WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

March 16, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 11
Second Sunday of Great Lent

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

Scheduled Readers 2025

Sunday, March 16 - Daniel Slife
Sunday, March 23 - Bud Graham
Sunday, March 30 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, April 6 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 5

Saint Gregory Palamas

Saturday, March 15

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 16

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Daniel Slife

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Daniel Slife

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Panakhida for the repose of the soul of Reader William Paluch as requested by the family

5:00 pm LENTEN VESPERS at St. Thomas Church

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 21

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lenten Covered Dish

FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 6

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, March 22

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 23

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

5:00 pm LENTEN VESPERS at St. Elia Church

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Monday, March 24

5:30 pm Vespers at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Tuesday, March 25

6:00 PM Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at St. Elia Church

Friday, March 28

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Covered Dish

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 7

Saint John Climacus of Sinai

Saturday, March 29

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 30

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

5:00 pm LENTEN VESPERS at St. George Church

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 10
10 And:

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
11 They will perish, but You remain;
And they will all grow old like a garment;
12 Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail."

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:

"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to the minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Do Not Neglect Salvation

2 Therefore we must give [a]the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

2 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 [a] Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" has [b] 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

THE JESUS PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER

United to Jesus through Holy Baptism, we are called and given the grace to know Jesus in a personal way. Jesus is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing and comforting power of the Name of Jesus, the Jesus prayer is a simple prayer around this "Name that is above all other names…the Name by which we are saved" [Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11]

The Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name of Jesus itself.

This simple prayer, prayed with faith and with perseverance, calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us.

Jesus calls us to make our home in Him; as He will make His home in us*:*

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. *[John 15:4-5]*

Abiding in Christ is living out our union with Him in faith, baptism, love and obedience. The figure of the vine and the branches shows our union with Christ as intimate and real. We are a new people with Christ.

This simplest of prayers, prayed from time to time throughout the day will gradually lead us into the Presence of Jesus in our thoughts.

Focused wholly on Jesus, in time, this prayer will begin to strike roots in our heart, where its continued practice will ever deepen the reality of Jesus living in us – to heal us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us in our faith.

AKRON ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
LENTEN SERVICES

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

The Akron Orthodox Churches will gather together to celebrate a **Combined Lenten Vespers** each **Sunday** evening during Great Lent at **5:00 pm**:

March 16 – St. Thomas Church

(the Lenten Triodion. Sunday evening, March 16)

Having begun the third week of the Fast, O believers, let us praise the venerable Trinity, passing the remaining time with gladness and joy, starving the passions of the flesh!

Let us glean divine flowers from our souls, weaving them into crowns for the day that is lord of days, that wearing our crowns, we may praise the triumphant Christ!

March 23 – St. Elia Church
March 30 – St. George Church
April 6 – Holy Unction at St. Nicholas Church

Mon. March 24 - Vespers at **5:30 pm** at Annunciation Church for the Feast of the Annunciation

Saint Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland

Commemorated on March 17

Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland was born around 385, the son of Calpurnius, a Roman decurion (an official responsible for collecting taxes). He lived in the village of Bannavem Taberniae, which may have been located at the mouth of the Severn River in Wales. The district was raided by pirates when Patrick was sixteen, and he was one of those taken captive. He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave and was put to work as a herder of swine on a mountain identified with Slemish in Co. Antrim. During his period of slavery, Patrick acquired a proficiency in the Irish language which was very useful to him in his later mission.

He prayed during his solitude on the mountain and lived this way for six years. He had two visions. The first told him he would return to his home. The second told him his ship was ready. Setting off on foot, Patrick walked two hundred miles to the coast. There he succeeded in boarding a ship and returned to his parents in Britain.

Sometime later, he went to Gaul and studied for priesthood at Auxerre under Saint Germanus (July 31). Eventually, he was consecrated as a bishop, and was

entrusted with the mission to Ireland, succeeding Saint Palladius (July 7). Saint Palladius did not achieve much success in Ireland. After about a year he went to Scotland, where he died in 432.

Patrick had a dream in which an angel came to him bearing many letters. Selecting one inscribed "The Voice of the Irish," he heard the Irish entreating him to come back to them.

Although Saint Patrick achieved remarkable results in spreading the Gospel, he was not the first or only missionary in Ireland. He arrived around 432 (though this date is disputed), about a year after Saint Palladius began his mission to Ireland. There were also other missionaries who were active on the southeast coast, but it was Saint Patrick who had the greatest influence and success in preaching the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he is known as "The Enlightener of Ireland."

Saint Patrick founded many churches and monasteries across Ireland, but the conversion of the Irish people was no easy task. There was much hostility, and he was assaulted several times. He faced danger, and insults, and he was reproached for being a foreigner and a former slave. There was also a very real possibility that the pagans would try to kill him. Despite many obstacles, he remained faithful to his

calling, and he baptized many people into Christ. He ascribes his success to God, rather than to his own talents: “I owe it to God’s grace that through me so many people should be born again to Him.”

By the time he established his episcopal See in Armargh in 444, Saint Patrick had other bishops to assist him, many native priests and deacons, and he encouraged the growth of monasticism.

Saint Patrick is often depicted holding a shamrock, or with snakes fleeing from him. He used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Its three leaves growing out of a single stem helped him to explain the concept of one God in three Persons. Many people now regard the story of Saint Patrick driving all the snakes out of Ireland as having no historical basis.

Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 (some say 492). There are various accounts of his last days, but they are mostly legendary. Muirchu says that no one knows the place where Saint Patrick is buried. Saint Columba of Iona (June 9) says that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that Patrick was buried at Saul, the site of his first church. A granite slab was placed at his traditional grave site in Downpatrick in 1899.

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 Huntyan
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Martin Vronick
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Hilda Ralich
Ellen Rees
David Elioff

Journey to Pascha with the Psalms!

The Goal

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.

How It Works

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 fast.

Bonus

As we all join 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

What Do You Need?

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

How Do I Join?

You can join by going to http://saintelia.com/news/lenten-prayergroup/ 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.

One Last Thing!

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!

Praise the Lord!
For it is good to sing praises to our God!
For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful!
Psalm 47:1

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OUR STEWARDSHIP
Sunday, March 9, 2025

Candles:	**$ 96.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**460.00**
PayPal Offerings:	**25.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**348.58**
TOTAL:	**$929.58**

NATIONAL ORTHODOX BABY SHOWER

Our community outreach group, ***The Workers of Saint Elizabeth,*** is joining with Orthodox parishes across the country to hold a "baby shower" to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children. Join us in collecting the listed items below to benefit ***Zoe for Life*** located in Cleveland.

Bring your items to church **from March 9th to April 13th** and place them in the Pack and Play located in the Church Hall.
Questions? Please contact Veronica Bilas or Deacon Aarron Gray.

Diapers sizes Newborn to 6
Pullups (any size)
Baby Wipes
Baby Clothes (new up to 2T)
Blankets
Toys (new)
Cribs (new)
Target/Walmart gift cards
Pacifiers (new)
Baby Socks
Bottles (new)
Diaper Bags
Car Seats (new)