WEEKLYBULLETIN

The Voice

June 1st, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 22

Seventh Sunday of Pascha

St. ELIA
ORTHODOX ✝ CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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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

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, June 1 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, June 8 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, June 15 – Bud Gaham
Sunday, June 22 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, June 29 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 6
HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. Afterfeast of the Ascension
Saturday, May 31
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 1
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 Gospel: John 17:1-13

8th SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 7 PENTECOST
FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY
Saturday, June 7
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 8
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Vespers and Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost
Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11 Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12
FAST FREE WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 8
SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS
Saturday, June 14
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 15
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Matt: 10:32-33, 37-38

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28:36

16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

The Ephesian Elders Exhorted

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; . 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [e]of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking [f]perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.
32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”
36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel: John 17:1-13

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and
said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son
also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all
flesh, that He [a]should give eternal life to as many as You have given
Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on
the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to
do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together [b]with Yourself, with
the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given
Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and
they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things
which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them
the words which You have given Me; and they have
received *them,* and have known surely that I came forth from You;
and they have believed that You sent Me.

9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom
You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours,
and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no
longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You.
Holy Father, keep[d] through Your name those whom You have given
Me, that they may be one as We *are.* 12 While I was with them [e]in
the world, I kept them in [f]Your name. Those whom You gave Me I
have kept; and none of them is [g]lost except the son
of [h]perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come
to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My
joy fulfilled in themselves.

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Commemorated on June 1

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching

throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissentions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle."

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated, and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicean Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

This year,. 2025, marks the 1,700 years since the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea in 325.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

Today, **Sunday, June 1,** following the Divine Liturgy, to discuss and share thoughts and reflections as we continue to build a firm Orthodox Formation Program for our Parish and children.

PARISH MEETING

A General Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 8,** following the Divine Liturgy to elect a delegate to the All American Council, July 14-18

GRASS-CUTTING HELP NEEDED

Please watch for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall and choose any dates that you would be able to assist with cutting the grass using our parish riding mower. Please see Subdeacon Terry Bilas if you have any questions.

BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER(S) SOUGHT

We are looking for one or more people who would be interested in overseeing and growing our parish bookstore/gift area in the Parish Hall. If this interests you, please contact Deacon Aaron Gray.

OUR STEWARDSHIP - MAY 25, 2025

Candles:	**$ 87.00**
Sun Tray Offerings:	**411.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**466.12**
TOTAL:	**$964.12**

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 SHUTIN

Archbishop Onuphry of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Anderew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Priest John Manuel
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
Meliss Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodovna

Book Study: LIVING AS AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

7:00-8:15 PM, Thursdays, May 29 - July 10, St. Elia Church (a Zoom connection will also be available)

Orthodox Christians are often unaware of how profoundly American culture affects their beliefs and spiritual practices. American ideas and habits regarding individualism, democracy, progress, politics, sexuality, and wealth are frequently at odds with the teachings of Holy Tradition. This study is intended to shed light on these secular attitudes and philosophies, and compare them, in a side-by-side format, to the theology and spiritual practices of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The goal of our class is not simply to know what Orthodoxy teaches, but to achieve an Orthodox *phronema* or mindset.

The class is based on an eBook (PDF) by the same name. For those without computer access, black and white printed copies can be made in advance by request (about $8 for an unbound copy). But most people will benefit by using the searchable electronic version which contains hundreds of online links.

If you are interested in joining this class, you can download the book at saintelia.com/news/bookstudy/

If you are attending by zoom, please contact Bill DiPuccio by email to obtain the link: wlliamdipuccio@sbcglobal.net

Bill Di Puccio PhD