

The Central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River, is the act of blessing the homes and to pray with the faithful in the place where they live, blessing the surroundings with the sanctified water.

Father Don is planning to bless homes (with Popadia's Donna's driving assistance) If it is your wish that Father comes to your home for this special blessing, please sign the list on the counter in the Church Vestibule or call Father at 330-724-7009

When Father comes for the blessing, the following general principles should be observed:

1. A lighted candle, an icon or cross., and a bowl for the blessed water should be placed on a clean table, covered, if possible, with a white cloth,

2. All radios, televisions, etc. should be turned off.

3. All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table.

4. The first Christian names of all the members of the household, both living and deceased, should be clearly printed on a piece of paper. A form for this purpose is on the counter in the Church Vestibule.

Led by a candle, Father will go through the home sprinkling the Blessed Water while we sing the Troparion:

When Thou, O Lord was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Khristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS

Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Pani Dolores Zuder (Roger's Hospice Cener, Ridgewood Road)
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Martin Vronick
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Hilda Ralich

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A combined Parish Council meeting of the 2024 and 2025 Members will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30 pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Candles:	**$ 58.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Bookstore:	**45.00**
Special Donations:	**220.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**791.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**587.61**
TOTAL:	**$1,706.61**

BINGO SALAD SUPPER

Saturday, February 8th

Chicken Salad Dinner – Drinks – Dessert
Bingo – Prizes - Raffle Tickets – 50/50

Doors open at 5:00 pm
Dinner and Bingo 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Tickets $15.00 each / $7.00 for children ages 5-12
Advanced Reservations Only
Sponsored by the Sisterhood of St. Juliana
Call Anastasia Bohush 607-821-9225

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Please Note:
The Sisterhood is looking for
Small prize donations (around $5.00)
Basket donations or Monetary donations
The monetary donations can be given to
Anastasia Bohush and she will purchase the items.