WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 3, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 230
8th Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
Church Hall: 330-724-7129
Office: 330-724-7009
www.saintelia.com
www.facebook.com/sainteliakron

His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached

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 - 2025

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

THE DORMITION FAST
August 1- 14

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 7
Saturday, August 2
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:1-18
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

THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Tuesday, August 5
6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Blessing of grapes, other fruits and herbs

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 1
Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.
Saturday, August 9
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31
Sunday, August 10
9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Subd. Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sectarianism Is Sin

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, that you all [a]speak the same thing,
and *that* there be no [b]divisions among you,
but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same
mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been
declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those
of Chloe's *household,* that there are [c]contentions
among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I
am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am
of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided?
Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in
the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you
except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say
that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also
baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not
know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did
not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not
with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should
be made of no effect.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

18 For the [d]message of the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is
the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fish

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude;
and He was moved with compassion for them, and
healed their sick. 15 When it was evening, His disciples
came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the
hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that
they may go into the villages and buy themselves
food."
16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go
away. You give them something to eat."
17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five
loaves and two fish."
18 He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Then He
commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.
And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and
looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave
the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the
multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they
took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that
remained.

21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand
men, besides women and children.

22 Immediately Jesus [a]made His disciples get into the
boat and go before Him to the other side, while He
sent the multitudes away.

August 6th

FEAST OF THE HOLY TRANFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the Gospels. When our Lord was recognized by His apostles as the Christ, the Messiah – the Son of the Living God, He told them that…***He must go up to Jerusalem… and suffer many things…and be killed … and on the third day be raised from the dead.*** *(Matthew 16)*

The announcement of Christ's approaching passion and death upset the disciples. And then, after correcting them, the Lord took Peter, James and John up to the high mountain, by tradition, Mt. Tabor, and was ***"transfigured before them and His Face shown like the sun and His garments became white as snow and behold there appeared to them Moses and Elia talking with Him."***

The event of the Transfiguration teaches us that God fulfills His promise to man. But the fulfillment is greater than any man could possibly realize. The Savior was sent not just a messenger but the Son of God in human flesh. The mystery of the Transfiguration teaches us that the fulness of the Godhead is found in Jesus and that the ***dwelling place of God is with man.***

In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of God present in majesty and in the person of Jesus the Christ.

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They see this before the Crucifixion so that in the Resurrection they might know Who He is Who suffered for them, and what it is that this Jesus – Who is both God and Man – has prepared for those who love Him and His Heavenly Father.

The glory of God has appeared in Jesus!

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord,
the mountain became as heaven,
and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out,
when You were transfigured, and the Father bore witness to You. Peter was present with James and John, since they were to be with You at the time of Your betrayal, that, having seen Your wondrous works, they might not be afraid of Your sufferings.
Grant us to venerate Your sufferings in peace, through Your mercy!

The Feast of the Transfiguration will be celebrated at St. Elia with the Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, August 5, at 6:00 pm followed by the Blessing of Grapes, other fruits and herbs. Please bring your basket and bowls and place them for blessing on the table by the Icon of St. Herman.

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The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Elwood City, Pa. on Tuesday, August 6, at 9:30 am in the outside chapel.

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

"Throughout the day, try to remember God more often. If you feel bad, turn to Him: 'Lord, I feel bad, help me.' If you feel good: 'Lord, glory to You, thank You for this joy.' If you are worried about someone: Lord, I am worried about him/her, help him/her.' Whatever happens, turn it into prayer." **St. Ambrose of Optina**

THE JESUS PRAYER

United to Jesus Christ through Holy Baptism, we are called and give the grace to know Jesus in a personal way. Jesus is more than a doctrine. He is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing, comforting power of the Name of Jesus, early Christians built a simple prayer around this *"Name that is above all other names…the Name by which we are saved" [*Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11] The earliest Chistian Prayer is called the Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name itself:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me a sinner!

This simple prayer prayed with faith and perseverance calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us: *Make your home in Me, as I make Mine in you, says Jesus. [Cf. John 15:4]*

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*"**Jesus is the truth**. In Him is all truth. In so far as the truth which is in Jesus is discovered, all truth is discovered. This can be applied to the science, art and culture of men. We must see the world with the Savior's eyes…. Every man must discover for himself the secret of Jesus…It is only by intense personal experience that we shall come to know what Jesus is."*

JESUS, A Dialogue With The Savior
by A monk of the Eastern Church

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 OurDiocese 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!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP – JULY 27, 2025

Candles:	**$ 85.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**490.00**
Tithely Donations:	**592.12**
PayPal Donation:	**30.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,197.12**

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
Subdeacon 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