WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 20, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 28
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Feast of the Holy Prophet Elia

SAINT 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 Gray

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2024 Parish Council

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Secretary: Deacon Aaron Gray
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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,
Vice 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 20- Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, July 27 Daniel Slife
Sunday, August 3 Mary Beth Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 5

Temple Feast of the Holy Glorious Prophet Elia

Saturday July 19th

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Sunday July 20

9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Michael Luc
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14 James 5:10-20
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-18 Luke 4:22-30

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 6

Holy Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon. Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians

Saturday, July 26

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:1-10

Sunday, July 27

9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Daniel Slife
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Daniel Slife
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given
to us, *let us use them:* if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion
to our faith; 7 or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who
teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who
gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who
shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9

Let love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what
is good. 10 *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly
love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in
diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in
hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in
prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given[b] to
hospitality.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Epistle: James 5:10-20 ***(Feast of Saint Elia)***

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the
Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we
count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the
perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—
that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or
by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes,"
and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

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Meeting Specific Needs

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone
cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let
him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over
him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the
prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him
up. And if he has committed sins, he will be
forgiven. 16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for
one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent
prayer of a righteous man avail much. 17 Elijah was a man with a
nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six
months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and
the earth produced its fruit.

Bring Back the Erring One

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and
someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a
sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death
and cover a multitude of sins.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

9 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own
city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a
bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son,
be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This
Man blasphemes!”

[4] But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? [5] For which is easier, to say, ‘*Your* sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? [6] But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” [7] And he arose and departed to his house. [8] Now when the multitudes saw *it,* they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Gospel: Luke 4:22-30 ***(Feast of Saint Elia)***

[22] So all bore witness to Him and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”
[23] He said to them, “You will surely say this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.’[24] Then He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.

[25] But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; [26] but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, *in the region* of Sidon, to a woman *who was* a widow. [27] And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

[28] So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with [c]wrath, [29] and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

[30] Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elia Commemorated on July 20

The Holy Prophet Elia is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elia: "When Elia was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.
The name Elia (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth, he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer.

Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.
During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elia began to denounce King Ahab for impiety and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him.

The Prophet Elia then declared to him that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elia was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a

half years, and there was drought and famine throughout the whole land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elia to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elia, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elia told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elia proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elia who served the True God.
The Prophet Elia told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God.
The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elia built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet, fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water.

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The people fell to the ground, crying out: “Truly, the Lord is God!” Then the Prophet Elia had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened, and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elia fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elia traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elia would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in “a gentle breeze” (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elia to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elia was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elia’s mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elia will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.
The life of the holy Prophet Elia is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58).

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At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elia conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elia for centuries.

In iconography the Prophet Elia is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses.

We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

On July 20, 1741, the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Elia, an unnamed Hieromonk served the first Divine Liturgy in Alaskan waters while aboard the ship Saint Peter, commanded by Captain-Commander Vitus Bering, at 58 degrees 14 minutes northern latitude, and 141 degrees western longitude.

TEMPLE FEAST DAY

TODAY, Sunday, July 20, is our Temple Feast Day of St. Elia the Prophet.

Following the Divine Liturgy today, in remembrance of Saint Elia being taken up into heaven into a fiery chariot, we will offer **Prayers for the Blessing of all vehicles: Cars, Motorcycles, Bicycles, Skates, Skateboards or anything on wheels.**

VOLUNTEERS AT ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE

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

PARISH PICNIC

Our Parish Picnic will be held at Saint Elia following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 27. Please sign the list in the hall, indicating what side dish you will be bringing,

WOMEN'S VISIT TO THE ORTHODOX MONASTERY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Saturday, October 11: The schedule would be arrival at noon, lunch and a tour afterwards. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Natalie Slife: 440-477-8888, ntshiekh@gmail.com

OUR STEWARDSHIP – JULY 13, 2025

Candles:	**$ 76.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**985.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Tithely Donations:	**299.13**
TOTAL:	**$1,365.13**

GRASS CUTTERS NEEDED

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

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco
Kristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS

Archbishop Onuphry of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Priest John Manuel
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Subdeaon Martin Paluch
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodovna