WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

January 19, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 3

St. 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
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: Deacon 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: Deacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2025
Sunday, January 19 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, January 26 - Bud Graham
Sunday, February 2 - Reader Nicholas Morelli Sunday,
Sunday, February 9 - Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16
Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Panakhida (3 year) for the repose of the soul of +Larissa Freude as requested by her family

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6
Sunday of the Canaanite Woman
Saturday, January 25

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 26

9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Panakhida (3 year) for the repose of the soul of +Samir Hakim as requested by his wife Frances

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore. As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering: bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

The Blind Man of Jericho Healed

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me." So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "***What do you want Me to do for you?"*** He

said, “Lord that I may receive my sight.” The Jesus said to him, ***“Receive your sight, your faith has made you well.”*** And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to welcome to our Saint Elia Parish Family **Daniel Williamson** who will make his Profession of Faith and be Chrismated before the Great Vespers this Saturday evening, January 18.

Daniel has chosen as his patron St. John Maximovich, Bishop of Shanghai and San Francisco. Dr. William DiPuccio is his sponsor.

May God grant to our newest member Daniel peace and joy for **MANY YEARS!**

ETERNAL MEMORY

Pani Dolores Zuder, wife of Father Myron, mother of Gregory, David and Gary, fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, January 13.

At St. Geroge Antiochian Orthodox Church:
Saturday, January 18

Calling Hours: – 9am to 11 am
Funeral Service: 11:00 am

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 Onuphry of the Ukraine
Archbishop Anastasios of Albania
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
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.**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Sunday, February 2, 2025

OUR STEWARDSHIP
Sunday, January 12, 2025

Candles:	**$ 60.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**791.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**254.03**
TOTAL:	**$1,105.03**

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.

Orthodox Christian Women

Annual Winter Mini-Retreat & Continental Breakfast

Saturday January 25, 2025
9:30 am to noon

St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church
555 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road,
Fairlawn, Ohio

Join us for a morning of warm fellowship and encouragement in faith as

A panel of
Convert Orthodox Clergy present their faith journeys

ALL ARE WELCOME

For more information call:
Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638
Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 26, 2025

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 26, 2025, as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in the parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. Sanctity of Life Sunday falls two days after the annual March for Life, scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2025. This date marks the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion in the United States. Other participants in this year's march will be members of the Holy Synod of Bishops, representatives from the

stavropegial seminaries, and Orthodox Christians from across the country.

The Orthodox gathering at the March for Life will begin with a Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM at St. Nicholas Cathedral, located at 3500 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Following the Liturgy, participants will meet at 11:30 AM on the National Mall, on Madison Drive between 7th and 9th Streets NW (same location as in 2024). The March for Life Rally will take place from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, during which time His Beatitude will lead the Orthodox faithful in a Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion at approximately 12:30 PM.
At 1:00 PM, the March for Life will commence. The Orthodox group will sing hymns while processing and plans to exit the march before its conclusion. However, participants are welcome to continue to the Supreme Court, where the march is scheduled to conclude by 4:00 PM.

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday, I would like to speak to you about martyrdom. Specifically, by understanding martyrdom, which we might consider the most pure, fundamental realization of the Christian vocation, we understand just why we hold life sacred.

At first, this may appear paradoxical. Martyrdom, after all, is willingly surrendering one's life for the sake of the Christian faith. Martyrdom teaches us that life in this world is not to be compared with the glorious and everlasting life that awaits us in

the world to come. As the Lord says, ***"Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it"*** (Mk. 8:35). Christ promises us in his Beatitudes that ***"blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven"*** (Matt. 5:11–12).

When we are rejected by the world because we accept the Gospel—when we reject the world in order to take up our Cross—then we display the Christian faith in all its truth and power and glory. Martyrdom, etymologically and in fact, always means "bearing witness," and the greatest and most fundamental way to bear witness to the Gospel is to die for the sake of the Gospel. However, martyrdom, even when it points us towards the next life, also testifies to the immeasurable sacredness of our mortal life in this world. Here, in this life, it is possible for us to bear witness; here, in this life, we have the possibility of accepting Christ's gift of salvation. This is true for the literal martyrs, but it is also possible for every Christian through the bloodless martyrdom of asceticism. Whenever we die to our fleshly desires for the sake of the Gospel, we suffer a little martyrdom. Whenever we forgo power or wealth or gratification for the sake of Christ's commandments, we are bearing witness, in a small way, to the truth of the Christian faith.

In other words, martyrdom proper, as well as the ascetic martyrdom to which we are all called, are a way of ***"redeeming the time"*** (Eph. 5:16). Through Christ's Incarnation and Passion, the fallen world and passing present age have become an arena of spiritual struggle and the place where salvation is accomplished.

Seen from this perspective, life in this world is not something cheap and utilitarian, but incredibly dear. The Lord gives us this life that we might offer it back to him, fulfilling our primordial role as priest and mediator of creation: man is called to commend himself and his fellow-men and all his life to Christ our God. All life comes from God; all life belongs to God; and through the saving work of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, biological life in this world is now open to the possibility of true and everlasting life in the world to come.

Thus, on this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we bear witness to the truth that all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. We pray that the scales will fall from the eyes of our countrymen who do not recognize this basic truth, and we beseech the Lord that all violations of this holy principle—abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the rest—would come to a swift end in our age and our land. Finally, we pray that we might find the strength to live in accordance with this teaching, showing forth the sanctity of life by devoting our own life to the pursuit of sanctity, thus bearing witness in our flesh to the truth of the holy Orthodox Christian faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada