WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

February 9, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 6

Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

St. ELIA
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

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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

2025 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Deacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Daniel Slife
Members: Anthony Dodovich Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge, Daniel Ralich

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:

President: Sandy Graham
V. President: Kathy Gray
Secretary: Katherine Hodge
Treasurer: Mary Magensky
Assistant Treasurer: Anastasia Bohush

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Readers

Sunday, February 9 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, February 16 - Marybeth Gray
Sunday, February 23 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, March 2 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

1st Pre-Lenten Sunday
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE- Tone 8
Leavetaking of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
Saturday, February 8

4:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25

Sunday, February 9

9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
Saint George Eastern Orthodox Cub Scout Award to be given to Thomas Ritzman

2nd Pre-Lenten Sunday
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON– Tone 1
Saturday, February 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, February 16

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Marybeth Gray
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Marybeth Gray
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

MEMORIAL SATURDAY – MEATFARE SATURDAY
Friday, February 21

6:00 pm Vespers of Memorial Saturday Universal Panakhida for all the Faithful Departed

(If you have not already done so, please give Father Don all the Names of the Departed you wish to be remembered)

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

The Man of God and the Word of God

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life,
purpose, faith, longsuffering, love,
perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to
me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I
endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered to 9me. 12 Yes,
and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer
persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and
worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue
in the things which you have learned and been assured of,
knowing from whom you have learned *them,* 15 and that from
childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able
to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ
Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and
the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus
with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—
extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** I
fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' **13** And the
tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as
raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be
merciful to me a sinner!' **14** I tell you, this man went down to his
house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts
himself will be [a]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be
exalted."

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion
Commemorated on February 9

After the Sunday of Zacchaeus, the first Pe-Lenten Sunday is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the Triodion (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

Publican and Pharisee Vesper Verses

"The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart. The Publican bowed himself in repentance. They both stood before You, O Master: the one, through boasting, lost his reward, but the other, with tears and sighs, won Your blessing: Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Your presence, since You are the Lover of man."

"The weight of my transgressions burdens my eyes: I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven O Lord. Accept me in repentance, as You accepted the Publican; have mercy on me, O Savior! The Prayer of the Publican - God be merciful to me, sinner."

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"Virtues are formed by prayer.
Prayer preserves temperance.
Prayer suppresses anger.
Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy.
Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit,
and raises man to heaven."

St. Ephrem the Syrian
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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 Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Anderew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Martin Vronick
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Hilda Ralich
Ellen Rees

ETERNAL MEMORY

Pani Dolores Zuder
Matushka Suzanne Senyo
Archbishop Anastsios

Young Thomas Ritzman is receiving the medal of the St. George Orthodox Scouting Award today with the following Prayer

O Christ our God, we seek your blessing this day upon your servant Thomas who has completed the requirements of the Eastern Orthodox Commission on Scouting and is found worthy to wear the St. George Medal. Becoming more aware of God's presence in his daily life, especially through things done both in the Church and in the home, the emblem he will wear symbolizes the name of Christ. Furthermore, it bears witness that Thomas, a distinguished member of the Boy Scouts of America, is a faithful Orthodox Christian steward. In presenting this award, we offer our prayers for Thomas through the prayers of Saint George the Great Martyr. For to you is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Worthy! (after pinning the medal on the uniform)

PEOPLE: Worthy!

Journey to Pascha with the Psalms!

This year, we will continue an annual tradition at St. Elia since 2008 of praying the Psalms together as a parish community during Lent. It's an opportunity for us to draw nearer to Christ and one another during the fast, as we journey toward Holy Pascha.

The Orthodox Church has traditionally divided the book of Psalms into 20 sections. In our St. Elia prayer group, we will all pray a new section each day throughout the 40 days of Lent, beginning on March 3, so that we will pray through the entire book of Psalms twice during the course of the fast.

As we all join together in praying the Psalms, we can use this opportunity to pray for one another, for our parish, and for any special intentions that any of us may have by sharing prayer requests with one another via email. Additionally, you will receive Lenten reflections throughout the fast via email with quotes from the saints and other edifying material.

To participate, all you need is a Bible and a little bit of time to set aside each day.

You can join by going to http://saintelia.com/news/lenten-prayer-group/ and filling in the online form. Shortly before Great Lent begins, you will receive an email with a schedule of which Psalms to pray each day and the names of everyone else who is participating in the prayer group, so that we can remember one another in our daily prayers.

May the Lord bless us as we pray the Psalms together, and may He draw us nearer to Himself and to one another during this Lent. Have a blessed 40 days!

OUR STEWARDSHIP
Sunday, Februsry 2 2025

Candles:	**$ 117.00**
Special Donation:	**200.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**1,830.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**520.04**
PayPal Offerings:	**25.00**
TOTAL:	**$2,697.04**

LET US BEGIN LENT WITH JOY

Joy is at the heart of everything in the Christian life and Great Lent is no exception. The hymns call us to begin Lent this year on **March 3** with rejoicing.

Let us begin the Fast with joy.
Let us give ourselves to spiritual efforts.
Let us cleanse our souls. Let us cleanse our flesh.
Let us fast from passions as we fast from foods,
Taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit
And accomplishing them in love
That we all may be made worthy to see the passion of Christ our God and His Holy Pascha.
rejoicing with spiritual joy

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Our Greater Akron Orthodox Community will come together for VESPERS each Sunday evening:

March 9 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
5:00 pm -Presentation of Our Lord Church
March 16 - St. Gregory Palamas
5:00 pm – St. Thomas Church
March 23 – Veneration of the Cross
5:00 pm - St. Elia Church
March 30 – St. John Climacus
5:00 pm – St. George Church
April 6 – St. Mary of Egypt
5:00 pm - St. Nicholas Church