WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 27, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 29
7th Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE

SAINT 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,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh ***Deacon Aaron Gray***

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2023 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 - 2024

Sunday, July 27 – Daniel Slife
Sunday, August 3 – Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, August 10 –Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, August 17 - Reader Nicholas Morelli

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 6
Holy Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon.
Holy Equal-to-the Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid
Saturday, July 26
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
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

THE DORMITION FAST
August 1- 14

PROCESSION OF THE HONORABLE WOOD OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD
Holy Seven Maccabean Martyrs
Thursday, July 31
6:00 pm Vespers and the Blessing of Water
The Precious Cross will be processed to the center of the temple for Veneration

Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord

The origin of this Feast is explained in the Greek Horologion of 1897: "Because of the illnesses which occur during the month of August, it was customary at Constantinople to carry the Precious Wood of the Cross in procession throughout the city for its sanctification, and to deliver it from sickness."

On the eve (July 31), the Cross was removed from the imperial treasury and placed it upon the Holy Table of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (which is dedicated to Christ, the Wisdom God). From August 1 until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there was a procession throughout the entire city, and then the Cross was placed where all the people could venerate it.

As we sing at the Vespers:

Today the divine assembly of faithful rejoices, for the Cross appears throughout the world.
It illumines the heavens with ineffable light. It brightens the air adorning the face of the earth.
The Church of Christ exults with divine singing, venerating and serving the holy and wondrous Cross, which preserves her from above.
As we are strengthened by its power, let us approach the Master saying: "Grant peace to the world, and enlighten our souls!"

*8*th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 7

Saturday, August 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, August 3

9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beh Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epistle: 1Corinthians 10:1-18
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Bearing Others' Burdens
15 We then who are strong ought to bear with
the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good,
leading to [b]edification. **3** For even Christ did not
please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of
those who reproached You fell on Me."

4 For whatever things were written before were written
for our learning, that we through the [c]patience and
comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you
to be like-minded toward one another, according to
Christ Jesus, **6** that you may with one mind and one
mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.
Glorify God Together
7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also
received [d]us, to the glory of God.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Two Blind Men Healed
27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men
followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of
David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the
blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to
They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According
to your faith let it be to you.” 30 And their eyes
were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them,
saying, “See *that* no one knows *it*.” 31 But when
they had departed, they [a]spread the news about
Him in all that [b]country.

A Mute Man Speaks

32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him
a man, mute and demon possessed. 33 And when
the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the
multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen
like this in Israel!”

34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by
the ruler of the demons.”

The Compassion of Jesus

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and
villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching
the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every
sickness and every disease among the people.

Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon

Commemorated on July 27

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother Saint Euboula (March 30) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus. Pantoleon came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. Saint Hermolaus saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited Saint Hermolaus every day.

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to

destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes. After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by Saint Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Speaking with Eustorgius, Saint Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by Saint Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those captives held in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon

would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt and denounced the emperor.

At this time the priests Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded (July 26).
By order of the emperor, they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom. Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but Saint Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss. When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Saint Panteleimon's servants Laurence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.

A Blessed Dormition Fast

The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary will be celebrated on **Friday, August 15**, and is preceded by a two week fast from August 1 through August 14.

This Feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fulness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, since she bore the same mortal body that every person has who comes into the world, and that having truly died, she was raised by her Son as the Mother of Life.

"When the Translation of your immaculate body was being prepared, the Apostles surrounded your deathbed and looked on you with trembling. They gazed at your body and were seized with awe, while Peter cried out to you with tears: "O Virgin, I see you, who are the life of all, lying here outstretched, and I am struck with wonder. for the Delight of the life to come made His dwelling in you. But fervently implore your Son and God, O immaculate Lady, that your people may be kept safe from harm!"

Welcome to OurDiocese—the official social media platform of the Bulgarian Diocese, OCA

The Bulgarian Diocese has launched a new social media platform called **OurDiocese** to foster communication and connection within our diocese. You're invited! This is a great way to keep up with news from around the diocese, and to connect virtually with people in other parishes as well as our own.

OurDiocese has a Facebook-like interface, but with better security and controls. The only people allowed on the platform are those who have been approved by an administrator for OurDiocese, which in most cases is a priest or deacon. (For St. Elia, it's Deacon Aaron Gray.) You can choose to access OurDiocese either through a web browser on your computer or through a mobile app.

There are a few steps to getting started in OurDiocese, to ensure everyone's safety and privacy. To join:

1. Email Deacon Aaron Gray at grayaaron@outlook.com with the email address you would like to use to register.
2. Deacon Aaron will send you an invitation to Our Diocese that you will receive via email. Follow the instructions to log in and create a profile. It may be easiest to do the initial set-up on a computer rather than the phone application.
3. After filling in the requested fields to set up your profile, click on "Groups," and in the dropdown

menu choose Bulgarian Diocese, and then select "Join Group."

4. Once you've joined the Bulgarian Diocese "group," you can look for other "subgroups" to join—we encourage you to join our St. Elia the Prophet parish subgroup. Other diocesan subgroups are being added to fit interests—such as one for Orthodox empty-nesters and one about creating an Orthodox home.

*Please note that you must first join the Bulgarian Diocese group BEFORE you can join the St. Elia subgroup. Also, after requesting to join the St. Elia group, there may be a delay of perhaps a day or more until your request to join is seen and approved by the administrator (Deacon Aaron). *

Questions? Please reach out to Deacon Aaron via email or phone at 330-413-8324. Thank you!

OUR STEWARDSHIP – JULY 20, 2025

Candles:	**$ 45.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**940.00**
Candle Desk Donation:	**25.00**
Tithely Donations:	**641.62**
PayPal Donation:	**30.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,681.62**

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

PATRONAL FEAST
Annual Pilgrimage

Presiding Hierarch
His Grace the **Right Reverend Benedict**
Bishop of Hartford and New England
The Orthodox Church in America

Tuesday, August 5
Eve of Transfiguration

6:00 Festal Vigil Service

Wednesday, August 6
Feast of Transfiguration

9:00 Akathist

9:30 Procession and Hierarchical Liturgy

12:00 Catered Luncheon

2:30 Holy Unction with Paraklesis

"If we all took only what was necessary to satisfy our own needs, giving the rest to those who lack, no one would be rich and no one would be poor."

Saint Basil the Great