WEEKLYBULLETIN

The Voice

July 6, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 27

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

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

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, July 6 Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, July 13- Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, July 20 -Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, July 27 -Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3
Venerable Sisoes the Great
Saturday, July 5

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, July 6

9:10 am 3rs and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –Tone 4
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS
Saturday, July 12

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35

Sunday, July 13

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc
Epistles: Romans 10:1-10 Hebrews 13:7-16
Gospels: Matthew 8:28-9:1; John 17:1-13

DIVINE LITURGY
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

[18] And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

[19] I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness for holiness.

[20] For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

[21] What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.

[22] But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit [b]to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

[23] For the wages of sin *is* death, but the [c]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant
5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum,
a centurion came to Him, pleading with
Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home
paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal
him."

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am
not worthy that You should come under my roof.
But only speak a word, and my servant will be
healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority,
having soldiers under me. And I say to
this *one,* 'Go,' and he goes; and to another,
'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do
this,' and he does *it.*"

10 When Jesus heard *it,* He marveled, and said to
those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I
have not found such great faith, not even in
Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come
from east and west, and sit down with Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of
heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be
cast out into outer darkness. There will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 Then Jesus
said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you
have believed, *so* let it be done for you." And his
servant was healed that same hour.

Venerable Sisoes the Great

Commemorated on July 6

Saint Sisoes the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17).

For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoes attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoes was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility.

When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoes remarked, “That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility.”

Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoes said, “I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days.”

When Saint Sisoes lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoes replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles.

His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father." Saint Sisoes said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent."
After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him.

Saint Sisoes told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoes departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Troparion ***(Venerable Sisoes)***

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Sisoes. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

New Icon of All Saints of North America

In January 2024, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon issued a call for proposals for a new icon of All Saints of North America.

In response, His Beatitude's Office received a number of proposals from iconographers around the world. After giving each entry due consideration, His Beatitude decided to commission the new icon

from master iconographer Anton Daineko, instructor at the Icon School of St. Tikhon's Art Institute in South Canaan, PA.

The icon was completed earlier this year and has been housed at the Chancery offices in Springfield, VA.

The icon includes all the saints of North America listed in the Diptychs of the Orthodox Church in America as well as the newly-canonized righteous Olga of Kwethluk. In accord with His Beatitude's initial call for proposals, at the center of the icon, Our Lord Jesus Christ is enthroned with his Mother and his Forerunner on either side of him in a posture of deësis.

As is traditional in icons depicting the synaxis of the saints of a particular locality, a major local temple appears in the background of the icon. For this element of the composition, His Beatitude asked Mr. Daineko to depict the Church of the Ascension on Unalaska, AK, a temple originally built by the hands of Saint Innocent himself.

His Beatitude will bless the new icon at the Council, and it will be available for the veneration of the faithful throughout the event. It is expected that the icon will then be returned to Virginia until the next All-American Council.

TEMPLE FEAST DAY

The Feast Day of St. Elia is on Sunday, July 20. The Divine Liturgy will be followed by the BLESSING OF CARS, MOTORCYCLES, BYCYCLES, SKATES or anything on wheels.

VOLUNTEER AT ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE

On Saturday, July 26 at 11:15 am, a group (six people) from St. Elia is scheduled to help serve the noon day meal at St. Herman's House m Cleveland. **Please see Jefferson Hodge to volunteer.**

PARISH PICNIC

The Parish Picnic will be held at St. Elia following the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, July 27. More information to follow.**

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

June 29 2025

Candles:	**$ 89.00**
Sun. Tray Offerings:	**385.00**
PayPal Donations:	**30.00**
Tithely Donations;	**350.10**
TOTAL:	**$854.10**

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, Thursday. 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