WEEKLY BULLETIN

The Voice

March 30, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 13
Second 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
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:

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 30 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, April 6 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, April 13 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Pascha, April 20 - Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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 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 SUNDAYOF 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

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday

Beginning of Great and Holy Week

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

5:00 pm Vigil of Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palms and Willows

PALM AND FLOWERY SUNDAY

The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

Sunday, April 13

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

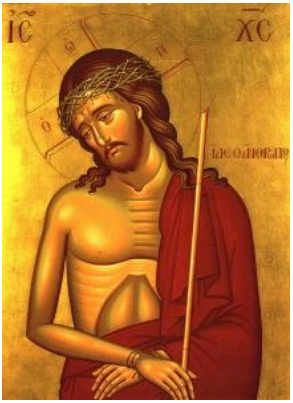
Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas \Morelli

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

5:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

- ***Sad Sunday***



GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM MONDAY

Monday, April 14
6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM TUESDAY
Tuesday, April 15
6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, April 16
6:00 pm Mystery of Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 17
8:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great
6:00 pm Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the Twelve Passion Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
Friday, April 18

9:00 am Royal Hours – *Christ Hangs on the Cross*
6:00 pm Great Vespers and Lamentations
Christ dies on the Cross, is taken down from the Cross, is buried and descends into hell.

GRAVE WATCH

On Good Friday evening, following the Services, a Vigil will be kept at the tomb of our Lord, remembering His sufferings and death for our salvation.

A Holy Vigil at the Tomb of Christ is also referred to as Grave Watch. After our Lord died the Cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the Body of Jesus down from the Cross, bound it in linen cloths with spices and buried it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other women sat opposite the tomb watching where the Lord was buried.

A Holy Vigil at Christ's tomb is our opportunity to spend time in spiritual reading, meditation and prayer while one or more people read the Psalms and the Gospel before the Tomb in the Church. The Vigil is kept after the services on Friday night until services on Holy Saturday.

A Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule of the Church at the Candle Desk. Please sign up for your hour of watch.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday, April 19

9:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

11:30 pm Nocturnes ***Removal of the Shroud from the Grave***

THE HOLY PASCHA

Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, April 20

12:00 Midnight

Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua

Wherley

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

11:00 am

Agape Vespers of Holy Pascha

Gospel: John 20:19-25

BRIGHT WEEK

BRIGHT MONDAY Monday, April 21

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

SUNDAY MARCH 30
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because
He could swear by no one greater, He swore by
Himself, 14 saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you,
and multiplying I will multiply you.” 15 And so, after
he had patiently endured, he obtained
the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater,
and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all
dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more
abundantly to the heirs of promise the [a]immutability

of His counsel, [b]confirmed *it* by an oath, 18 that by two [c]immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we [d]might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us.*

19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

19 He answered him and said, "O faithless[a] generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I [b]bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You

can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."[23] Jesus said to him, "If[c] you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."
[24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"
[25] When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" [26] Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.[28] And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"[29] So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer [d]and fasting."

Jesus Again Predicts His Death and Resurrection[30] Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it.* [31] For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

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:

Today, March 30– St. George Church

(the Lenten Triodion. Sunday evening, March 30)

Having passed the middle point of this holy Fast,
let us clearly show forth the beginning of divine glory!
Let us fervently hasten to the achievement of good behavior, that we may receive eternal joy!

(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore)

Having passed beyond the middle point of this holy Fast,
let us strive to its end, rejoicing with steadfastness!
Let us anoint ourselves with the oil of charity, that we may be worthy to adore the noble Passion of Christ our God,
and attain His most honored and holy Resurrection

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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 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 Elio

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 23, 2025

Candles:	**$ 78.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**692.00**
Bookstore:	**8.00**
PayPal Offerings:	**4.80**
Tithely Offerings:	**224.03**
TOTAL:	**$1,006.83**

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)