WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

February 16, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 7

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

St. 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

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:

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

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers 2025

Sunday, February 16 - Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, February 23 - Marybeth Gray
Sunday, March 2 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, March 9 - Sue Ellen Turscak

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES
The Lenten Triodion

2nd t 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: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

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)

3rd Pre-Lenten Sunday
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT- Tone 2
Saturday, February 22
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-18
Sunday, February 23
9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Marybeth Gray
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2
Gospel: Luke 25:31-46

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are
not [a]helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be
brought under the power of [b]any. **13** Foods for the
stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy
both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual
immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the
body. **14** And God both raised up the Lord and will also
raise us up by His power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of
Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and
make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! **16** Or do
you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one
body *with her?* For "the two," He says, "shall become one
flesh." **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with
Him*.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is
outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality
sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that
your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you,
whom you have from God, and you are not your
own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify
God in your body [c]and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me.*' So he divided into them *his* livelihood. **13** And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with [a]prodigal living. **14** But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. **15** Then he went and joined himself to be a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the [b]pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything.*

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, **19** and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer

worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, [c]‘Bring out the
best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand
and sandals on *his* feet. **23** And bring the fatted calf
here and kill *it and* let us eat and be merry; **24** for this
my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is
found.’ And they began to be merry.

25 “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came
and drew near to the house, he heard music and
dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked
what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, ‘Your
brother has come, and because he has received him
safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

28 “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore,
his father came out and pleaded with him. **29** So he
answered and said to *his* father, ‘Lo, these many years
I have been serving you; I never transgressed your
commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me
a young goat, that I might make merry with my
friends. **30** But as soon as this son of yours came, who
has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed
the fatted calf for him.’

31 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me,
and all that I have is yours. **32** It was right that we
should make merry and be glad, for your brother was
dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ”

"*OUR HEART IS RESTLESS UNTIL IT RESTS IN THE LORD"*

As we continue to prepare for the beginning of Great Lent, our Holy Church places before us today the Parable of the PRODIGAL SON. It is a story that graphically points out the impetuousness of a young son, who impatiently demanded his inheritance and consequently lost everything. It is a tale of unconditional mercy, as the father in the parable – symbolizing God Himself – lovingly welcomed home his humbled, repentant offspring.

More importantly, however, the Parable of the Prodigal Son can be likened to each of us looking in the mirror. In effect, this is a story about all of us. At one time or another, every one of us has given in to the same temptations that clouded the thinking of the Prodigal Son. We have abandoned our Father's house and have strayed from the path that has been set for us. We have all foolishly felt that we can make through life doing things "our way",

Inevitably we must all realize that seeking a life of pleasure cannot bring us true joy, for this can only be found when we are in communion with God. As St. Augustine tells us***: "Our heart is restless until it rests in the Lord."***

It is never to late to ***"rise and go to our Father."*** He wants all of us to return to Him. When we repent – He promises us a place in His Heavenly Kingdom..

MEATFARE - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

The Saturday before Meatfare Sunday is a day of remembering all those who have passed from this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

On Friday evening, February 21, the Vespers of the deceased, followed by a Panakhida for all the faithful departed this life, will be served at 6:00 pm.

Father Don has the names of the deceased that were given to him before. However, if you have new names to add, or if you have never given him the names, please do so before Divine Services.

Forms for the listing of the names are available on the counter in the vestibule. Please list your family name on the top of the form.

HYMN OF ST. JOHN DAMASCENE
Contemplating Death

What earthy delight endures unmingled with grief?
What earthly glory remains immutable?
All things are less than a shadow, more deluding than a dream.
In a single moment all these are effaced by death,
but in the light of Thy Countenance, O Christ,
and in the enjoyment of Thy beauty,
grant rest to the one Thou hast chosen

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

Great Lent begins this year, 2025, on Monday, March 3.

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the **Sunday of Orthodoxy**, celebrating the ***"Triumph of Orthodoxy"*** over Iconoclasm and the restoration of the veneration of Icons. On the **Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 9,** the Akron Orthodox Churches this year will gather to celebrate Vespers at **Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church at 5:00 pm.**

A Sunday of Orthodoxy Program Booklet is being prepared and your donations will support the work of the Orthodox Clergy Association, Christian Orthodox Council of Akron, and Orthodox Christian Women. Please give your donations **to Mary Marcin by Friday, February 28:**
Benefactor $100; Supporter $50; Patron $25; Sponsor $10.

The **Combined Lenten Vespers** will be served each Sunday evening during Great Lent at **5:00 pm**:
March 9 – Presentation of our Lord Church
March 16 – St. Thomas Church
March 23 – St. Elia Church
March 30 – St. George Church
April 6 – Holy Unction at St. Nicholas Church

FEAST OF THE ANNUCIATION- Vespers at **5:30 pm** at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

PREMEMBERING 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

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!

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 18 @ 6:30 pm

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING
Next Sunday, February 23, following the Liturgy

OUR STEWARDSHIP
Sunday, February 9, 2025

Candles:	**$ 65.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**595.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**388.87**
PayPal Offerings:	**4.20**
TOTAL:	**$1,053.57**