WEEKLYBULLETIN

The Voice

June 15th, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 24

First Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday of All Saints

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 15 - Bud Gaham
Sunday, June 22 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, June 29 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 8
SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS – *Fathers Day*
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 St, John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38

THE APOSTLES' (SS. PETER AND PAUL) FAST
June 16 -28

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1
ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA
Saturday, June 21
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, June 22
9:10 am 3rs and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

NATIVITY OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN
Monday. June 23
6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of
Saint John Chrysostom

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:32-12:2

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would
fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson
and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the
prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms,
worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped
the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire,
escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness
were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned
to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received
their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that
they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others
had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of
chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they
were sawn in two, [a]were tempted, were slain with
the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and
goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They
wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and
caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony
through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God
having provided something better for us, that they
should not be made perfect apart from us.

The Race of Faith

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us,* and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the [b]author and [c]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him.

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38

Confess Christ Before Men

"Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

THE APOSTLES FAST

The Apostles Fast, also known as the Saints Peter and Paul begins on Monday, June 16 and extends until the Feast of the holy apostles Peter and Paul which is celebrated on June 29.

Synaxis of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...." The **Apostles** are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The **Martyrs** come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, **the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs.** This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament

also takes precedence over the Old Testament.The **holy Hierarchs** comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example. The **Monastic** Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. The last category, the **Righteous,** are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

PARISH COUNCILMEETING

June 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm

GRASS CUTTERS NEEDED

Please check the sign-up sheet on the counter in the Church Vestibule and sign up for your availability. Please see Subdeacon Terrence Bilas for questions.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Candles:	**$ 76.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**506.00**
Special Donation:	**50.00**
Tithely Donations;	**528.37**
TOTAL:	**$1,160.37**

THE LESSON

Then Jesus took His disciples up the mountain and gathering them around Him, He taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled
Blessed are merciful, for they shall obtain mercy
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against falsely for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Then Simon Peter said, "Do we have to write this down?"
And Andrew said, "Are we supposed to know this?"

And James said, "Will we have a test on it?"
And Phillip said, "What if we don't know it?"
And Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"
And John said, "The other disciple didn't have to learn this."
And Matthew said, "When do we get out of here?"
And Judas said, "What does this have to do with real life?"
And the other disciples likewise.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and inquired of Jesus' objectives, and *Jesus wept!*

CONRATULATIONS FATHER BILAS

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has awarded Father Gabriel Bilas, a vocation from our St. Elia Parish and the son of Subdeacon Terrence and Veronica Bilas, the Gold Cross. Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will place the Gold Cross on him this Sunday at Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Fenton, Michigan.
Our prayerful congratulations to Father Gabriel and his family.

LAY DELEGATE TO THE ALL AMERICAN

On Sunday, June 8, Daniel Ralich was elected at the Parish Meeting as our delegate to the AAC.

A Blessed Father's Day to all our Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers, Spiritual Fathers and to all the Father figures in our life. Many Years!

A Prayer For Fathers

Heavenly Father, you entrusted Your Son Jesus, the Child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience, Support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation.

For unto You is due all glory, honor and worship, together with Your Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your all-holy, good and life giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

REMEBERING 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, June 19 - 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: 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