WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

March 23, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 12

Third Sunday of Great Lent

St. ELIA
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
Church Hall: 330-724-7129
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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:

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 23 - Bud Graham
Sunday, March 30 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, April 6 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday. April 13 Reader Nicholas Morelli-

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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 Sunday,

5:00 pm LENTEN VESPERS AT ST. ELIA

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 for the Feast of the Annunciation

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:Mak 9:17-31

5:00 pm LENTEN VESPERS at St. George Church

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 4

6:00 pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 8

Saint Mary of Egypt

Saturday, April 5

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 6

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Hebrews 9: 11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

5:00 pm Holy Unction at St. Nicholas Church

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Our Compassionate High Priest

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

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Qualifications for High Priesthood

5 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** He can [a]have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. **3** Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. **4** And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was.*

A Priest Forever

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him:
"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You."
6 As *He* also says in another *place:*
"You *are* a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

34 When He had called the people to *Himself,* with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

9 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God [a]present with power."

Before Thy Cross, O Master, we bow down in worship, and Holy Resurrection we glorify!

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**:

This Sunday Evening, March 23 –5:00 pm at SAINT ELIA CHURCH

From this Sunday evening Vespers, March 23:

FOR THE CROSS

O Lord, you willingly stretched out Your hands on the Cross; make us ready for its adoration with reverent hearts, radiant through fasting, prayer, abstinence and works of charity; for You are good and the Lover of man.

FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

The mystery hidden from all eternity, unknown even by angels, is now entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel. He will come to you, O precious vessel, he will salute you and cry in joy: "Rejoice, pure dove! Rejoice, all-holy one! Make ready by your word to conceive the Word of God!"

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

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 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
Ellen Rees
David Elioff

MEMORY ETERNAL - In blessed respose grant eternal rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy departed handmaid Hilda Ralich.

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 16, 2025

Candles:	**$ 48.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**1,420.00**
Special Donation:	**280.00**
PayPal Offerings:	**30.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**860.12**
TOTAL:	**$2,638.12**

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)